

# FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2008 at 7:30pm

- Present Councillors: A Henson (Chairman)  
J. Roundell  
J James  
J Matthews  
L Venables
- In Attendance Bor Cllr M Chalk  
Co Cllr P Gretton  
PC Waterhouse  
R Cotton & A Pulsford
- Apologies and reasons Cllr Smith away on business, Cllr Lincoln-Lewis on holiday  
S Mullins
- 11/08/01 **Declaration of Interest**  
Cllr Matthews declared a personal interest as village shop board member and share holder.
- 11/08/02 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
The Council resolved to approve the 18 September 2008 Minutes as an accurate record.
- 11/08/03 **PC Waterhouse Report:**  
1. Smartwater was introduced. It is a fluid which marks property and has a 100% success rate in court. The cost is £15 per bottle and is available from RBC.  
2. It is expected that burglaries will increase this time of year. It is advised that precautionary measures be taken.  
3. Speeding in the village is an ongoing concern and the police have made their presence known with speed guns.
- 11/08/04 **County Councillor Report - Co Cllr Gretton reported the following:**  
1. Rock Hill Lane: Co Cllr is disappointed because a pilot program to create safer road conditions is feasible, instead, a survey is to be conducted by WCC.  
2. WCC has been fairly prudent in withdrawing funds from Icelandic banks.  
3. PCT grant of \$14,000 available for Redditch south area. Men in their 50s & 60s are targeted for a health improvement project. The Cllr welcomes any suggestions.  
4. PFI contractor is currently devising proposals for waste.  
5. Delighted that ADR land near Webb Heath is no longer considered appropriate for development.  
6. There has been no report concerning 30 mph signs near Yeats' Acre.  
**ACTION: Co Cllr Gretton to follow-up and report back to the Council.**
- 11/08/05 **Borough Councillor Report – Bor Cllr Chalk reported the following:**  
1. Joint Flood Overview & Scrutiny Report is available on the WCC site. Comments from parishioners or the Parish Council welcomed.  
**ACTION: Bor Cllr Chalk to forward link to report to the Clerk.**  
2. All speed signs in the county are currently under scrutiny and no decisions on individual signs to be considered at the moment.  
3. RBC has no money in Icelandic banks.  
4. RBC New Vision Statement currently on the RBC site. The statement covers economics, environment and safety. Comments are welcomed.  
5. All policies already covered by government will be eliminated in the new Local Framework. RBC believes ~2600 homes of the Regional Spatial Strategy target can be built without using greenbelt land. The remaining homes are the domain of other districts. However, the RSS is hoping to target Redditch as available for more housing by making ADR land available, but RBS believe this land is not suitable. The Parish Council can invite Ruth Banford to explain the situation in a Council Meeting if it likes.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

- 11/08/06 **Flood Prevention:** Cllr Smith submitted a written report which is summarized below.
1. Astwood Lane: The culvert is now complete. The culvert is working well. Flooding problems occur when water entering the culvert is unable to exit due to a build-up of water in ditches between Swansbrook Lane and The Whirley Hole. The group now considers the poor condition of these ditches is to be the main problem.
  2. Yeates' Acre: The developers have installed ditches and two panel drains which are piped into the Astwood Lane culvert. This is not ideal and must be monitored.
  3. WCC have agreed to install an additional drainage system from the junction along Swansbrook Lane emptying into Plack Brook. The work will start in 2009. Given the severe flooding problems in the area it is possible the work could be completed in the early part of the year.
  4. RBC has begun formal communications with appropriate land owners requesting they clear and maintain ditches between Swansbrook Lane and The Whirley Hole.
  5. Droitwich Road: Two additional panel drains have been installed by the Old Cider Mill. RBC will now clear the ditch along Droitwich Road. Severn Trent is to survey and jet all sewers along Droitwich Road.
- 11/08/07 **Speeding/Traffic/Parking:** A report was deemed unnecessary as the VAS is a Current Agenda Item.
- 11/08/08 **Village Shop:** Cllr Matthews reported that the group is seeking funding stream, contractors to fit the shop are organized and that more volunteers are sought. There will be a meeting on the 24 November at the church.
- 11/08/09 **Affordable Housing Scheme:** The site was formally opened in October. Matter resolved.
- 11/08/10 **Parish Notice Board:** RBC own the land near the post box by the village hall. In principle, RBC would be happy to grant the Parish Council a licence for the siting of the notice board for a nominal sum subject to planning permission and legal fees. If the Council would like to move forward with this idea a representative of the Council should meet with John Dunstall. 01527 64252 (ext 3942) john.dunstall@redditch.gov.uk  
**ACTION: Chair Henson to speak with J Dunstall.**
- 11/08/11 **Parish Lengthsman:** No update
- 11/08/12 **Annual Return:** The Annual Return is complete. Matter resolved.
- 11/08/13 **Steps past Belmont House on Droitwich Road:** Light out and railing is weak.  
**ACTION: Clerk to ring WCC Hub and report the problem.**
- 11/08/14 **Financial Regulations:** A draft has been prepared, but needs to be finalized.
- 11/08/15 **Traffic Buildouts:** Co Cllr Gretton reported that A or B road buildouts are considered inappropriate by WCC due to dangerous situations created. The Council will need to find similar situations to progress its case. Perhaps shop could be a decisive factor. Matter resolved.
- 11/08/16 **Gate/Road Closure:** Cllr Smith reported that a road closure order would be necessary. The Flood Group think it best not to pursue this matter. Matter resolved.
- 11/08/17 **Cotton Report:** Mr N Churchill of WCC responded in an email dated 30 October. Mr Churchill stressed that the County Councillor(s) should support any proposals and that changes should centre on road safety, congestion reduction or general amenity. The Redditch CPE is scheduled for 23 February 2009.
- 11/08/18 **Internal Audit Process Review:** No update

## CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 11/08/19 **TO CONSIDER THE 2009/10 DRAFT BUDGET(S) & RISK ASSESSMENT**  
The Council resolved to adopt the VAS Budget subject to various issues. Minor changes in the budget to include:  
A. Increase the VAS Maintenance to £600 in year 2010/11  
B. Increase the VAS Insurance to £80 in year 2009/10  
  
Final approval of the budget for December Meeting.  
**ACTION: Clerk to prepare a new budget and forward to cllrs.**
- 11/08/20 **CONSIDER OPTIONS TO ADDRESS SPEEDING/TRAFFIC: PURCHASE OF VAS OR ALTERNATIVES**  
Mr Cotton's latest proposal is for the Council to purchase two signs and poles which are nearly 100% financed without Council funds. The Council was not prepared to move forward with the purchase until several questions concerning planning permission, confirmation of the location, maintenance agreements etc. were addressed.  
**ACTION: Cllr Venables to liaise with Traffic Group concerning VAS Proposal and the various issues surrounding the proposal. She will contact the Clerk to inform him when the proposal is ready to be considered by the Council. All Cllrs are to forward any specific concerns they have to Cllr Venables.**
- 11/08/21 **TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INSURANCE RECOMMENDATIONS**  
The Council resolved to upgrade the current insurance schedule with the following:  
  
**Fidelity:** Insures the Council's money in case of theft by an employee or councillor. As there is often more than £10,000 in the bank, it is recommended that the amount of cover be raised to £15,000 from £10,000. **Cost of extra cover is £36.22.**  
  
**Personal Accident:** Insures councillors, employees and volunteers in case of accidental injury while on Council business. In addition to the odd training session or volunteer duty on behalf of the Council, councillors are now expected to liaise with the Lengthsman, on occasion in the field. **Cost of cover is £21.36.**  
  
**Official Indemnity & Libel/Slander:** Insures employees and councillors against negligent acts, accidental errors, libel and slander. These two increased levels of protection come as a package **costing £38.94.**  
**ACTION: Clerk to contact Allianz and arrange the insurance upgrade.**  
**ACTION: Clerk to forward insurance documents to Cllr Venables.**
- 11/08/22 **TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROCEED CONCERNING THE DAMAGED BRIDGE**  
Matter to be considered at a later Meeting.
- 11/08/23 **TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROCEED CONCERNING THE COTTON REPORT**  
**ACTION: Cllr Henson to collect ideas for several key issues in the report and forward to Co Cllr Gretton.**
- 11/08/24 **TO CONSIDER PAYING THE LENGTHSMAN ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE AT MEETING PRIOR TO A MONTH THE COUNCIL DOESN'T MEET.**  
The Council resolved to follow this procedure in the future.
- 11/08/25 **TO CONSIDER FORMING A CLERK'S CONTRACT WORKING PARTY**  
The Council resolved to form a working party of Chair Henson, Cllr Matthews and Cllr James to consider the Clerk's request for a pay scale rise to LC1 SCP 23 in the new contract.

## CLERK'S UPDATE

- 11/08/26 **Schedule Of Correspondence Received**  
  
**WCC:** Refreshed Options Report – **Comments due 19 December**  
**SWJCS:** Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options – **Comments due 31 December**  
**WCC:** Proposed diversion of Footpaths  
**WCC:** Minerals & Waste Local Development Schedule 2008

**Comm. & Local Gov't:** The making & Enforcement of Byelaws – [Comments due 20 November](#)

**RBC:** Standards Board Meeting 1 October

**Communities & Local Gov't:** Codes of Conduct Consultation – [Comments due 24 December](#)

**RBC:** 27 Oct Meeting Agenda

**WDC:** Draft planning Document on Water Notification – [Comments due 24 December](#)

**WCC:** Lengthsman Training (**not required**)

**WORCS Partnership:** Children & Young People update

**WICKSTEED:** Playscapes Brochure

**N Churchill WCC:** Email dated 30 Oct in response to FPC 13 Oct letter to J Hobbs

**R Cotton:** New VAS Proposal emailed to cllrs on 2 Nov

**A Pulsford:** copy email dated 2 Nov sent to D Degge and forwarded to cllrs on 2 Nov; concerning speed of traffic near Yates Acre

**A Baldwin RBC:** email dated 28 Oct; request to present info at a meeting regarding open spaces

**Worcestershire Warden**

**Worcestershire Warden**

**RBC:** Info concerning Preferred Draft Core Strategy; consultation period until 8 May 2009

**WCC:** Child & Young People Meeting on 3 December at 2 pm.

**Community First:** Funding Opportunity

**WCC:** Sillins Lane temporary closure order

**Community First Newline**

**Blueprint**

**Stratford Local Development Framework Draft Core Strategy – [Consultation period ends 9 January](#)**

11/08/27

**Schedule of Correspondence Sent** (not otherwise noted)

**Clement Keys:** Copy Notice of Conclusion of Audit

**L Tompkin RBC:** FPC comments concerning housing & support of older people consultation

**S Mullins RBC:** Details of New FPC Member – L Venables

**J Hobbs WCC:** Letter dated 13 October requesting comments on Cotton Report

**A Baldwin RBC:** Reply emailed 29 Oct; not sure when an open spaces presentation can be delivered at Meeting

**WCC:** Lengthsman Invoice £184.80

## PLANNING MATTERS

11/08/28

### PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

**2008/341/COU** Feckenham Garage: Change of use to A1 of part of buildings at Feckenham Garage for a Community shop with parking on the forecourt area  
COMMENTS DUE TO CLERK 22 NOVEMBER

**2008/338/LBC** Martingale Barn 2 Elcocks Brook Farm Callow Hill: Listed Building Application – Erection of garden room extension COMMENTS DUE TO CLERK 22 NOVEMBER

**2008/339/FUL** Martingale Barn 2 Elcocks Brook Farm Callow Hill: Erection of garden room extension COMMENTS DUE TO CLERK 22 NOVEMBER

**2008/345/FUL** Feckenham CoFE First School: Proposed resiting of existing temporary classrooms and formation of new car park and access points COMMENTS DUE TO CLERK 22 NOVEMBER

**WCC 08/000061/CM** Priest's Green Bridge Bradley Green : Application for retrospective planning permission for composting COMMENTS DUE TO CLERK 6 DECEMBER

11/08/29      **RBC APPROVALS**

**2008/110/LB** 43 High St: Listed building consent-create new bathroom, alterations to shower room, and back door and works to ceiling NO OBJECTIONS

**2007/061/FUL** Astwood Farm (not in Parish)

11/08/30      **RBC REFUSALS** none

11/08/31      **RBC PENDING**

**2008/327/LBC** Old House 38 High St: To erect a pair of gates between 38 & 42 High St  
NO OBJECTIONS

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

11/08/32      **Schedule of Invoices**

Clerk Stipend & Expenses Sept & Oct 08	£545.55
*A Farnsworth Lengthsman work Sept 08	£176.00
Clement Keys Annual Audit	£164.50
Feckenham Community Shop	£400.00
St John The Baptist Church	£550.00
AD Farnsworth Lengthsman Oct/Nov	£352.00

11/08/33      **Schedule of Receipts**

Investment Acc Interest Sept	£31.25
Investment Acc Interest Oct	£30.84

\*The Clerk invoked the Emergency Decision Making Scheme and paid the September Lengthsman invoice before the November Meeting. Cllr Smith thought it unreasonable to expect a contractor to wait two months for payment and the Clerk agreed. Consequently, Cllrs Matthews and Roundell signed the cheque and the Clerk posted it on 1 November.

## **COUNCILLOR REPORTS & Future Agenda Items**

11/08/34

- A. A Heighway of RBC
- B. Three additional dog fouling bins
- C. State of pavements
- D. A Baldwin of RBC presentation on open spaces
- E. PC Waterhouse Report for April
- F. BT broadband issues
- G. Replacement bench
- H. Pots

## **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Parish Council Meeting at 7:30 on 18 December 2008 at Feckenham Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 10:25pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....

## NOTES OF OPEN FORUM

- 11/08/35 A Pulsford: Would like Parish Council to forward Meeting dates to J White.  
**ACTION: Clerk to forward Meeting dates to J White.**
- Handed out flyers concerning the support of Bentley Village Hall
- 11/08/36 Bor Cllr Chalk: Pointed out that S Mullins sent an email updating the Parish Council about the notice board.
- Suggested the Lengthsman look at the Flood Report for recommendations.
- 11/08/37 Chair Henson: Asked what influence the Parish Council has concerning the flooding on Astwood Lane.  
**ACTION: Bor Cllr Chalk stated he would look into the matter.**
- 11/08/38 Cllr Venables asked how individuals can receive help concerning flooding.  
Bor Cllr Chalk responded that there is a group which helps.  
**ACTION: Bor Cllr Chalk to email details of the group to the Clerk.**