

**Minutes of the meeting held 18 December 2014 at Feckenham Village Hall, Feckenham**

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- Present: Councillors: R Williams (Chair), P Eaton, E Atkins, P Dormer, S Arthur & A Smith
- In Attendance: S Arble (Clerk), 7 members of the public, WCC Cllr P Gretton and RBC Cllr B Clayton
- 177 The Council accepted apologies from Cllr White for family reasons.
- 178 No interests declared.
- 179 The Council resolved to approve the **MINUTES** of the meeting held 20 November 2014.
- 180 **WCC Cllr Gretton** reported the following:
- A. 1.94% WCC tax increase. Need to save an additional £2 million, but WCC confident it will set a balanced budget.
  - B. WCC has an increase in number of children for child care.
  - C. £4.8 million more for Superfast Broadband. WCC will shortly issue invite to tender. By April it should be known if Feckenham will be covered in next tranch. **ACTION: Clerk to write to WCC and request it be considered for upgraded broadband.**
  - D. Airband service can be used by other providers.
- 181 **RBC Cllr Clayton** reported the following:
- A. £2 million deficit, but the budget will likely be balanced.
  - B. Disappointed with RBC officers meeting concerning Recreation Ground. The proposals area as follows
    1. FFC to use Winfields for parking
    2. FFC manage car parking, no parking in the Square
    3. No football in June & July, goal posts to be removed
    4. 151 football events
  - C. There is no legal agreement in place. **ACTION: Cllr Clayton to forward copy of RBC lease to Clerk.**

**Chairman moved: The meeting now adjourned to hold Public Question Time, notes of which are at the end of the minutes.**

**PROGRESS REPORTS**

- 182 **FIG:** Due to a lack of interest, the Moors Lane Resurfacing Project matter is resolved.
- 183 **Lengthsman & Flood Prevention**
- A. Ditches need to be cleaned #6264651. Issue passed to Land Drainage.
  - B. #6439355 – reported 13.11.14: 33 (Meadow View) B4090 – drain needs cleaning; can't open. Scheduled for piping.
  - C. #6439354 – reported 13.11.14: 53 High St – drain needs to be cleaned; scheduled for piping. Work ongoing.

**Footpath Warden Report**

- 184 The Clerk reported the rail on the bridge (at end of Mill Lane) on FH 542 is badly damaged; #6353229; no update.
- 185 The Clerk emailed the Footpath Officers on 21.11.14 and 08.12.14 requesting all the outstanding works reported and urged the Whites not to resign the position. C White replied that other personal matters are contributing factors for the decision to resign the position.
- 186 **Bench on Cruise Hill Lane:** The bench will remain where it is; matter resolved.
- 187 **Walking Map Brochure:** Due to the resignation of the Whites as Footpath Officers the matter has not been discussed. **ACTION: Clerk to investigate “Choose How You Move”.**
- 188 **Feckenham Manor Community Archaeology Project:** No update.
- 189 **Superfast Broadband:** The Clerk emailed J Clements on 21.11.14 and suggested that more pressure should be put on WCC to ensure Feckenham receives Superfast Broadband quicker. J Clements responded with the information that she believes Airband has a monopoly for Feckenham. Chair Williams doesn't believe there is a monopoly, but that only subscribers to Airband can use their infrastructure. See Minute 180C.
- 190 **NDP Update:** The Clerk completed the End of Grant Statement on 17.12.14. Information about a Bridging Grant was emailed to A Jones on 18.12.14.
- 191 **Overweight Lorries on High Street:** Rockhill Lane to be used for HGVs at Astwood Business Park; there is a sign requesting HGVs turn left on Astwood Lane. **ACTION: Clerk to obtain Astwood Bank planning application decision.**
- 192 **£500 Grant for War Memorial Refurbishment:** It is likely the project will not go ahead this financial year. The Clerk requested Mr Hunter to formally request a deferral of the grant to the 2015-16 financial year so the Council could budget accordingly. To date, there has been no deferral request.
- 192 **Speed Survey:** No update.
- 193 **VAS:** Issues such as cost, location, permits and insurance to be investigated by cllrs Arthur & Williams. To date, no response from manufacturer.
- 194 **RBC Notice Board on Turton Gardens:** See Minute 200.
- 195 **Wall #70 High St:** The local authorities will not repair wall or steps. One parishioner intends to inform WCC and RBC that she is not the owner of the land in question and is not responsible for the footway. Matter resolved.
- 196 **Playing Fields:** Letter sent to J Boreham on 17.12.14; no reply.
- 197 **Precept Request:** The Clerk is waiting for a government announcement on capping before submitting the request of £8300.
- 198 The Council resolved not to grant £600 for a defibrillator at the Feckenham Village Football Club.

**NEW AGENDA ITEMS**

- 199 FVAT Trust: Matter to be discussed at the February meeting. No cllr objected to being included on the Charity Commission website as a Trustee.
- 200 The Council resolved to assume ownership of the notice board on Turton Gardens across from the Village Hall parking lot.

**CLERK'S UPDATE**

- 201 See Minute 196.
- 202 A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration - none
- B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence (not otherwise noted)
- 203 1) R Fletcher: Letter concerning financial reserves
- 204 2) WCC: Astwood Lane Closure Apps & Plan
- 205 3) WCC: Swansbrook Lane Closure App & Plan

**PLANNING****FOR PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

- 206 **2014/289/FUL:** Astwood Hill Farm, Crofts Lane – Agricultural building for livestock housing - comments due 25.12.14. The Council resolved to support this application.

**RBC APPROVALS**

- 207 **2014/086/FUL:** Stoners Farmhouse, Berrowhill Lane – erection of a porch and replacement windows on the north elevation SUPPORT

**RBC REFUSALS**

- 208 **2014/222/FUL:** 53 Alcester Road – Two storey side extension to provide additional living room and bedrooms SUPPORT

**RBC PENDING**

- 209 **2014/228/OHL:** Electricity Line from Feckenham to Great Alne – Overhead line upgrade, including increase in height and thickness of cabling SUPPORT
- 210 **2014/238/FUL:** Elcocks Brook Farm – Construction of traditional style summer house/garden room, approximately half way own the garden; removal of section of existing post and wire fencing at front of property an replacement with solid wooden fencing NO OBJECTIONS

**APPEALS**

- 211 **2013/228/OUT:** The Paddocks, Astwood Lane – Outline application with some matters reserved – 8 no dwellings providing mix of 4x2 bed, 2x3 bed and 2x4 bed, one of which will be a replacement dwelling SUPPORT Appeal was refused.

**FINANCE**

- 212 The Council resolved to approve the December 2014 Payment Schedule listed in Appendix A of the December 2014 Agenda.
- 213 Cllr Eaton confirmed the accuracy of the November 2014 Reconciliation as listed in Appendix B of the December 2014 Agenda.
- 214 The Council noted the November 2014 Income & Expenditure Report. The Clerk reported that all spending is in line with budget except for Donations. At current projections, there will be a £500 overspend due to the Council approving the Grant Applications for a total of £2000.

**COUNCILLORS REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 215 Councillors may use this opportunity to report matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. No issues raised.

- 216 **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS** – To consider and if thought fit, approve the following motion: that in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

The Council resolved to approve the Clerk's 2015 Contract and £100 additional payment.

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**DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Council Meeting at 7:30pm on 19 February 2015 at Feckenham Village Hall.

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The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....

**OPEN FORUM NOTES**

- A. Parishioners expressed concern about language, parking and pollution related to football games in the parish. Agreement should be between RBC, FVFC and FPC.
- B. There was some discussion about the possibility of purchasing the Recreation Ground from RBC.

**ACTION: The Council appointed Cllrs Slade and Smith as a Working Party to draft a letter to K Dicks.**

- C. A parishioner thanked the Council for forming a Working Party.