

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 7pm at the Beechfield Centre,  
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

**Present:** Cllrs S Kingdom (Chairman), S Adams, F Biederman, J Bridgeman, J Cann, S Haywood, C McCormack-Hole, B Sherborne, E Smlatic and H Walker.

1 Member of the Public  
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

- 2502/07     **Apologies**  
Cllr N Denton, it was agreed to accept Cllr Denton's apologies for the foreseeable future.
- 2502/08     **Declarations of Interest**  
None.
- 2502/09     **Chairman's Announcements**  
None.
- 2502/10     **Public Participation Period**  
None.
- 2502/11     **Minutes**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as a correct record.
- 2502/12     **Committees**  
To receive, and adopt the minutes, and note the decisions therein, of the following Committee meetings:
- Finance & Personnel Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
  - Planning Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
  - Environment and Community Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Environment and Community Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
  - Fremington Quay Management Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Fremington Quay



Management Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

2502/13

**County and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward and Devon County Council

Cllr Biederman reported that the crossing on the corner of Tews Lane by the Redrow development was unsafe due to a planning issue, this has now been resolved, and the bank has been flattened and resurfaced to make the crossing safe. The ramp by the traffic lights in Bickington was too steep and causing traffic delays, this has been rectified for the next phase of the works. Cllr Biederman has received several concerns about the proposed road closure for West Yelland and is awaiting a response from Highways, but it is looking like a full road closure for nine days in March. Cllr Biederman is waiting to hear whether or not the County Elections will take place in May and the road from Old School Lane up past the Cemetery has now been resurfaced.

Cllr Walker/Cann - Bickington Ward

Cllr Walker reported that NDC has moved funds forward to repair the Quay wall which would be over £300,000. NDC has a balanced budget and there are no changes proposed for the waste and recycling service subject to agreement from Full Council.

Cllr Cann reported that she had received correspondence relating to overgrown trees and hedgerows in Bickington that she was following up. Cllr Cann expressed her thanks to the resident in Bickington that had cleared the path along the main road after it was left in a mess from being cut.

2502/14

**Fremington Cemetery**

a) To consider Cemetery Charges for 2025-2026

The proposed charges for 2025-2026 were circulated ahead of the meeting and considered by members.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to increase the charges for parishioners by 3% and the charges for non-parishioners by 6% to ensure space is prioritised for parishioners.

b) To receive updated Rules and Regulations

The updated Rules and Regulations were circulated ahead of the meeting and had been updated to state that only parishioners and those with a local connection can purchase a deed of grant and be interred in Fremington Cemetery to ensure there is sufficient space for parishioners as per the agreement at the October 2024 meeting.

It was **resolved**, with no voted to the contrary, to note the information.

2502/15

**Community Governance Review**

The notes and recommendations from the Working Party on the Parish Council's initial response to the Community Governance Review were circulated ahead of the meeting.

After discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to submit the following recommendations:

### **Wards**

Members were keen to ensure that the names of the wards should be representative of areas that they are as they did historically and before they were altered following the last Community Governance Review.

It was also noted that the currenting ward arrangements do not have anywhere near an equal ration of residents to Cllrs.

It was agreed that the wards should be as follows:

- Anchorwood Bank should revert to Woodville.
- Roundswell & Woodville should be Roundswell and incorporate Maple.
- Bickington, Fremington and Yelland should remain unchanged.

### **Councillors**

- The number of Cllrs in Fremington Yelland should remain unchanged at six.
- Bickington should have four Cllrs.
- Woodville two Cllrs.
- Roundswell three Cllrs.

### **Parish Boundaries**

Members discussed the historical context of both Fremington and Tawstock parish, it was felt that it is important to ensure that these remain fairly unchanged, however, the boundary lines should be altered slightly to follow main roads rather than historic watercourses and it was agreed to amend as follows and as per the attached maps:

#### **1. Roundswell**

- Extend Fremington Parish boundary from the BP Roundswell roundabout to follow the main road.
- Extend Fremington Parish boundary to incorporate Birch Lane to the Old Bideford Road and then follow the Old Bideford Road up to the Roundabout, the whole of Sainsburys will be in Tawstock Parish as a result.

#### **2. Woodville/Anchorwood**

- The boundary at Chestwood Avenue should follow the main road and up to Beechwood Avenue.

#### **3. Yelland**

- At the Yelland end the boundary should be altered so that the whole of the Yelland Quay development sits within one parish to prevent the separation of communities, it was agreed to ascertain support from Instow Parish Council and agree which parish it should sit within.

2502/16

**Devolution**

## a) Devon Association of Local Councils Meeting

Cllr Walker, as the Parish Council's Representative had attended a recent meeting on Devolution with DALC. Cllr Walker confirmed that it had been a long and useful meeting, but the main message was to be careful when accepting the transfer of assets and make sure that they will not be a significant liability to the parish council, and we do not have to accept the assets just because they are offered. It was also noted at the meeting that District and parish councils had not been properly consulted and felt that devolution was supposed to be about bringing power closer to local people but was moving it further away and there did not appear that there would be any public consultation.

## b) North Devon Council

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of North Devon Council in relation to Devolution had been circulated ahead of the meeting and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information and to write to the North Devon Council and ask if there would be an opportunity to transfer the freehold of everything the Parish Council currently leases from the North Devon Council.

2502/17

**Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England**

Members considered the consultation on Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to respond to the consultation and to confirm that the Parish Council would like to see the re-introduction of the Standards Board, the Nolan Principles and sanctions for Councillors.

2502/18

**Councillors Questions**

Cllr McCormack-Hole asked if Stagecoach was going to attend a meeting to discuss the issues that have been experienced with buses recently with people being stranded at bus stops due to services being pulled. It was noted that the Parish Council had written to Stagecoach but had not received a response. It was agreed to write to the MP to raise concerns about the buses.

Cllr Walker confirmed that NDC can no longer demonstrate a five-year housing land supply.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed .....



Dated .....

