

Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Environment & Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2025 at 11am in the Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Mrs L Steer, Administration Officer
Cllr N Tamlin

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Tamlin to the meeting.

2503/26 **Apologies**
Cllr J Cann.

2503/27 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

2503/28 **Public Participation**
None.

2503/29 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th February 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2503/30 **Climate Emergency – Update**
Cllr Dixon reported that there is hope for the future and there is time to lesson the impacts of the severity of climate change. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, American Dept of Commerce has said that we already know many of the problems and solutions and researchers continue to find new ones. Experts believe we can avoid the worst outcomes by reducing emissions to zero as quickly as possible, which will limit warming. To meet this goal, we will have to invest in new technology and infrastructure which will spur job growth. For example, we will need to continue improving technology and facilities that capture and process renewable energy.

Cllr Bridgeman informed members that he had attended a recent online presentation in relation to the XLinks Morocco - UK Power Link project and the Parish Council has registered as an interested party for updates as the project progresses.

2503/31 **Parish Council Forum and Emergency Planning**
Cllrs Dixon and Bridgeman had attended the recent Parish Council Forum which had focused on Emergency Planning. Cllr Bridgeman explained that some parishes have plans which are more advanced than others and that is probably because they are more likely impacted. The Parish Council has an Emergency Plan which was issued in September 2022 and is overdue a review. Cllr Dixon felt that the current plan was too long for use in an emergency and there needs to be a condensed version for responders to refer to in the event of an emergency.

At the forum it was suggested that emergency drills could be undertaken with DCC and NDC and Cllr Dixon asked about the provision radios should other sources of communication fail in an emergency. It was noted that local community involvement in the plan would be important and agreed that there should be 3 or 4 emergency response teams to cover the areas within the parish.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to set up a working party to review the plan and produce a condensed version, it was further agreed to send an invitation to all Cllrs inviting any Cllr that is interested to sit on the working party.

2503/32 **Beechfield Centre**

Members were informed that the back elevation of the building had now been rendered, a quotation had been sought for fencing to provide additional security to the rear of the building at a cost of just over £5,000 which could be met from Section 106 funding as an enhancement. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer consideration of this item for six months to ascertain if additional protection is required.

2503/33 **Parish Paths**

The Administration Officer informed members that the surveys for 2024/2025 had now been completed and submitted, Footpaths 20 & 17 had failed. Members thanked the Administration Officer.

The Administration Officer left the meeting.

It was noted that the Administration Officer had agreed to undertake the surveys for 2025/2026, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree a payment of £100.

2503/34 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.

Cllr Tamlin left the meeting.

PART B

2503/35 **Muddlebridge Lease**

Members received the lease report from the solicitors, it was noted there is a strip of land between the road and access gate that the Parish Council does not appear to have a right of way over, however, the Parish Council has leased the land for over 15 years, and this has not been an issue. It was noted that the lease plan was still not correct, and this would be pursued with the solicitor. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to ask the solicitor to review the tenant licences against the new lease.

Meeting ended at 11.29am.

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

DRAFT