

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington**

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

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

2411/32 **Apologies**  
None.

2411/33 **Declarations of Interests**  
None.

2411/34 **Public Participation**  
None.

2411/35 **Minutes**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2411/36 **Climate Emergency – Update**  
Cllr Dixon reported that according to Copernicus, the European Climate Change Service, 2024 is set to be the warmest year on record and to be the first year when global average temperature increase above preindustrial levels exceeds 1.5-degree centigrade limit agreed at the Paris summit meeting. This is thought to be the primary cause of the extreme weather events experienced this year. Cllr Dixon stressed that it is still important for individuals to continue to do their bit to reverse these trends, these actions multiplied by many millions of tiny actions can help the relentless increase in temperatures to be halted in the short term and reversed long-term.

Cllr Dixon informed members that the Community Resilience Fund is open, and it was agreed to circulate the current Emergency Plan to Committee members.

Members were informed that there is a webinar session being held for Lithium-ion Battery Campaign supporters and Plastic Free North Devon is encouraging communities to organise a Community Clean Day of Action for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as part of its 4th annual Day of Action, it was agreed to ask the Community Group if it could facilitate.

2411/37 **Housing Crisis**  
Cllr Walker had requested that the wording of the Housing Crisis Declaration be looked at following the use of it by Developers against the Parish. Members were informed that the Planning Committee had

just considered the wording at its meeting and the recommendation was to alter:

“Fremington Parish Council requests that North Devon Council apply their target of 30% affordable housing on larger developments. This should include:

- Social housing
- Affordable housing to purchase
- Shared ownership”

To:

Page

“As the capacity of the area for large development has reached saturation point, Fremington Parish Council working with North Devon Council should lobby the government to obtain funding to support our community. This should include:

- Social housing
- Affordable housing to purchase
- Shared ownership”

It was agreed to work on the wording further to encourage the Government to support local housing associations after discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Executive Officer to circulate the amended wording and any comments to be feedback to the Executive Officer for Cllrs Walker and Bridgeman to collate a final version of the wording for the Housing Crisis Declaration.

2411/38

**Devon Rivers Manifesto**

Members were grateful for the recent presentation received at the Full Council meeting and felt it was eye opening.

Cllr Dixon expressed the need to be careful with the vocabulary used when dealing with sewage and sewerage.

Members felt that they were already taking forward the information received from the presentation when considering items such as planning applications and the future development of the parish.

2411/39

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**

2411/40

**Execution and sealing of a legal deed**

a) To receive update on the lease for Muddlebridge Allotment Site

Members were informed that the Parish Council's solicitor was now dealing with the renewal of the lease and hoped to conclude the matter swiftly.

2411/41

**Babbages Allotment Site**

There was no update available, it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to ask NDC if there would be an option to transfer the freehold of land for the allotments to the Parish Council.

Meeting ended at 11.31am.

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

DRAFT