

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th October 2024 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

Present: Cllrs J Bridgeman (Chairman), J Cann and D Dixon
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman Cllr Bridgeman was elected as Chairman for the meeting

2410/37 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Bridgeman as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

2410/38 **Apologies**

Cllr H Walker.

2410/39 **Declarations of Interests**

None.

2410/40 **Public Participation**

None.

2410/41 **Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2410/42 **Climate Emergency – Update**

Cllr Dixon reported that the COP16 biodiversity conference is underway in Columbia, an agreement had been made to protect 30% of land and 30% of sea by 2030 and countries were supposed to submit action plans, however, several countries have not submitted action plans including the UK. It was agreed to write to the MP to express the disapproval.

Members were informed that foam extinguishers are being phased out from July 2025 the main reason being because they contain perfluorooctanoic acid which is a toxic chemical and not environmentally friendly. The Parish Council has foam extinguishers at its sites, and these are being replaced over the coming months.

Cllr Dixon asked if there was an opportunity to use council land to support forest schools and it was agreed to write to the schools in the parish to ascertain interest and pursue with the appropriate Committee.

Cllr Dixon reported that he had visited the pavilion at Tews Lane with a renewable energy representative and found that there is not a more environmentally friendly system available, however, it was questioned if the showers are required in the building and agreed to pursue with the Tews Lane Committee.

- 2410/43 **Fremington Local Nature Reserve**
Members received further information on the project to clear blackthorn and brambles from an area in the nature reserve, it was noted that the area has been very good for flowering plants in the past and with a contractor to clear the years of vegetation the management group would then manage it on an annual basis. After consideration it was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary, to fund the project at a cost of £1,200 and to seek assurance that the brambles will be kept cut back and ask the Maintenance and Amenities Operative to monitor.
- 2410/44 **Right Bin Right Place**
A Briefing from Cllr Bridgeman was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bridgeman explained that over the years the dog bins have been installed at random locations and are not equal over the parish, the percentage costs have not changed dramatically, and he felt that a policy should be drafted and adopted to identify a way forward. Members discussed the placement of dog bins, and it was agreed that they should not be closer than a certain number of metres (exact distance to be identified in the policy) except for where the litter bin is in a play area.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for Cllr Bridgeman and the Executive Officer to draft a policy to be considered at a future meeting and to speak to the dog warden about the promotion of litter bins for disposal of dog bags.
- 2410/45 **Land off of Tews Lane, Vistry Housing**
Members received information from the Public Rights of Way Officer on land management and opportunities to increase biodiversity at land off of Tews Lane. It was noted that during a site visit the balancing pond area was crossed which has been landscaped and planted in a very complimentary way by a private landscaping team. It is now full of wildflowers and is providing an ideal wetland habitat, from ponds to boggy area. Its currently still under control of the Landscape Company but will eventually be handed over to a land agent. The model was impressive and it was agreed that it could be replicated elsewhere in the parish to increase local environmental/biodiversity.
- 2410/46 **Draft Budgets 2025-2026**
Members considered the draft budgets for 2025-2026, it was noted that the Beechfield Centre EMR would be used to render the back of the building and agreed to request that the Finance and Personnel Committee considers adding funds to the EMR at the end of the year. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the draft budgets.
- 2410/47 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

2410/48 **Execution and sealing of a legal deed**
a) To receive update on the lease for Muddlebridge Allotment Site
There was no update available.

2410/49 **Babbages Allotment Site**
There was no update available.

Meeting ended at 12pm.

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

DRAFT