

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 30th January 2025 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

2501/30 **Apologies**
None.

2501/31 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

2501/32 **Public Participation**
None.

2501/33 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2501/34 **Climate Emergency – Update**
a) To receive response from the MP in relation to the lack of action plan to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030
The response was circulated ahead of the meeting. Members felt it was a positive response and agreed that further review of the 30by 30 vision should be undertaken.

b) To receive information on the Climate and Nature Bill
Information on the Climate and Nature Bill was circulated ahead of the meeting. The bill would set the UK new legally binding targets for climate and nature, as well give the Secretary of State a duty to implement a strategy to achieve these targets. Cllr Dixon stated that the recent events in Somerset where over 100 homes were evacuated is a sign of things to come. There will be two high tides in 2025 and if this coincides with a storm areas within Fremington Parish could also be flooded. Members noted that the biggest driver for climate change is population, and we need to be prepared for what will happen. After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to reply to the response from the MP to thank him for the response and ask that he supports the Climate and Nature Bill.

c) To receive update on the Lithium-Ion Battery Campaign
The latest update on the campaign was circulated ahead of the meeting. Members noted that the campaign had requested that campaign supporters request their local authorities support the campaign. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to write to the MP and County Cllrs for the Parish to ask that they support the campaign and for Cllr Cann to put a motion to North Devon Council to support the campaign.

Cllr Kingdom left the meeting.



2501/35 **Housing Crisis**
The final version of the amended Housing Crisis wording was circulated ahead of the meeting. It was noted that the current housing list for Fremington Parish now has 212 people on it and the average price of a three-bedroom property in the parish is £310,000, it was agreed to input these figures into the press release and remove the second to last bullet point relating to the detrimental impact to volunteer groups and **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the wording as append as Appendix One to these minutes.

2501/36 **Urban Grass Cutting on behalf of Devon County Council**
Members were informed that the agreement from Devon County Council for 2025/2026 had been received and the funding from DCC had been increased by £105, however, due to the increase in staffing costs, fuel costs and running costs, the contractors price had increased by £20 per cut. Members considered the options, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to renew the contract and for the Parish Council to met the deficit to ensure a continuation of the service.

2501/37 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

2501/38 **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 still waiting for the land agent, however, the land agent had informed the PC's solicitor that the PC would be meeting the legal costs, members noted that this had not been agreed and this had been confirmed with the solicitor and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, not to agree to pay the land owner/agents legal fees.

Cllr Bridgeman confirmed that he had written to the Diocese but had not received a response and would chase.

2501/39 **Babbages Allotment Site**
Members were informed that NDC had been asked if it would be willing to transfer the freehold of the allotment site, however, NDC had responded to say that it did not have the resources/capacity to consider the request.

2501/40 **Riverside Park Community Building**
Members were informed that inline with the lease a rent review is due and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to delegate to the Executive Officer in conjunction with Cllr Bridgeman.

Meeting ended at 11.47am.

Signed R. Walker Dated 27/02/2025