

FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 136th Ordinary Meeting held on 17th November 2005

Present:

D Hickman (Chairman)	J Hooker
P Tricklebank	S Shaw
P Lincoln-Lewis	J Vernall

Mr P Gretton – County Councillor
Mrs A Pulsford – Borough Councillor

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman asked an additional item be included under “correspondence received” as item 12.15 – Parish Plan Survey.

1. **Apologies from:** S Hanley (Redditch Borough Council)
2. **Declaration of Interest in any item on the agenda** – there were none.
3. **Approve minutes of the 135th Ordinary Meeting held 22nd September 2005 :**
Proposed by J Hooker and seconded by D Hickman, the minutes were signed as approved.
4. **Matters arising from Minutes of 135th Ordinary Meeting :**
 - 4.1 Miller Homes/kissing gate replacement – it was confirmed this work had not been carried out and Clerk was to chase Miller Homes further.
 - 4.2 Traffic calming measures – Droitwich Road:
 - 4.2.1 purchase of vehicle activated sign – following receipt of WCC’s estimate, due to the major cost being suggested, it was agreed this matter would be held in abeyance, pending the Parish Plan survey results and the new Clerk suggested investigating a solar panel option to the electricity version quoted.
 - 4.2.2 “Speed Watch” – West Mercia Police had responded that this scheme was not operative in the area – correspondence to be filed. The Chairman would discuss with PC Whitehouse (local officer).
 - 4.2.3 resurrection of 30mph sign – this had not been carried out by the Highways Department and the Chairman would raise the matter with Jon Biggs (Highways Partnership).
 - 4.2.4 Disability markings outside Village Hall, and

4.3 Doctors car park area markings – both matters remained outstanding, despite sketch maps being forwarded to Joanne Lowe of Redditch Borough Council and the Chairman would raise the matters with Jon Biggs.

5. Claire Boylan, Enforcement Officer of Redditch Borough Council

Due to illness Claire was unable to attend the meeting and it was hoped to discuss the matter of dog fouling in the village at the next meeting.

6. Affordable Housing :

No update had been received from West Mercia Housing or Alan Saunders. The Clerk was to chase for the up to date situation.

7. Highways Matters : parking on the Square

The Chairman advised he had met with PC Whitehouse in the Square area to discuss parking problems. He proposed to attend the next meeting to advise what measures can be taken. It was discussed that parking outside of Mrs Rushton's house and at the top of Mill Lane was the most hazardous, particularly at weekends. It was agreed the matter would be held in abeyance until the next meeting.

8. Parish Plan Committee :

Following recent correspondence, the Chairman asked the PPC representatives what they wanted of the Parish Council. Andrew Henson asked for more involvement with what was eventually meant to be the Parish Council's business plan. J Hooker stated the Parish Council do not have a business plan and he advised the results of their survey was meant to be a plan to represent the community's wishes for the Parish Council to take up. S Shaw believed such information would be very useful for the future.

D Hickman said that until the results were known and information given to the Parish Council, it was impossible to know what was achievable, particularly financially, as the Borough Council clearly have no money to offer. A Henson stated a further point could be included to inform where monies would come from and an accompanying letter to the survey will inform parishioners there are no guarantees.

The timing of the survey being ready and taken around the parishioners was discussed: the Chairman suggested dates kept changing and at the last meeting Russell Cotton said it was to be March but in the last week communication from the PPC had suggested it was imminent, when it had been agreed at the last meeting that the subject of more involvement by the Parish Council would be on the agenda for this meeting. This point was strongly argued by Russell Cotton with the Chairman, saying he had clearly said at the last meeting end October was the time for delivery of the surveys with analysis of results around March. He also disagreed that the matter was mentioned and agreed to be on the agenda of this meeting and only asked that when taking around the surveys

the PPC members could say they were supported by the Parish Council and he hoped it will put priorities to matters shown up in the survey's analysis.

The website created by the Parish Plan Committee was discussed: it was confirmed this would be offered to the Parish Council for use and for it to be treated as an overall Feckenham website. It would be maintained by the PPC with the Parish Council merely providing the information to be included. Andrew Henson stated that the PPC would undoubtedly change from its present structure over the coming months as certain issues are dealt with but from experience of other PPC's, there would be a presence for a few years. The existence of the website would therefore not be affected. The Chairman asked Parish Councillors to show their views on taking up the offer and to bear in mind the hours allocated for the Clerk – all were in favour, none were against. The PC were to send information to webmaster@feckenham.com.

9. Report from County Councillor Philip Gretton:

Highways – PG advised there was a new highways maintenance contractor in place called Ringway and a plan is proposed to half the number of highway partnership units.

Health - the proposal to replace three primary care units and replace with one. The County Council support this and PG is hopeful the proposal to close the A & E at the Alexandra Hospital will not transpire but the maternity unit will probably be down-sized.

Police – the current set up of three forces (West Midlands, Warwickshire and Worcester & Hereford, Shropshire, Staffordshire) is being considered to possibly merge into one as the Government are opposing regional authorities. The West Mercia force is one of the best performing authorities in the country.

PG will keep the Parish Council advised of all these issues.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the Public and asked if anyone present wished to speak. As no-one chose to pass any comments, the meeting was closed to the public and the meeting resumed.

10. Report from Borough Councillor: A Pulsford

AP confirmed her concerns for the possible loss of the highways partnership in Redditch. There had been the usual problems of flooding in Astwood Lane, the affected area is actually outside of the parish boundary. AP felt the parking in Mill Lane was very hazardous and parking enforcements should be considered. A discussion followed on the appropriate enforcements, ranging from parking tickets being produced leading to fines, to polite advice requesting more consideration. The Chairman stated again this would be discussed with PC Whitehouse at the next meeting.

11. Financial Report :

- 11.1 Report on 2005/06 accounts – update sheet was circulated by Clerk to all Parish Councillors and she advised the present total bank balance was £5,635.05 with the second precept payment awaited.
- 11.2 Payment of Ridgeway Nurseries invoice for replanting of tubs for £100.00 was proposed by J Hooker and seconded by P Tricklebank.
- 11.3 Payment of Clerk’s petty cash of £39.24 covering 1st April to date was proposed by P Lincoln-Lewis and seconded by J Hooker.
- 11.4 Payment of Clerk’s expenses of £61.50 covering 21st July to date was proposed by S Shaw and seconded by P Tricklebank.
- 11.5 Authorisation to pay outgoing Clerk – the Chairman confirmed Dawn Southwell was leaving the post as at 31st December and he asked for approval to pay her salary and expenses up to that date, prior to the next meeting in January. All were in favour.
- 11.6 Authorisation to pay incoming Clerk – the Chairman confirmed Linda Morrison Allsopp was attending this meeting and had given her time to attending the preparation of the agenda. He therefore asked agreement that she be paid for the month of December in recognition of the time she would give in the hand-over. All were in favour.
- 11.7 Cheque signatories – the Chairman confirmed two new signatories were required: to replace the outgoing clerk (which Linda M-Allsopp would do) and the loss of Peter Masters following his resignation as Parish Councillor. P Tricklebank was asked to become a signatory, as he was Vice Chairman, he agreed and the necessary mandate would be arranged accordingly.
- 11.8 The invoice had been received for £54.00 for Village Hall hire for July, September, October and November meetings. J Vernall proposed and J Hooker seconded it be paid.

12. Correspondence received : (filed unless stated otherwise)

- 12.1 Mr P Masters – resignation as Parish Councillor: the necessary vacancy notices would be posted and communicated to the Borough Council in line with requirements. A letter of thanks would be sent to Peter.
- 12.2 Redditch Borough Council: agenda and additional papers for 31/10/05 meeting.
- 12.3 Town & Parish Standards: November 2005 edition.
- 12.4 West Mercia Constabulary: Speed Watch scheme (already discussed at 4.2.2).
- 12.5 Feckenham Parish Plan Steering Committee: requesting more involvement (already discussed at 8).
- 12.6 Worcs C.C: vehicular speeds in Feckenham/purchase of sign (already discussed at 4.2.1).
- 12.7 Worcs C.C: free composting clinics (leaflets and poster).
- 12.8 Newline: October 2005.
- 12.9 Worcs C.C: second Local Transport Plan Report (already copied to all Parish Councillors).
- 12.10 Worcs C.C: lighting on street lighting columns – reference to festive lighting.
- 12.11 The Milestone Society: letter dated 28th October 2005 copied to all Parish Councillors for their information.
- 12.12 Worcs CALC: copy signed Councils’ Charter.

- 12.13 Worcs CALC: email “the business to be transacted” (already copied to all Parish Councillors) – the Chairman asked that all Parish Councillors be mindful of this procedure.
- 12.14 Worcs C.C: options for the future of Marlfield Farm & Ravens Bank Schools.
- 12.15 Parish Plan Survey: all Parish Councillors had received copies of the draft survey which the PPC requested any comments from the Parish Council. The Chairman raised the point of question 97 which should reflect better the issue of the playing fields maintenance, in line with the points given to the PPC at the July meeting. Following an explanation by the Chairman and comments from other Councillors, it was agreed the question required more explanation and would be amended. J Hooker suggested the survey be looked at page by page as she had made notes against various questions, adding her opinion that the survey was a far reaching document which was very readable. A Henson confirmed there would be a preamble accompanying the survey and the responses to the survey would be useful for years to come. A lengthy discussion then took place on the draft survey – full comments on appendix to these minutes.
- The discussion was concluded by A Henson confirming distribution would be soon (within next week or so) but if this could not be met, then it would be delayed until after the Christmas period. He advised a third party, Warwick Network, would be analysing the results as they had already done so with over 40 Parish Plans. It was proposed a further consultation (which would include costings) with the parish would be held when the results of the survey were known with a view to launching the Plan around Eastertime 2006.
- The Chairman asked at what point the Plan has to go before the Borough Council and A Henson advised there seemed to be no directive on this. Borough Councillor A Pulsford was asked to look into this and advise her findings.

13. Correspondence sent :

- 13.1 To A Henson, Parish Plan Committee – acknowledgement of his letter dated 13th October 2005.

14. Planning Applications :

- 14.1 Received and reviewed** – as sheet no 05/3
- 14.2 Decisions received** – none received prior to preparing the agenda but subsequent notice of permissions granted to application nos 2005/419 and 2005/420.
- 14.3** P Tricklebank advised of his personal experience when submitting a planning application and the conversation he had with the Planning Officer: the Borough Council felt that comments were never received from the Parish Council on applications. It was discussed that applications are often received by the Clerk one week after the date of the letter from the Borough Council, which asks for responses within 14 days. Therefore time is already lost in this delay, added to this is the time it takes to circulate to all Parish Council planning committee members and it is feared in many cases, approval or refusal has already been

agreed by the Borough Council before the Clerk can respond with any comments.

It was therefore agreed a letter would be written to the Borough Council asking for a more prompt service in sending the applications but also the Parish Council planning committee members would review and return the applications more promptly.

P Tricklebank was asked by the Chairman if he would be prepared to become a planning committee member, in the place of P Master. He accepted.

15. Items for next agenda :

- Speaker Claire Boylan (Enforcement Officer) re dog fouling
- P C Richard Whitehouse re parking on the Square and other matters

16. Date of next meeting : 19th January 2006

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APPENDIX

To item 12.15 – Parish Plan draft survey

The following were comments made to the Parish Plan Committee, initially by J Hooker but generally agreed by all other Parish Councillors :

Survey Question No.	Comment
22	To include affordable housing, subject to the Local Plan and to include a caveat – this point emphasised by Borough Councillor A Pulsford.
29	What would such a “welcome pack” consist of.
30	An additional question asking if existing holders are happy with the services.
37	List does not include health or media and to include “please specify” within “other”.
39	Does not make sense.
48/49	Add if not receiving, what service would you like.
77	Add dogs not on lead.
79	Considered to be a waste of time as these were matters raised by PCT.
112/113	Add word “Parish”.