

FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 20 February 2014 at 7:30pm

Present Councillors: Chair R Williams
P Eaton
F Hawker
E Atkins
S Arthur
K White

In Attendance 6 parishioners and Co Cllr Gretton

Apologies and reasons: Cllr Jordan

02/14/01 **Declarations of Interest:**

02/14/02 **Minutes of the** 21 November and 19 December meetings approved.

02/14/03 **County Councillor Report:** Cllr Gretton reported the following:

1. 2% Council tax increase for 2014/15.
2. £1.8 million Local Enterprise Partnership funding for East Redditch Gateway.
3. New Highways permit scheme will hopefully improve coordination of road repair.
4. #350 bus from Redditch may be saved from WCC cuts.
5. Requested reports on any local flooding issues.
 - General improvement in Feckenham
 - Army built sand bag wall on Swansbrook Lane

02/14/04 **Borough Cllr Report:** Apologies offered.

See Public Question Time Notes at End of Minutes

PROGRESS REPORTS

02/14/05 **Fig:** The Clerk reports that Section 50(2) of the Highways Act 1980 allows a parish council to maintain a bridleway, whether or not any other person has a duty to maintain it, and section 43 of the Act allows it to maintain a bridleway which is a highway maintainable at the public expense.

Chair Williams conducted a search of the Land Registry and found no evidence of registration of ownership of the un-adopted part of Mill Lane.

Clerk posted 11 donation letters on 27-01-14. 11 donation cheques banked by 14-2-14.

02/14/06 **Lengthsman:** Cllr Atkins was to request the Lengthsman investigate pooling just after power station. The Clerk reported the following:

1. Ref #5937508: drains between Richardson's & Direct Floors blocked, need pipe jetting
2. Ref #5937532: drain opposite Moors Lane needs cleaning, full of roots
3. Ref #5937359: drains on both sides of Old Cider Mill drive need cleaning, can't open

In all three cases the Clerk was told the areas were inspected and will be cleaned in routine cycle; matter resolved.

The Clerk reported the following on 6-2-14: Reference #6019878

HIGH STREET

1. Drain opposite #17 needs to be cleared, car parked 6027235
2. Drain at junction with Turton Gardens (opp Valentine Cottages) needs to be cleared – too dangerous in middle of road 6027257

3. Drain opposite #43 needs to be cleared, car parked
4. Drain opposite #57 needs to be jetted, cannot clean below pipe, water too deep
5. Drain opposite #64 needs to be cleared, car parked
6. Drain opposite Old Needle Mill needs to be pipe jetted, water too deep to reach

ASTWOOD LANE

7. Drain opposite Willowdene needs to be cleared; can't open
8. Drain opposite #9 needs to be cleared; can't open
9. Drain opposite Winfields Store needs to be cleared; can't open

HAM GREEN LANE

10. Drain opposite Elcocks Brook Pub going toward Brookhouse Lane needs to be pipe jetted; can't open
11. Ditches need to be cleaned

- 02/14/07 **Flooding: ACTION: Cllr Chalk to investigate constant flooding problems with Astwood & Swansbrook Lanes. ACTION: Clerk to contact C Wilson concerning pooling on Astwood Lane before Rockhill Lane on right.**
- 02/14/08 **Estate Gates:** Cllr Gretton reported area is too narrow to post "Feckenham" signs on estate gates. **ACTION: Cllr Gretton Investigating an alternative.**
- 02/14/09 **Footpath Warden:** No update.
- 02/14/10 **Posts & Tree Stump Opposite Forester:** Work complete; matter resolved.
- 02/14/11 **Pool Barn Wall:** The wall is owned by the developer. As the wall is not dangerous, Messrs Tricklebank and Furey will repair the wall when convenient. No update.
- 02/14/12 **Safety Mirror Rock Hill/Astwood Lanes:** It is apparent that no mirrors will be installed; matter resolved.
- 02/14/13 **Bench on Cruise Hill Lane:** No license is requested if bench is located on already existing site.

Using emergency powers, the Council resolved to purchase a bench for £399.
ACTION: Chair Williams to forward information to Clerk. ACTION: Clerk to order a bench to be picked up Cllr Arthur.

ACTION: Clerk to file a claim with insurance company to replace bench.
- 02/14/14 **Walking Map Brochure:** Chair Williams reports the cost is £200-250 for 1000 copies.
ACTION: Chair to discuss design with the Whites.
- 02/14/15 **Precept Request:** Precept emailed 2-1-14; matter resolved.
- 02/14/16 **Delegate User For Bank Accounts:** All materials in hand; matter resolved.
- 02/14/17 **Cllr Arthur:** Received Dec of Acceptance of Office and DPI; matter resolved.
- 02/14/18 **Doctor's Surgery:** The Surgery has been closed for repairs after flooding. Should re-open in less than 4 weeks; no intention of closing down permanently. Matter resolved.
- 02/14/19 **Floodsax:** Two parishioners have taken the sample sax. No orders placed. Matter resolved.

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 02/14/20 **TO CONSIDER ENGAGING MR FLETCHER AS THE 2013/14 FPC INTERNAL AUDITOR**
Draft contract emailed to cllrs on 11-2-14. Council resolved to appoint Mr Fletcher the 2013/14 Internal Auditor. **ACTION: Clerk to obtain signature on contract and commence internal audit.**

- 02/14/21 **TO CONSIDER £250 CHURCH GRANT APPLICATION FOR REPAIR OF STRIMMER AND FUEL FOR EQUIPMENT**
Co Cllr Gretton stated he will offer the grant using his discretionary fund. The Clerk passed applications to Cllr Gretton.
- 02/14/22 **TO CONSIDER £150 CHURCH GRANT APPLICATION FOR PRODUCTION OF PARISH MAGAZINE**
Co Cllr Gretton stated he will offer the grant using his discretionary fund. The Clerk passed applications to Cllr Gretton.
- 02/14/23 **TO CONSIDER APPROVING THE MIG WORKING PARTY GROUP RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JMC TO REPAIR MILL LANE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TENDER SPECIFICATION AT A FIXED PRICE OF £9236.00 PLUS VAT**
Job spec, quote and proposal emailed to cllrs on 17-2-14. Donations from parishioners total £6000. Co Cllr Gretton pledged £1500 for the project and a remittance for this amount was received by the Clerk.

The Council resolved to approve the MIG recommendation and place works order. **ACTION: Chair Williams to place order. ACTION: Chair Williams to draft thank you letters for donators.**
- 02/14/24 **TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING £3583.20 TOWARD THE MILL LANE REPAIR WORK**
£1847.20 is for VAT which will be reclaimed. The Council received a £1520 grant from the now defunct Traffic Group to be spent on road safety. £1339.78 remains in the Feckenham Improvement Group 2013/14 budget.

The Council resolved contribute £3583.20 toward the repair work of Mill Lane.
- 02/14/25 **TO CONSIDER APPOINTING A FPC REPRESENTATIVE CONCERNING THE ENGLISH HERITAGE FECKENHAM MANOR COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT**
See letter emailed to cllrs on 12-2-14. The Council resolved to appoint Cllr Atkins as its liaison with English Heritage for the Manor Community Archaeology Project.
- 02/14/26 **TO CONSIDER INSTRUCTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE CONTROL OF THE CURRENT WEBSITE AND DETERMINE THE COST OF SETTING UP AN INDEPENDENT SITE WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY THE COUNCIL**
The Council resolved to include an email address for the Clerk and Chair on the current website; no other changes proposed. **ACTION: Clerk to inform T Smith to include email addresses for Clerk and Chair on website.**
- 02/14/27 **TO CONSIDER APPROVING CLERK'S 2013/14 CONTRACT**
The Council resolved to approve the Clerk's 2013/14 Contract. The only change to the 2012/13 contract is a grade increase from LC1 Column Point 24 to Column Point 25. Pay increase is backdated to 1 April 2013.

CLERK'S UPDATE

- 02/14/28 **Schedule of Correspondence Not Yet Replied To**

WORCS Reg Services: Review of Statement of Licensing Policy; comments due 21-2-14.
- 02/14/29 **Schedule of Correspondence Received (not otherwise noted)**
WCC: Annual Monitoring Report
RBC: Electoral Register
- 02/14/30 **Schedule of Correspondence Sent (not otherwise noted)**

PLANNING MATTERS

02/14/31 **FOR PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

02/14/32 **RBC APPROVALS**

02/14/33 **RBC REFUSALS**

2013/228/OUT The Paddocks Astwood Lane: 8 dwellings proving a mix of 4x2 bed, 2x3 bed 2x4 bed, one of which will be replacement dwelling for the Paddocks SUPPORT

02/14/34 **RBC PENDING**

02/14/35 **APPEALS**

COUNCILLOR REPORTS & Future Agenda Items

02/14/36 Cllr Hawker reports CALC is available for legal advice should the Council need it.

02/14/37 VAS

02/14/38 NDP

FINANCIAL MATTERS

02/14/39 **Schedule of Invoices/Payments**

Clerk Dec & Jan Stipend & Expenses	£521.23	LGA'72 101,11,12
HMCR Clerk tax	£107.40	LGA'72 101,11,12
*A Farnsworth Dec Lengthsman	£181.50	PHA '36 s259/60
*GR Williams search for ownership of Mill Lane	£58.00	LGA '72 S111
**A Farnsworth Jan & Dec Lengthsman	£363.00	PHA '36 s259/60
Village Hall Rent Feb	£19.00	LGA '72 s133
Staples cllr expenses	£28.99	LGA '72 S111
Village Shop Chair Allowance	£6.60	LGA '72 s34(5)

*Emergency Decision cheques signed 22-1-14.

**Emergency Decision cheque signed 5-2-14. The Dec Lengthsman cheque was never received; cut a new cheque covering December & January.

The Clerk posted a VAT return claim of £140.97 on 4-2-14.

02/14/40 **Schedule of Receipts**

FIG Mill Lane donation	£1000.00
Dec interest	£0.78
Jan interest	£0.87

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

02/14/41 Council Meeting at 7:30pm on 17 April 2014 at Feckenham Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

OPEN FORUM NOTES

- 02/14/42 Mr Fletcher enquired as to whether the Mill Lane spec included 150 mm tarmac – Chair Williams stated it does.
- 02/14/43 A Smith: Paddocks application was refused along party lines. The applicant is continuing negotiations – to meet RBC officers on 4 March. Offered his thanks to parishioners and FPC for their support.
- 02/14/44 L Wells: FPC Chair asked parishioners to support Paddocks application – there was some debate if this statement was accurate.
- Parishioners did not get a vote on the Paddocks matter.
- 02/14/45 Mr Wells enquired as to the possibility of resurrecting an NDP steering group. **ACTION: To be included on April agenda.**