

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
OF  
FECKENHAM**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD  
19 MAY 2016 at 7:00pm**

- 1. Present:** 11 members of the public, FPC Clerk S Arble, T Curwell & J Baker
- 2. A Smith** chaired the meeting.
- 3. Apologies:** RBC Cllrs Potter & Clayton, Mr Shakespeare and J Calvert.
- 4. Minutes of the 21 May 2015 Annual Parish Meeting were approved.**
- 5. Chairman of Parish Council Alan Smith Report.**

May 2015 saw significant changes to the Parish Council. Mr Williams, Pam Eaton and Liz Atkins retired from the council. Alan Jones, Ian Bellion, and Marion Chute, stood for election uncontested and took up their seats on the Council. Antonia Pulsford also stood, but due to her success in the Borough Council elections was unable to take up her seat on the Parish Council. This left a vacancy which was advertised. There were two applicants that expressed an interest; both put forward their reasons as to what they could "bring to the table". As a result Quintus Cary took up the vacant parish Council Position.

This year has been a very active one and strides have been made on many matters effecting life in the Parish.

The agreement negotiated with the use of the Recreation Field for football has greatly improved the situation in the centre of the Village, and appears to be adhered to.

The possibility of high speed broadband is becoming a reality, with the great support of County Councillor Phillip Gretton. Although at this time there is no definite date, we are in the programme for this to be provided.

The Feckenham Manor Community Archaeological Project is moving forward. Clearance work has been undertaken by Redditch Borough Council, with further work planned in the autumn. Quotations for site examination have been obtained. The Project hopes to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding this summer and it is possible that exploratory work could commence in the autumn.

The Feckenham Neighbourhood Development Plan has made some advance over the past twelve months. Currently a survey document is now being "fine tuned" in association with Redditch Borough Council, which will then be forwarded to all households in the Parish.

It was with sadness that the senior youth club had ceased to operate, as we understand it, due to there being no volunteers to run the group.

The Committee of both the Feckenham Flower Shows and the Over 60's Christmas Dinner are desperately in need of some new blood and ideas if their sterling work is continue.

All organisations in the Parish are always looking for help in order to operate.

One of the major concerns for the Parish is as ever, traffic. Throughout this year we have been in detailed and lengthy discussions with Worcestershire Highways, again with the assistance of Councillor Gretton.

When the current Parish Council took over the advice from County was that little could be done to assist us in this matter. Well we are most pleased to report that under the leadership of Councillor Arthur, this is now not the case. We can report that negotiations are well advanced with the land owners at the junction of Rock Hill Lane and Astwood Lane to improve visibility in the direction of the village. Similarly, improvements to the visibility from Rock Hill Lane to the B4090 are planned. In addition to this, Highways have agreed to signage directing traffic from Droitwich along the 4090 past High Street and either down Rock Hill Lane to the industrial park, or straight on to Astwood Bank. Similarly, from Astwood Bank down Astwood Lane through traffic will be directed down Rock Hill Lane.

The B4090 is due to be re-surfaced during the school holidays. Road closure will take place over a four week period whilst this is undertaken, Dates for the work will be published in the Parish Magazine, and on the web site. As part of this work artificial pinch points and additional speed signs will be painted on the road surface, in both directions. It is hoped that a plan indicating the positioning of these signs will soon be finalized. There will also be a partial re- surfacing to High Street, but we are unsure of the full extent of this at the time of this report. Again, once this information is available it will be published in the Parish Magazine and on the website.

In addition to this we are in the process of obtaining, hopefully free of charge, two vehicle activated signs warning traffic of the speed limit, and/or vehicle speed. We hope that it will be agreed this is a huge step forward.

The Clerk provided the internally audited 2016 **Statement of Accounts**. The precept received was unaltered at £8,300 and the total income was £11,140.19, which does not include VAT recovery. The balance of funds carried forward to 2016/17 is £21,669.98. A significant percentage of these funds are ring fenced in Reserve Accounts.

The accounts were internally audited by Mr R Fletcher to whom I am thankful for once again offering his services. An external audit will take place after a four week consultation period starting on 3 June 2016 in which the public has the right to inspect the accounts. Any parishioner wishing to examine the accounts is invited to make an appointment with the Clerk.

The Clerk provided un-audited 2014/15 **Statement of Accounts**. The precept received was unaltered at £8,300 and the total income was £13,952.78, which includes VAT recovery. The balance of funds carried forward to 2015/16 is £21,161.43. A significant percentage of these funds are ring fenced in Reserve Accounts.

The accounts will be internally audited by Mr R Fletcher to whom I am thankful for once again offering his services. An external audit will take place after a four week period ended on 7 May in which the public had the right to inspect the accounts. The inspection period is closed, but any

parishioner wishing to examine the accounts is invited to make an appointment with the Clerk.

**6. WCC Cllr Gretton Report:** Not present.

**7. Mr Q Cary Broadband Presentation**

A video explaining the broadband process and provider options was presented.

- A. 6 cabinets at Astwood Bank feed the cabinet on The Square.
- B. By September 16 Green Box to be installed on The Square.
- C. Customer will need to choose provider and superfast broadband router will be required for fibre optic.
- D. Only properties connected to the Exchange will be serviced. If funding is available alternative technology may be used for those not connected to the exchange.
- E. Part of the village can receive EE 4G mobile service.

**8. Mr T Curwell Flood Model Presentation**

- A. Planning stages of diverting Plack Brook through new ditch system and build larger culvert under Astwood Road.
- B. Ditches behind Winfield's need to be cleared.
- C. Electricity sub-station current priority.
- D. Plack Brook needs to be cleared.
- E. Bow Brook and main river are the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Their website has a 1 in 100 year flood model for Plack Brook.
- F. Internal (inside homes) Surface Water Management Plan would like to identify property flooding. Preventing cellar flooding is very difficult.
- G. Swansbrook Lane and bridge are worst spots in the parish.
- H. It would be helpful to cross reference county flood records with local records.
- I. 2800 houses at Webheath and Brockhill development. Various basins to be provided prior to surface water entering water courses. 1 in 100 years flood storage capacity.
- J. Foul water on a different system which feeds directly to sewage works.
- K. Sarah Payne, Local Flood Plan.

**9. Mr A Jones presented an NDP Report.**

Draft Survey meeting held with RBC. RBC advised to seek more supporting evidence of parish consultation. It is possible for a survey to be distributed in the next six months.

**10. Mrs J Pulsford presented a WWI Celebrations Report.**

- A. Group is very active.
- B. Plans for Poppy Day event are ongoing.
- C. Possibility of CCTV from church to the Village Hall for November activity.
- D. Fundraising efforts going quite well.

**11. Mr A Jones, Manorial Site Report.**

- A. Collected £4000 of the £5500 goal.
- B. Contract to dig pits approved.
- C. Heritage Lottery Fund application possible.
- D. If management plan is in place RBC must maintain the site according to the plan.

**12. MEETING CLOSED AT 8:25PM**

Minutes prepared by Sean Arble, Clerk to the Council, on 9 August 2016.