

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community
Committee meeting held on Thursday 26th September 2024 at 11am in the
Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs H Walker (Chairman), J Bell, J Bridgeman, J Cann, D Dixon, R Jones and S Kingdom

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

2409/28 **Apologies**
None.

2409/29 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

2409/30 **Public Participation**
None.

2409/31 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2409/32 **Climate Emergency – Update**
Cllr Dixon reported that the worse projection for 2024 is that the chance for the average global temperature to rise by 1.5 degrees has increased to almost 50% for the next five-year period between 2022 and 2026. Cllr Dixon explained that being “climate positive” is when a company or individual seeks to directly reduce their own carbon footprint rather than investing in carbon offsets to even out the amount of carbon emissions they produce. Being climate positive is better than transitioning to a net-zero emissions as it tackles the root of the problem that created climate change in the first place. Implementing sustainable infrastructure in homes and office design is imperative for the country if they want to reach their net zero targets. It was agreed for the Parish Council to publicise the term “climate positive” and the reduction in household bills if an ecofriendly approach is taken.

Cllr Jones reported that he had recently attended a climate forum and received a presentation on the Devon Rivers Manifesto and asked if the Committee would like the officer to provide the presentation to a meeting. It was agreed to invite the representative to present at a Full Council meeting.

2409/33 **Climate Emergency Action Plan**
Members reviewed the Climate Emergency Action Plan; it was agreed to add a cost column to the plan. Members assigned responsibility for each item, and it was agreed to encourage the Parish Council to add an extra heading of “Climate implications” to each new policy it publishes. It was further agreed to review the Climate Emergency Action Plan at least annually at the September meeting. A copy of the updated plan will be available on the Parish Council’s website.

2409/34 **Fremington Local Nature Reserve**
 A request had been received for financial assistance towards the costs to employ a contractor to clear the scrub on the far side of the stream at the Leat Meadow Nature Reserve. Members discussed the request, and several suggestions put forward for a financial contribution, however, members felt that in order to make a useful contribution they would like more information on the project, and it was therefore resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to defer the item until the next meeting and to invite the officer from NDC to the meeting to explain the project and provide a breakdown of costs.

2409/35 **Riverside Park Multi Use Games Area**
 Members were informed that correspondence had been received from a property owner whose boundary is close to the Multi-Use Games Area in relation to damage to their wall and noise from the facility. Members noted that the property owner had reported previous damage to the Police, however, they had not reported recent damage. Cllr Bridgeman confirmed that he had been to look at the site and felt that the Parish Council could cut some of the vegetation back on the MUGA side of the property and keep this area clear of vegetation, it was further agreed to encourage the resident to throw the balls back over the wall to prevent people from climbing over to try and retrieve their balls and report any criminal damage or activity to the Police.

2409/36 It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

PART B

2409/37 **Execution and sealing of a legal deed**
 a) To receive update on the lease for Muddlebridge Allotment Site
 Members were informed that the draft lease had still not been received and the Parish Council's solicitor will take action to obtain a lease, there are now a number of empty plots and new licences cannot be provided to perspective tenants.

2409/38 **Babbages Allotment Site**
 There was no update available.

Meeting ended at 12.04pm.

Signed..... Dated.....