

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at 7.11pm at the Beechfield Centre,  
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

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

1 Member of the Public  
Mr N Tamlin, Co-option candidate  
Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

- 2503/01     **Apologies**  
Cllrs S Adams, H Walker and N Denton, it was agreed to accept Cllr Denton's apologies for the foreseeable future.
- 2503/02     **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest in item 2503/11 as he works for the MPs Office.
- 2503/03     **Chairman's Announcements**  
None.
- 2503/04     **Public Participation Period**  
None.
- 2503/05     **Minutes**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 as a correct record.
- 2503/06     **Committees**  
To receive, and adopt the minutes, and note the decisions therein, of the following Committee meetings:
- Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the minutes and note the decisions therein of the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.
  - Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 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 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- 2503/07     **County and District Councillors' Reports**  
Cllr Biederman – Fremington Ward and Devon County Council  
Cllr Biederman reported that both DCC and NDC had agreed their budgets for the forthcoming financial year. DCC has agreed the full 4.99% and NDC 2.99%. Cllr Biederman explained that DCC's budget has increased by 5.9% on last year and the budget for roads has only increased by 3.4% with the rate of inflation being higher than the increase. The rural services grant has



gone meaning that a further £10million a year needs to be identified and Devon does have its own areas of deprivation. NDC has lost half a million from this grant and DCC has lost £9.5million, it is NDC that will feel the loss the most. Those with an EHC plan has doubled since 2019 and they are entitled to support delivered by DCC.

Cllr Biederman talked about the devolution plans explaining that the Government has set a minimum population of 350,000 for a unitary authority (except for special circumstances) and to become economically viable Devon needs Exeter to be included. The 4.5.1 model would mean that Plymouth is a unitary authority on its own with a small part of the South Hams, West Devon, Torbay, the rest of the South Hams and Teignbridge would form another authority and Torridge, North Devon, East Devon, Mid Devon and Exeter would also form a unitary authority. The proposals and plans have to be submitted to Government by 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Cllr Walker/Cann - Bickington Ward

Cllr Cann reported that the redevelopment of Boutport Street has been advertised on social media and has become part of the Market Quarter up through Butchers Row. Green Lanes has shown a profit of £1million and the North Devon Lottery has provided NDC with £12,000. Cllr Cann thanked the Community Group for the 60-minute spruce in Bickington on Saturday and explained that the group achieves a lot with the volunteers in 1 hour. Cllr Cann reported that Superintendent Toby Davis is retiring and has reported that North Devon still has one of the lowest crime rates in the country. A lot of the crime reported relates to domestic abuse and there is a sperate team that has been set up to deal with these incidents. The Police force does not have the resources to provide monthly crime reports and they are not always accurate enough.

2503/08

### **Co-option**

- a) To consider applications for Co-option for Fremington/Bickington
- b) To consider applications for Co-option for Fremington/Maple

Four applications for Co-option had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Members noted that not three of the applicants had been able to attend the meeting due to prior commitments and illness, it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to consider all four applications.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to vote via a Secret Ballot.

Mr Tamlin received nine votes, Miss Butler also received nine votes, and the further two applicants did not receive any votes, and it was therefore **resolved** to Co-opt Mr Tamlin and Miss Butler to the Parish Council.

2503/09

### **Xlinks' Morocco – UK Power Project**

An update on the project was circulated ahead of the meeting and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information.

2503/10

### **Fremington Cemetery**

A request had been received for a kerb set around a grave in Fremington Cemetery. Members noted, with sympathy, that this is against policy and would cause difficulties for re-opening of graves within the vicinity and grass cutting, therefore it was agreed, with no votes to the contrary, not to permit the request.

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest as he works for the MP's Office.

2503/11

**Bus Service**

Correspondence had been received from the MP relating to the concerns raised by the Parish Council about the bus service and members of the public being left stranded. The MP has written to the Chief Executive of Stagecoach who can send someone to a Parish Council meeting but they would like the evidence of the services that have not arrived/been cancelled, the MP has challenged this as the provider should be aware, it was agreed to put a post on Social Media asking for people to provide the evidence if they have been let down recently by Stagecoach.

2503/12

**Councillors Questions**

Cllr Sherborne asked if the bus shelter in Woodville would be replaced. It was noted that it was an unofficial stop, and the cost of replacement was too expensive, especially given that no complaints had been received.

Cllr Biederman asked if a working party could be set up to look at what the Parish Council leases from the North Devon Council and approach NDC to transfer. It was noted that the office has written to NDC to request if all of the leased assets could be transferred, however, a reply had not yet been received. It was agreed to request a meeting with the Chief Executive, Estates and delegate to the Finance and Personnel Committee to secure the parishes assets.

Cllr McCormack-Hole thanked Cllr Biederman for the active role the Community plays within the parish. Cllr McCormack-Hole reported that they would be closing the Plough Inn in Bickington at the end of the month.

Cllr Haywood asked when the hub in Green Lanes would be opening, it was anticipated that this would open in April 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed 

Dated 7. 4. 25