

Fremington Parish Council



Annual Report 2016-2017

Chairman's Annual Report - Cllr Mrs Sue Kingdom

It has been a busy year for the Parish Council, we kicked off the year by supporting the Clean for the Queen campaign which encouraged communities to clean up Britain for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday which was celebrated in June 2016. The event was a success with five litter picks and cleaning events taking place throughout the Parish of Fremington. In total over 30 bags of rubbish were collected by approximately 40 willing volunteers, signs were cleaned and graffiti removed. I would like to thank those that took the time to take part, it would be really nice if we could all work together to keep the parish looking nice and clean.

I am pleased to announce that during the course of the year the Parish Council was awarded the Foundation level of the Local Council Award Scheme. This is a prestigious award that recognises the Council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, Fremington Parish Council goes above and beyond its legal obligations. I would like to thank the staff, especially the Clerk Mrs Victoria Woodhouse, for all their hard work and efforts in ensuring the Council meets the standards to obtain the award. I am also delighted to announce that the Council has agreed to proceed with the next level of the award and we hope the application will be submitted early in the new financial year.

The Parish Council continues to be disappointed by cuts to services at County level and has stepped in and appointed Councillors Frank Biederman and David Chalmers as Road Wardens and has safeguarded the cutting of the highway verges for another year.

The recent loss of the 8/8A bus service was disappointing for the area but I am pleased that Devon County Council and Stagecoach have agreed to alter the route of the service 12 to include Sainsbury's.

The Parish Council has agreed to take responsibility for several community assets which are located on the former Army Camp site in Fremington. These assets include a football field with changing room facilities and a MUGA which can be used for a number of different sports. We are also taking over a community hall and a storage hall on the site. Our acceptance of these assets is only the first stage in the process of the transfer to us. The developers will now make them user ready. All the assets will be available for the community to use. However it may be sometime before these facilities are available and we will keep you up to date with progress. The Parish Council has also taken over the ownership of the open space at Maple Grove in Roundswell and the transfer is now complete.

The works to the Fremington Viaduct were finally completed last year and the compound removed from Fremington Quay. As part of the compensation for these works Devon County Council has carried out improvements to the Fisherman's Amenity Area and I would like to say thank you to Devon County Council and its contractors for these works.

You may have noticed that the Parish Council has redesigned its website during the last year, we are very pleased with the new design and hope you find it user friendly. I would encourage you to visit the website www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and make use of the information. The Parish Council has also stepped out into the world of Social Media and you can now follow us on Facebook.

The Parish Council is progressing with the Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted this plan will carry full statutory weight within the planning process and I would urge everyone living in the Parish, including Yelland, Fremington, Bickington, Woodville and Roundswell, to get involved and make sure your views are heard!

I have had the pleasure over the last year of attending many events on behalf of the Parish Council including the Remembrance Service in Fremington which was well attended and I would like to thank everyone for their support.

Cllr Susan Kingdom
Chairman

This Annual Report is available on the Council's website at www.fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and in a Large Print version.

If you would like a Large Print copy please contact the Parish Council Offices on 01271 321063, or email clerk@fremingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Finance and Personnel Committee - Cllr David Chalmers

This has been yet another challenging year for the Parish Council and for many residents of the Parish, trying to balance outgoings with income. Our parish is continuing to try to maintain its commitment and keep our Parish looking good for the people who live here and its many visitors. Judging from local feedback the Council would hope that is doing a reasonable job. The increased housing in the Parish has meant that we have received an increase in the number of households contributing to Parrish funds and so were able to keep the increase in the Parish Precept to 2%.

The Parish Council has continued to invest available funds to maximise the return whilst being mindful of the security of an investment. Being prudent the Council has invested funds in a 6 month fixed deposit account and a 3 month fixed deposit account. With the impending sale of the Co-operative Bank we have moved most of the Parish's banking to Lloyds Bank.

It is with regret that I report the retirement of the Parish Council's Auditor and am pleased to report that a replacement has been appointed.

The Parish Council has complied with the Automatic Enrolment requirements and has completed its Declaration of Compliance. Unfortunately the Employer Pension Contribution rates have increased .

The Parish Council has continued to comply with its Health and Safety Requirements and this year has completed the Periodic Electrical Inspection and the yearly Portable Appliances Testing of the Parish's electrical appliances as well as continuing to minimise the risk of exposure to Legionnaires Disease for those using Parish Council buildings.

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to continue to support local groups and organisations and has this year awarded grants totalling £2,360 which have been distributed to local groups serving the community. The Council regrets that it cannot financially support all organisations but has a limited budget and priority has to be given to those groups not in a position to generate enough income.

The Parish Council's website has been redesigned to make it more user friendly and accessible to members of the public. The number of people visiting the website has increased hugely and we are very pleased with the successful result. The Parish Council has also introduced a Facebook Page which is another source of information. Please like and share widely.

The Parish Council will be applying to the Local Council Award Scheme at Quality level as it was felt that moving up from our current Foundation Level under the scheme would give people confidence in the Council and in the future may enable the Council to take on more responsibility from Central Government. It is seen to be a good investment.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Clerk and staff for their support this year and to congratulate the Deputy Services Officer with the work she undertook in re-designing the Parish Council's website.

Cllr David Chalmers
Chairman Finance & Personnel Committee

Tews Lane Committee - Cllr Rodney Cann

Tews Lane continues to be a well-used site by the numerous football teams of Barnstaple Football Club.

We continue to have problems with teams failing to secure the building or switch off the lights and power which increases the running costs of the site for the Parish Council.

The number of dog walkers using the site appears to be growing with the resultant fouling on the pitches also increasing, this is a real cause of concern which may require addressing if the problem persists.

Together with my fellow district councillor we have continued to negotiate developer Section 106 contributions towards improvements to resolve the surface water problems and help fund the completion of the extension of the building to provide a community meeting/club house.

Generally it has been a successful year but as usual not without its problems.

Cllr Rodney Cann
Chairman Tews Lane Committee

Footpaths Committee

Once again, the general clearance and maintenance of footpaths/bridleways and byway in the Parish has been carried out this year mainly by local contractors, the vast majority of works involving vegetation clearance.

The Season's First Cut of footpaths/bridleways was carried out in accordance with the specifications and for 2017-18, it has been agreed that Footpath 3 should be added to the list. This first cut has made the maintenance and upkeep of our footpaths/bridleways and byway easier to control and, as always, has improved access for parishioners and visitors to the parish, together with organised groups with environmental interests.

Our footpaths/bridleways/byway network surveys for 2016-2017 have again been carried out by Mrs Liz Steer. We are pleased to report that all have passed and our thanks must go to Mrs Steer. However, due to Devon County Council's continuing financial constraints, we were again unable to pay her for this service and many of the surveys were carried out in her own time. As last year, with the agreement of the Parish Clerk, she carried out the remainder of the surveys in work time during 2016-17, with a mileage claim only from the P3 budget. However, the Footpaths Committee felt that this arrangement could not continue in 2017-2018 due to Parish Council work commitments and the Committee agreed to pay Mrs Steer the sum of £80.00 to carry out all the surveys in her own time.

Housing development planning applications continue to be submitted in the Parish, with works currently taking place at Tews Lane and Mead Park and a recently approved development to be undertaken at Oakland Park South. All these developments impact on the footpaths/bridleways network and we have therefore again this year not submitted Specific Bids for works for the coming year.

A P3 Grant in the sum of £400.00 has been awarded for 2017-2018 and will again be spent on clearance and maintenance work on the Parish's extensive footpaths/bridleway/byway network as required.

Finally, thanks must go to members of staff and local contractors for their support and assistance in maintaining our footpaths/bridleways/byway network.

Cllr David Chalmers
Joint P3 Co-ordinator

Mrs Eileen Badcock
Joint P3 Co-ordinator

Parks and Playing Fields Committee - Cllr Tony Wood

Once again it has been a busy year for the Parks and Playing Fields Committee with further upgrades and additions to the play areas, including the replacement of the Four-Way Spring Board in the Swallowfield Play Area and the addition of the green open space at Maple Grove in Roundswell.

Funding opportunities have once again been taken advantage of and funding from the Town and Parish Fund was secured earlier in the year to erect a fence to separate the play equipment from the rest of the open space at the Eilerslie Road Play Area. Unfortunately it has been necessary to fence the play area to prevent a conflict between children playing and dog excrement which is hazardous to health. Further funding was secured following representations from residents of Mulberry Way expressing concerns at the lack of equipment in the play area especially for younger children, and a double swing and a basket swing were installed. I hope the equipment has enhanced the play experience for those young members of the community.

I would like to thank the Parish Council's Handyperson who works hard to ensure the play areas are clean and safe for our community. I am especially pleased with the repair works that have been carried out to the benches around Griggs Field which is used by many members of the community and the benches provide an opportunity to sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings.

The Parish Council is aware that the roundabout in the Beechfield Play Area is not working correctly and has agreed to investigate a replacement in partnership with the Fremington and District Community Group and we hope a replacement will be forthcoming in the near future.

The Parish Council has approved phase two of the plans for the Fremington and District Community Group's project of enhancing the Village Green which include a Lych Gate, to be called the Armistice Gate in celebration of 100 years since World War One, a performance area and circular path.

The Parish Council was approached by the Byeways Bowling Club seeking approval to replace the entrance gates which are old and rusted and I look forward to seeing the new gates in situ.

The Parish Council leases two successful allotment sites, part of the land leased to provide the Muddlebridge Allotment site has a pond and following concerns from the Allotment Association the Parish Council has worked with Westward Pathfinder to fence the side adjacent to the road. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Westward Pathfinder for undertaking the work and its contribution to the Parish.

I am pleased to report that once again the Parish Council has safe guarded the cutting of the highway verges and will continue to maintain the verges as per previous years, however I end the year disappointed that the Beechfield Centre is still in situ and hope this is the last year before the tired portacabin is replaced with a permanent, purpose built building.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Staff, Committee and fellow Councillors for their help and support over the last year.

Cllr Tony Wood
Chairman Parks and Playing Fields Committee

Fremington Parish Council
Income & Expenditure Account (Unaudited)
1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

(Last) Year Ended 31st. March 2016 (Current) Year Ended 31st. March 2017

Income

1,119.42	Administration	1,508.17
21,373.67	Parks & Playing Fields	10,700.33
10,605.81	106 Funding from NDC	24,873.25
8,945.00	Cemetery	8,730.00
21,373.67	Fremington Quay	26,944.65
0.00	Salaries & Inland Revenue	0.00
0.00	Insurance	0.00
400.00	Parish Paths	400.00
5,626.19	TAP Fund	1,425.61
118,823.13	Precept	134,945.42
134.84	Dog Bins	193.74
40,578.90	Grants	35,264.73
0.00	Restated	0.00
0.00	Earmarked Reserves	4,295.00
<u>218,861.73</u>		<u>249,280.90</u>

Expenditure

19,406.75	Administration	18,021.07
30,552.35	Parks & Playing Fields	32,035.87
0.00	106 Funding NDC	765.00
4,118.33	Cemetery	6,004.25
8,468.51	Fremington Quay	11,665.39
75,688.91	Salaries	81,334.05
1,851.60	TAP Fund	3,530.00
193.37	Parish Paths	371.72
4,282.62	Loans	4,282.62
5,638.08	Insurance	10,327.33
84.67	Parish Enhancements	20.00
5,927.40	Dog Bins	5,069.88
34,359.81	Grants	8,358.17
0.00	Election Costs	0.00
9,552.43	Earmarked Reserves	11,176.13
<u>200,124.83</u>		<u>192,961.48</u>

General Fund

98,988.87	Balance at 1st April 2016	136,120.77
<u>218,861.73</u>	ADD Total Income	<u>249,280.90</u>
317,850.60		385,401.67
<u>200,124.83</u>	Deduct Total Expenditure	<u>192,961.48</u>
117,725.77		192,440.19
<u>-18,395.00</u>	Transfer to/from reserves	<u>43,443.00</u>
<u>136,120.77</u>	Balance at 31st March 2017	<u>148,997.19</u>

Parish Councillors

Cllr Mr Frank Biederman
8 Broadway, Fremington
07595 988704

Cllr Mrs Susan Kingdom
37 Park Avenue, Sticklepath
01271 326914

Cllr Mr Des Brailey MBE
31 Maple Grove, Roundswell
01271 329796

Cllr Mrs Carol McCormack-Hole
The Plough Inn, 7 The Hill,
Bickington, 01271 343176

Cllr Mr Rodney Cann
Kimberley, Bickington Road,
Bickington 01271 372998

Cllr Mr Alan Rennles
4 Linden Gardens, Sticklepath
01271 376335

Cllr Mr David Chalmers
6 Mead Park Close, Bickington
07909 497487

Cllr Ms Myka Scott
3 Byeways Close, Fremington
01271 859003

Cllr Mrs Jacqueline Flynn
7 Elmfield Road, Bickington
01271 370546

Cllr Mr. Bill Sherborne
5 Woodville Close, Sticklepath
01271 344816

Cllr Miss Louise Goodger
Haslemere, Pottery Lane, Yelland
07562 791139

Cllr Mr Graham Turner
127 Meadowbrook, Roundswell
01271 314851

Cllr Mr Kelvin Groves
10 Merrythorn Road, Fremington
01271 327557

Cllr Mr Tony Wood
1 Griggs Garden, Fremington
01271 321424

Cllr Mrs Jayne Dyson
5A West Yelland Road, Yelland
01271 860665

Parish Council Officers

Mrs Victoria Woodhouse
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Mrs Eileen Badcock
Services Officer

Mrs Liz Steer
Deputy Services Officer



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