

FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21 November 2013 at 7:30pm

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

In Attendance WCC Cllr P Gretton, RBC Cllr Chalk, PC Waterhouse and 15 parishioners

Apologies and reasons: Cllr Jordan

11/13/01 **Declarations of Interest:**

11/13/02 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved to approve the 17 October 2013 Minutes as an accurate record of events.

11/13/03 **TO CONSIDER CO-OPTING SLADE ARTHUR AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL**

Mr Arthur offered his apologies. The Council resolved to co-opt S Arthur as a member of the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to inform RBC of Cllr Arthur's co-option.

ACTION: Cllr Arthur to forward copy of Member's Interest to RBC and the Clerk.

ACTION: Cllr Arthur to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to Observe the Code of Conduct

11/13/04 **County Councillor Report:** Cllr Gretton reported the following:

1. £98 million to be cut from budget over next 4 years.
2. Discretionary Fund still available.
3. Corporation, Planning & Policing Matters event on 27-11-13 from 7 to 9pm at Redditch Town Hall.
4. Over 100 drivers recently stopped on B4085, ~55mph was highest speed.
5. Matchborough Day Centre to be closed as part of cuts. Other local centres to take on students.
6. Bus Service Review:
 - 80% of routes in county are commercial
 - Many services at risk due to cuts; Tues & Thurs #354 service through Feckenham vulnerable due to high cost per head
 - Dial A Ride not very helpful when passengers need to meet a specific time

11/13/05 **Borough Cllr Report:** Cllr Chalk reported the following:

1. Pikesfield Appeal moved back to January (not in Feckenham – FPC not consulted)
2. Cannot give indication on views concerning Paddocks application until meeting is held in January
3. Local Plan 4 consultation complete; due to go before inspector before Christmas – may pass in 1 year; large sewer piping a possibility through Feckenham if passes
4. Pleased to hear about Chair Williams radio interview concerning speeding

See Public Question Time Notes at End of Minutes

PROGRESS REPORTS

11/13/06 **Fig:** Invoice for plants forwarded to Clerk.

11/13/07 **Lengthsman:** Cllr Atkins informed Lengthsman to keep estate gates clear of vegetation.

11/13/08 **Flooding:** Pooling after power station, drain under road may be blocked. **ACTION: Cllr Atkins to request Lengthsman to investigate.**

- 11/13/09 **Estate Gates: ACTION: Cllr Gretton to investigate possibility of placing “Feckenham” sign on gate near Waldrons.** No update.
- 11/13/10 **Footpath Warden:** No update.
- 11/13/11 **Posts & Tree Stump Opposite Forester:** Ref 5611894 under a works order. Three posts now need to be removed. **ACTION: Clerk to place new request. ACTION: Cllr Gretton to investigate.**
- 11/13/12 **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.
- 11/13/13 **Safety Mirror Rock Hill/Astwood Lanes:** Debbie Degge reported the following: Whilst a mirror located on the main road may well help those joining the road, unfortunately a mirror is legally classed as an obstruction on the highway and therefore cannot be put up without the express permission of the Department for Transport. The Department of Transport are currently reviewing their guidelines with regards to mirrors and are not accepting applications for placement now until 2015. However, provision presently requires accident data and other evidence that the site would meet the necessary criteria, which would not be the case in this instance.
- There are two further concerns: (a) the lights from a vehicle emerging from a private access may shine onto the mirror and reflect into the eyes of an approaching motorist, causing considerable confusion and possibly an accident, and (b) the emerging driver may rely on the mirror, even though it might have become obscured or no longer be visible.
- Before they will give approval the Department has to be satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable to improve visibility when emerging from the junction by any other means, as a mirror is a poor substitute compared with a physical improvement, which may be necessary to secure better visibility for drivers.
- Hence, any improvement in visibility that can be gained by asking landowners to cut back foliage would be preferable as a first course of action.
- Chair Williams believes hedge needs to be cut, may belong to Mr Cockburn. Hence, any improvement in visibility that can be gained by asking landowners to cut back foliage would be preferable as a first course of action.
- Chair Williams noted that a mirror had been erected by the owners of the Forest in the garden belonging to Astwood Flats but that as no permission had been sought, said owner had removed mirror which was incorrectly positioned any way and of little benefit and placed in the car park to the Forest.
- 11/13/14 **Bench on Cruise Hill Lane:** A request was placed for a license; ref #5739065. The Clerk requested an update on 11-11-13 – no reply. **ACTION: Cllr Gretton to investigate.**
- 11/13/15 **Walking Map Brochure:** Chair Williams reports the cost is £200-250 for 1000 copies. **ACTION: Chair to discuss design with the Whites.**

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 11/13/16 **TO CONSIDER REGISTERING THE CLERK FOR ONLINE DELEGATE USER ACCESS TO BANK ACCOUNTS**
- Lloyds will no longer allow the Clerk to receive statements or transfer money between accounts without being a Delegated User on the accounts. Registering online as a Delegate User permits the Clerk to receive statements and transfer money between FPC accounts, but it does not allow the Clerk to be a signatory on the account.
- The Council resolved to allow the Clerk to register as Delegated User on the accounts and the application was signed. **ACTION: Clerk to forward application to Lloyds.**
- 11/13/17 **TO CONSIDER THE 2014-15 BUDGET**
- Draft Budget, Risk Assessment and Internal Audit Test emailed to cllrs on 16-11-13.

The Council resolved to adopt the Budget and precept request of £8300. The Council resolved to reconcile the accounts on a quarterly basis. **ACTION: Clerk to forward precept request to RBC when it is requested.**

11/13/18 **TO CONSIDER FORMING A WORKING PARTY & TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MILL LANE (MIG)**

Led by A Pulford, much discussion on the matter took place during Public Question Time. A flyer has already been circulated and some parishioners have offered to contribute.

The Council resolved to form a Working Party to operate under the guise of FIG. Chair Williams, Cllrs White & Arthur to be the members of the Working Party. The Terms of Reference are as follows:

1. Agree on road specification. It was determined not seek a standard which is adoptable by WCC.
2. Obtain quotes to same specification. A quote for £9384 was obtained by the firm which tarmaced Grove Lane.
3. Determine if FPC has the power to tarmac a bridlepath. **ACTION: Clerk and Co Cllr Gretton to investigate.**
4. Determine FPC liability.
5. Report back at December meeting.

CLERK'S UPDATE

11/13/19 The Sec of State granted permission for Network Rail Redditch Branch Enhancement Scheme.

11/13/20 **Schedule of Correspondence Not Yet Replied To**

WCC: Minerals Local Plan: 2nd Stage consult – comments due 31-1-14

11/13/21 **Schedule of Correspondence Received** (not otherwise noted)

WCC: Bus Review – posted on website and noticeboard

Environment Agency: Oil flyer posted on website and noticeboard

11/13/22 **Schedule of Correspondence Sent** (not otherwise noted)

PLANNING MATTERS

11/13/23 **FOR PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

11/13/24 **RBC APPROVALS**

11/13/25 **RBC REFUSALS**

11/13/26 **RBC PENDING**

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**

An extraordinary meeting of the Council attended by forty seven parishioners was held on 17 October. The Council was consulted on outline application 2013/228, which includes consideration for the principle of residential development on the proposed site, site access and site lay-out. After much discussion and deliberation, **the Council resolved to support this application.**

Factors influencing the decision included the brownfield nature of the site, its visual impact on the approach to the village, the small number of houses in total and the inclusion in the plan of a significant proportion of small houses. While it is clear the poor visibility when exiting the site is mitigated by the outline plan, there are a number of outstanding concerns.

The Council welcomes the provision of pavement to the west of the site entrance. A

similar pavement provision to the east, which the applicant stated is a possibility, would also be welcomed. This additional pavement will make pedestrian journeys to the village school safer.

The Council understands the current plan for car parking provision on the site complies with policy. However, such car parking space as is available on Astwood Lane is already fully utilised. Additional car parking provision on the site, which is some distance from the village car park, is necessary.

While the proposed site is outside the development zone, it is permissible to build residential housing on a brownfield site if the impact of the development is not greater on the openness of the greenbelt. The proposed development has approximately the same footprint as the existing buildings; however, the increased height of the dwellings will impact on the sightline from the road. Therefore, the Council requests attention to the roofline detail is a matter of priority if a detailed application is to follow.

Drainage is not a consideration of this application; however, many parishioners are anxious this development may increase the risk of flooding in the village. Feckenham Parish Council urges Redditch Borough Council and the developer to take every reasonable precaution to mitigate this risk should a detail plan be submitted.

11/13/27 **APPEALS**

COUNCILLOR REPORTS & Future Agenda Items

- 11/13/28 Register FPC with Information Commissioner for December meeting.
11/13/29 VAS
11/13/30 Clerk's Contract

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 11/13/31 **Schedule of Invoices/Payments**
Clerk Oct Stipend & Expenses £254.67 LGA'72 101,11,12
HMCR Clerk tax £51.20 LGA'72 101,11,12
A Farnsworth Oct Lengthsman £186.50 PHA '36 s259/60
Chair Exp gift for T Smith £9.99 LGA '72 s5(5)
- 11/13/32 **Schedule of Receipts**

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

- 11/13/33 Council Meeting at 7:30pm on 19 December 2013 at Feckenham Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

OPEN FORUM NOTES

- 11/13/34 A Pulsford: Mill Lane a problem because the section near the Cricket Club is in poor state and it is not adopted. It has been tarmaced previously, but currently in poor condition. Trying to maintain as a bridleway is ineffective. There is a drain behind Cricket Club, but it is blocked.

The frontages to the road are: The Wheatley's, Bayliss', Cricket Club, Checkley's and Shute's. But many people use this section of road as a turning around. J Eaton reported the path is finished, but the gate doesn't properly close.

JMC quoted £9384 inc VAT, but not kerbing or drainage.

- 11/13/35 J Eaton reported the path near Coupass Cottages is finished, but the gate doesn't close properly
- 11/13/36 Co Cllr Gretton: Procedure for WCC adoption is quite difficult, but perhaps worth seeking.
- 11/13/37 Mr Smith suggested Kerbing is necessary for long term quality of the work. Enquired as to service lines.
- 11/13/38 The potential contributors to this project want the standard of work to be high.
- 11/13/39 J Hooker enquired as to how funds will be raised.
- 11/13/40 Some concern about lanes being too flashy for a country road if kerbs are included.
- 11/13/41 Cllr Gretton stated it is worth approaching WCC for repairs.
- 11/13/42 Cllr Hawker stated the bridleway is not a vehicular right of way.
- 11/13/43 PC Waterhouse stated there has been a spate of burglaries including two in Feckenham recently. Suggest parishioners leave a few lights on and perhaps the radio. Also recommends purchasing Smart Water from RBC. It is proven a very effective deterrent.

Police are effected by cutbacks; one jail cell closed. However, Redditch has retained its number of police teams.

Newsletters to be circulated in future.

PACT still operating.