

# FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17 January 2013 at 7:30pm

Present           Councillors:      Chair R Williams  
  K White  
  P Eaton  
  F Hawker  
  W Poole

In Attendance                                      J Eaton

Apologies and reasons:                          Cllr Atkins

01/13/01           **Declarations of Interest**

01/13/02           **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved to approve the 15 November 2012 Minutes as an accurate record of events.

01/13/03           **County Councillor Report:** Apologies from Cllr Gandy; Cllr Gretton reported the following:

1. Freeze on Council Tax for 2013/14.
2. WCC must save £20 million per year over next three years
3. Labour Party motion to express Non Confidence in new Police Chief failed to pass
4. May County Council elections
5. Placement of 30mph sign near Moors Lane is not an issue.

**The Clerk raised the issue of foliage blocking the sightline of the right 30mph sign and another sign road sign blocks the sightline of the left 30mph sign. No action to be taken.**

01/13/04           **Borough Cllr Report:** Not present; no report

### Open Forum Notes at End of Minutes

### PROGRESS REPORTS

01/13/05           **Landscaping at Swansbrook Lane & Astwood Lane:** Lengthsman to inspect hedge opposite junction, near farm. Headwall being built. No update. **ACTION: Cllr Chalk to investigate hedge issue.**

01/13/06           **Fig:** No update.

01/13/07           **Lengthsman:** No update.

01/13/08           **Flooding:** C Wilson has come back from retirement and is investigating ways to alleviate flooding. Astwood Lane culverts blocked ~50 yards before Rock Hill Lane. Pot holes are appearing in road, some repaired. Headwall may help alleviate flooding. **ACTION: Clerk to report issue to WCC Hub.**

01/13/09           **Estate Gates:** Chair Williams apologized for inaction. **ACTION: Meeting to be organized between Chair Williams and WCC Highways Officer.**

01/13/10           **Wireless Broadband:** The preferred broadband supplier is Airband. They were the clear winner measured against the tender requirements for all three consortia. Although WCC cannot sign the contract until the state aid rules are relaxed (apparently agreement on this is imminent), Airband have already begun to develop their roll-out plans. Agreements to be signed 18-1-13, if goes to plan work should begin in January.

01/13/11           **FNDP:** While the group doesn't believe developing an NDP is necessary, they are keen to track the development of the Local Plan and wish to meet again. No update.

- 01/13/12      **30 mph Signs:** See Minute 01/13/13-5. Matter resolved.
- 01/13/13      **Japanese Knotweed:** The Clerk reported Japanese Knotweed infestation on B4090 across from Shurnock Court on 11-9-12 to WCC (ref #5161902) and RBC (C Franklin 01527 64252 ext 3943). No update.

## CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 01/13/14      **TO CONSIDER GRANTING A DISPENSATION TO CLLRS HAWKINS & POOLE UNTIL THE NEXT ORDINARY ELECTION TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSION OR VOTE ON ANY MATTER CONCERNING THE SETTING OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND ANNUAL PRECEPT**  
 This Proposal is due to councillors who are liable to pay council tax have a DPI (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) and any breach of the DPI provisions is a criminal offence. The Localism Act allows local authorities to grant dispensations and there are a number of statutory grounds which would be applicable to the proposed exemption:
- (a) That the number of persons disqualified will be so great a proportion as to impede the transaction of business;  
 (b) The granting of the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the council's area; or  
 (c) That it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.
- Cllrs Eaton, Hawker and Chair Williams were granted a dispensation at the November 2012 meeting. Cllrs White and Atkins do not require a dispensation to discuss the budget and precept.
- Please note Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that in the event of any council member being 2 months or more in arrears with Council Tax payments cannot participate in any Council meeting concerning the budget.**
- The Council resolved to grant a dispensation to Cllr Poole. The dispensation will expire on 1 May 2015
- 01/13/15      **TO NOTE RISK ASSESSMENT AND CONSIDER APPROVING 2013/14 BUDGET**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Budget and 2012 Risk Assessment emailed to cllrs on 13-12-12.  
 The Council resolved approve of the 4<sup>th</sup> budget with the following alterations:  
 1. Reduce the precept to £8300; a 0% rise.  
 2. Adjust figures of the budget to reflect a 0% rise in the precept  
**ACTION: Clerk to forward £8300 precept request to RBC.**
- 01/13/16      **TO CONSIDER APPOINTING R FLETCHER AS 2012/13 INTERNAL AUDITOR**  
 Draft Letter of Engagement emailed to cllrs on 14-12-12.  
 The Council resolved to appoint Mr Fletcher to the post of Internal Auditor; contract based on Engagement Letter. **ACTION: Clerk to request Mr Fletcher sign the Engagement Letter and commence audit.**

## CLERK'S UPDATE

- 01/13/17      **Schedule of Correspondence Not Yet Replied To**
- 01/13/18      **Schedule of Correspondence Received** (not otherwise noted)  
**Network Rail:** Preliminary Meeting Examination Procedure 7-1-13  
**RBC:** Standards Comm. Meeting 12-12-12  
**WCC:** Footpath FH-179 Diversion  
**A Pulsford:** 17-1-13 email concerning nameplates. Footpaths Warden & grit bins  
**ACTION: Chair Williams to contact RBC and request sign as follows: High St Leading to 7, 9 & 11 and Coupass Cottages**  
**ACTION: Clerk to speak Mr & Mrs Fletcher concerning the Whites becoming the Footpath Wardens.**  
**ACTION: Clerk to request WCC fill grit bins.**  
**ACTION: Chair Williams to forward email contacts of volunteers to who will check grit bins periodically.**

01/13/19 **Schedule of Correspondence Sent** (not otherwise noted)

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

01/13/20 **FOR PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

01/13/21 **RBC APPROVALS**

**2012/275/FUL** The Little Manor Ham Green: Extend and refurbish garage for the purpose Bed & Breakfast accommodation NO OBJECTIONS

**2012/277/FUL & 279/LBC** Pool Barn 14A High St: Single garage SUPPORT

**2012/270/RM** Priest Bridge Farm Bradley Green: Reserved matters for an agriculturally restricted dwelling to replace the existing mobile home NO OBJECTIONS

**2012/211/LBC** Shippen Barn 3 Elcocks Brook Farm Callow Hill: New access driveway NO OBJECTIONS

**2012/200/LBC** 14A High St: New double garage NO OBJECTIONS

**2012/203/LBC** Manor Farm Moors Lane: Single storey extension to rear of existing property. Minor alterations and demolition of existing later addition outbuildings NO COMMENT

**2012/205/LBC** 41 High Street: Listed Building Application – Renewal of the central heating system, refitting/alteration of bathrooms, conversion of a bedroom to a bathroom, installation of two roof lights, opening up a fire place and reformation of another fireplace NO OBJECTIONS

01/13/22 **RBC REFUSALS**

01/13/23 **RBC PENDING**

**2012/317/FUL** The Old Cottage Cruisehill Lane Elcocks Brook: Single storey games room extension to the rear of the detached garage SUPPORT

**2013/002/FUL** 53 High St: proposed rear extension SUPPORT

**2012/312/FUL** Land Off Moors Lane: Menage SUPPORT

**2012/262/FUL** White Cottage Bradley Green: Extension to existing utility room to rear, alterations to front porch and construction of new first floor dormer window NO OBJECTIONS

01/13/24 **APPEALS**

**2011/183/FUL & 184/LBC** Development of single dwelling with ancillary accommodation within reconstructed listed barns. **ORIGINAL COMMENTS - NO OBJECTIONS - COMMENTS TO BE FORWARDED TO INSPECTORATE**

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

01/13/25 Traffic Management Strategy

01/13/26 Cllr Hawker reported the surgery is closed for technical reasons. No indication was noted as to how long the surgery would remain closed.

**ACTION: Clerk to write a letter enquiring as to the status of the office.**

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

01/13/27	<b>Schedule of Invoices/Payments</b>	
	Clerk Nov & Dec Stipend & Expenses	£526.32 LGA'72 101,11,12
	HMCR Clerk tax	£123.58 LGA'72 101,11,12
	A Farnsworth Lengthsman	£0.00 PHA '36 s259/60
	Village Hall rent Feb, April, May	£54.00 LGA '72 sec 11
	St Johns Church Grant	£520.00 LGA '72 s137
01/13/28	<b>Schedule of Receipts</b>	
	Oct Interest	£0.80
	Nov Interest	£0.85
	Dec Interest	£0.85

## Date and Venue of Next Meeting

01/13/29 Council Meeting at 7:30pm on 21 February 2013 at Feckenham Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Signed ..... Date .....

Chairman

## Notes of Open Forum

- 01/13/30 J Eaton: Refused to sign long term BT contract; now on monthly contract in the hopes that Airband will soon be in operation.
- 01/13/31 J Eaton: Presume estate gates are a work in progress.
- 01/13/32 R Williams: Perhaps move 40mph signs (from Alcester) near gates. Droitwich Rd gates are asymmetrical.

Minutes prepared by Sean Arble, Clerk to the Council, 13 February 2013.