

Minutes of the meeting held 20 November 2014 at Feckenham Village Hall, Feckenham

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- Present: Councillors: R Williams (Chair), K White, P Eaton, E Atkins, P Dormer, S Arthur & A Smith
- In Attendance: S Arble (Clerk), 15 members of the public and WCC Cllr P Gretton
- 135 No apologies received.
- 136 No interests declared.
- 137 The Council resolved to approve the **MINUTES** of the meeting held **18 September 2014**.
- 138 **County Cllr Gretton** reported the following:
- A. RBC fire engine saved.
 - B. Waste plant built at Hartlebury.
 - C. Budget of £320m forecast for 2015. Overspend of £1m because of children in care.
 - D. Looking for another £5m in savings. New Highways Liaison Officer – Richard Clewer
 - E. WCC officer R. Clewer looked at problem of exit of lorries from Saltway, saw no easy solution using Rockhill Lane unless lane surface improved. He asked for report on previous survey.
 - F. Offered apologies for RBC Cllrs Potter & Clayton.

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

PROGRESS REPORTS

- 139 **FIG: ACTION: Moors Lane Resurfacing Working Party (Chair Williams & Cllr Arthur) to meet.** No update.
- 140 **Lengthsman & Flood Prevention**
- A. Ditches need to be cleaned #6264651. Issue passed to Land Drainage.
 - B. On 8-9-14 the Clerk reported that water is flowing into drain on Norgrove Lane very near Crumpfields Lane, #6350931. Work completed on 29.10.14; matter resolved.
 - C. #6439355 – reported 13.11.14: 33 (Meadow View) B4090 – drain needs cleaning; can't open. Scheduled for piping.
 - D. #6439354 – reported 13.11.14: 53 High St – drain needs to be cleaned; scheduled for piping. Work ongoing.
 - E. #6439056 – reported 13.11.14: Opp. Brook House – pipe drain. WCC reported the drain is free flowing, matter resolved.
 - F. The Clerk tried to report a drain problem near #37 on the B4090, but can't find the property on the map. On 13.11.14 the Clerk requested the Lengthsman to offer more details as to the location of the property; no response.

Footpath Warden Report

- 141 The Clerk reported the rail on the bridge at end of Mill Lane on FH 542 is badly damaged; #6353229.
- 142 The Footpath officers report that they have been very busy replacing waymark signs and cutting vegetation back around stiles and bridges. Officers are disappointed due to reported works such as damaged bridges, stiles and sign posts not being repaired. Both officers are minded to resign from the position. **ACTION: Clerk to contact the Whites and request more detailed reports.**
- 143 **Bench on Cruise Hill Lane: ACTION: Cllr Arthur to investigate the possibility having the bench turned around and hedge lowered.** No update.
- 144 **Walking Map Brochure: ACTION: Chair Williams to discuss design plans with Parish Footpath Officers (the Whites).** No update.
- 145 **Feckenham Manor Community Archaeology Project:** Currently working on a Heritage Lottery Fund proposal for £20,000 and £25,000 to fund geophysical survey.
- 146 **Superfast Broadband:** Cllr Gretton believes more pressure needs to be applied to WCC. Petition has been presented 18/09/14. **ACTION: The Clerk to contact J Clements & Q Cary and request they follow-up with an additional letter.**
- NDP Update**
- 147 **A.** The scoping session with Kirkwells on 19.11.14 was well attended. There were 12 parishioners present and most thought it went well.
- B.** The Clerk informed the Chair of the Feckenham NDP that the Council resolved to reimburse members of the Feckenham NDP Working Party expenses for items such as post, flyers, rent, travel etc up to a total amount of £500 through April 2015. All expenses will be approved by the NDP Working Party before receipts/invoices being presented to the Council. All invoices and receipts should clearly state the VAT element.
- C.** Community Development Grant Plan Progress Report was successfully submitted by the Clerk on 13.10.14.
- 148 **Justification of Council Reserves:** The Clerk requested an update from Mr Fletcher on 22-5-14, 8-7-14 and 8-9-14. The Clerk had a phone conversation with Mr Fletcher in September and was assured that the Council has justified the reserves. His initial point was that the Council needs to be aware that reserves of this amount should be justified. Matter resolved.
- 149 **Overweight Lorries on High Street: Action RBC Cllrs Potter and Clayton and Cllr Gretton to investigate.** See Minute 138D.
- 150 **£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.
- 151 **2015 Meeting Dates Confirmed:** 19 Feb, 16 April, 21 May (to include Annual Parish Meeting), 16 July, 17 Sept, 19 Nov and 17 Dec; all dates are 3rd Thursday of the month. Matter resolved.
- 152 **Speed Survey & Pinch Points:** It is clear that pinch points will not be supported by WCC. However, new speed surveys will be conducted.
- 153 **VAS:** Chair Williams met with Co Cllr Gretton and WCC officer Richard Clewer who strongly recommended a VAS. One problem is re-siting of signs in the village. One suggestion was to erect VAS near the village shop. **ACTION: Cllr Arthur to propose the purchase of a VAS at the December meeting. Information such as cost, insurance, location and license to be include in the proposal.**

- 154 **RBC Notice Board:** On 19.9.14 the Clerk requested the plastic front be replaced. Progress report requested 11.11.14. It is possible FPC may refurbish. **ACTION: Clerk to request a progress report.**

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

- 154 The Council resolved to defer the Feckenham Village Football Club £600 grant application to install a defibrillator in an externally located, temperature controlled cabinet. **ACTION: Clerk to include item on December agenda.**
- 155 The Council resolved to approve the St Johns Church £175 Grant Application to publish the Feckenham News. **ACTION: Clerk to include item on December Payment Schedule.**
- 156 The Council resolved to approve the St Johns Church £275 Grant Application to maintain the churchyard. **ACTION: Clerk to include item on December Payment Schedule.**
- 157 The Council resolved to approve the WWI Group of St Johns Church £800 Grant Application for the purchase of 30 ceramic poppies. **ACTION: Clerk to include item on December Payment Schedule.**
- 158 The Council resolved to make representations to RBC concerning the playing fields in response to letter from M. Hawkes regarding the number of bookings made by the football club. **ACTION: Chair Williams to draft letter.**
- 159 The Council resolved to appoint Cllr Smith to the Clerk's Planning Delegation Scheme. Members are Cllrs Williams, Eaton, Atkins and Smith. Matter resolved.
- 160 The Council resolved to approve the 2015-16 Budget without amendments. The precept will remain at £8300 and £9453 is budgeted for reserves. The Council noted the 2014 Risk Assessment and 2014 Internal Audit Test.

CLERK'S UPDATE

- 161 On 13.11.14 the Clerk reported to WCC that the wall outside 70 High St needs to be repaired; #6439047. On 13.11.14, WCC responded that all walls are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Cllr Dormer believes the state of the wall makes the footway dangerous and that it is possible that WCC is responsible for the repairs. It was noted by Chairman that title deeds of C. West and P. Dormer show not owned by frontagers. **ACTION: WCC Cllr Gretton to investigate. ACTION: Clerk to make further enquiries as to the status of the footway.**
- 162 A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration
1. Scrap Metal Consult – noted
- B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence (not otherwise noted) - none

PLANNING

FOR PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

- 163 **2014/144/LC:** 5-7 The Square – Replacement windows at rear of property Comments due 20.11.14. The Council resolved to support this application.

RBC APPROVALS

- 164 **2014/015/LBC:** Stoners Farmhouse, Berrowhill Lane – erection of a porch and replacement windows on the north elevation SUPPORT

RBC REFUSALS

- 165 **2014/172/FUL:** Upper Bean Hall, Bradley Green - Replacement of rotten electric wooden gate and fence with reclaimed brick walls and wrought iron gates SUPPORT

RBC PENDING

- 166 **2014/086/FUL:** Stoners Farmhouse, Berrowhill Lane – erection of a porch and replacement windows on the north elevation SUPPORT

167 **2014/222/FUL:** 53 Alcester Road – Two storey side extension to provide additional living room and bedrooms SUPPORT

168 **2014/228/OHL:** Electricity Line from Feckenham to Great Alne – Overhead line upgrade, including increase in height and thickness of cabling SUPPORT

169 **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

170 **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

FINANCE

171 The Council approved the November 2014 Payment Schedule listed in Appendix A of the November 2014 Agenda. There was one late payment added to the list. Ref #35, £78.00 for room hire and refreshments for the NDP Working Party Scoping Session held 19.11.14.

172 Cllr Eaton confirmed the accuracy of the October 2014 Reconciliation as listed in Appendix B of the November 2014 Agenda.

173 The Council noted the October 2014 Income & Expenditure Report. The Clerk reported that all spending is in line with budget except for the Lengthsman. At current projections, there will be a £526 overspend. The overspend is due to paying a 2013-14 invoice in the 2014-15 financial year and supplemental fees for extra jobs and landfill costs.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

174 Councillors may use this opportunity to report matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

- A. VAS – Cllr Arthur
- B. Football Club £600 Defibrillator Grant

DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

175 Council Meeting at 7:30pm on 18 December 2014 at Feckenham Village Hall.

176 The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

OPEN FORUM NOTES

- A. Ten parishioners raised many issues regarding the use of the playing fields by the football club; these included:
 1. The increasing number of football matches being played on the recreation ground at the back of The Square. A survey had been held from July 2013-2014 to record numbers of matches, which seemed to be about 200, which also caused much pollution and damage created by visitors. RBC had been contacted but the results from them were most unsatisfactory, so the parishioners would appreciate some help from the Parish Council. There was much support from those present to make representations to RBC; it was also suggested that the situation should be monitored.

2. Another parishioner raised the issue of safety with the problem of parking on double yellow lines and inappropriate behaviour from the participants.
3. It was also pointed out that the club was breaking the law with their signage placed on the Village Square.
4. Apparently it was stated that RBC were not able to manage the site because of cost, as they were only paid for one match on a Sunday. Whereas, it had been noted how many matches were actually played and that the closed season was ignored.
5. In a letter from M. Hawkes he stated that he and Omar maintained the pitches.
6. Another parishioner asked about the availability of pitches within Redditch which could be used by the club, but it was also pointed out that the football club and the cricket club were both part of village life and it was hoped the situation could be resolved amicably.

ACTION: See Minute 158.

- B.** The subject of the Astwood Bank Business Park was raised with regard to the notices which were in the village regarding the route for the large lorries which were coming through the village. It was commented that unfortunately these were lorries carrying aggregate for the base of an abattoir on the business park, which were making life a misery for everyone.