

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Parks and Playing Fields Committee
held on Thursday 29th June 2017 at 10.00am
at the Parish Council Offices, 12 Higher Road, Fremington**

- Present:** Cllrs T Wood (Chairman), Mrs J Dyson, A Rennles and G Turner
Cllr Mrs Kingdom, substitute member
Mrs Victoria Woodhouse, Parish Clerk
2 representatives from the Fremington Football Club
1 Member of the Public
- 1706/23 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllrs Miss L Goodger, F Biederman and D Chalmers.
- 1706/24 **Declarations of interests**
None.
- 1706/25 **To agree the agenda as published**
Agreed.
- 1706/26 **Chairman's Announcements**
None.
- 1706/27 **Public Participation Period**
A member of the public updated the Committee on the anti-social behaviour that was being experienced from the Beechfield Playing Field and showed photographs of debris that had been thrown into their garden. It was noted that the incidents had been reported to the Police.
- 1706/28 **To approve and sign the minutes of meeting held on 25th May 2017 as a correct record**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2017 as a correct record. Cllr Wood duly signed the minutes.
- 1706/29 **To receive and consider amended plans for the replacement of the Beechfield Centre and to agree to submit associated planning applications and obtain costings for amended design**
The plans were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that a request would be made to widen the Clerk's Office as the proposed width of the kitchen for the Parish Council Offices was not necessary. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the amended plans to include the Parish Council Offices, to submit the associated planning application for the amended plans and obtain costings.
- 1706/30 **To receive update on the condition of the Beechfield Centre and consider closure of the Centre**
Members were informed that the Parish Council's Handyperson had been inspecting the building as instructed. Concerns had been raised about the safety and condition of the floor following repairs which had been undertaken and a continual leak in the showers. It was noted that a site meeting had taken place with the Football Club and the Clerk advised the Committee that the building should be closed completely and taken out of use. The Chairman and the Committee **resolved** to allow the representatives of the Football Club to speak on this item. The Football Club explained that they would be looking to reinstall the showers in the Football Club's portacabin for one season and would investigate options for additional toilets and storage. It was noted that the Beechfield Centre would need to stay in-situ for now to provide utilities to the portacabin.
- It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to close the Beechfield Centre to all members of the public, including the Football Club, with immediate effect. It was further **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Beechfield Centre to remain in-situ if required for utilities with a view to demolishing the Centre in March 2018, members were



informed that there would still be statutory requirements the Parish Council would need to meet whilst the building remains and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that access to the building would only be to authorised personnel as authorised by the Parish Clerk.

- 1706/31 **To receive tree report for the Village Green and consider quotations for associated works**
 The report and associated quotations were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted from the report that two White Poplars required crown reduction and two Sycamores required felling, it was also noted that the proposed works were on trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order and within a Conservation Area and planning permission would be required. It was further noted that the Landscape and Countryside Officer at the North Devon Council had recommended that the White Poplars be felled and replaced. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to fell and replace the two White Poplars and to fell the two Sycamore trees, to submit the associated planning application and to accept the lowest quotation from Arbmark.

- 1706/32 **To consider works to trees bordering the Beechfield Playing Field to help alleviate anti-social behaviour**
 Members were informed that following the correspondence received from neighbouring properties of the Beechfield Playing Field and the anti-social behaviour that had been experienced, the Clerk had met on site with the householder to discuss works that could help to alleviate the problems experienced. The proposal was to fell and remove all of the trees on the Beechfield Playing Field side of the bank, it was noted that most of these trees were actually dead and had no amenity value, this would expose the area in which the perpetrators are hiding. Members were informed that North Devon Homes had been approached and had informed the Council that they do not have any responsibility for the bank in this area. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to fell all of the trees on the Beechfield Playing Field side of the bank and to accept the lowest quotation from Taw and Torridge Tree Services to fell and remove all detritus from site.

Cllr Rennles left the meeting.

- 1706/33 **To consider request from the Fremington & District Community Group to hire the Village Green for the Christmas Tree Light Switch on event**
 Members considered a request to use the Village Green on Friday 1st December 2017 for the annual Christmas tree light switch on. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the request subject to the hirer acquiring the appropriate licences and appropriate Public Liability Insurance.

Cllr Rennles returned to the meeting.

- 1706/34 **To consider the draft North Devon and Torridge Playing Pitch Strategy consultation** (information can be found at <https://www.engagespace.co.uk/devon/northdevon/>)
 It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for Councillors Wood, Rennles and the Parish Clerk to respond to the consultation.

- 1706/35 **Close**
 There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.55am.

Signed.....

Dated ...27/7/17