

## FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17 January 2019

**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllr Ian Bellion and Cllr Craig Warhurst: Reasons accepted.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

- a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) which are to be with the clerk as soon as possible prior to a meeting. None
- c) **TO CONSIDER GRANTING REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Requests for dispensation must be made on an individual basis. None

**3. MINUTES:** To consider the approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2018. Approved.

**4. FVAT Report:** Minutes and financial statements emailed to FPC prior to the meeting. Acceptance of accounts agreed and accepted; Proposed Cllr Cary, seconded by Cllr Smith. All in favour. It was announced a total of £670 was raised at the carols on the village green which has been donated to The Air Ambulance.

**5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT:** Cllr Potter advised the order for the Dragons Teeth had been made and it is hoped they will go down in March 2019. The white lines will be taken up and 'SLOW' will be painted in the road. Cllr Potter has asked highways if it would be possible to have a VAS sign advising of speeds at the entrance in to the village from Astwood lane and Moors Lane. This is currently being investigated. There will be speed checks done on Astwood lane which Cllr Smith requested to also be carried out by Moors Lane. Cllr Potter agreed to speak to Highways.

Cllr Potter advised the budget at WCC had been balanced, there will be a one-off payment made of £2.4 million towards the costs of winter pressures with Adult social care.

The company formed, "Worcestershire Children First" is still being setup, however recent Ofsted's have shown considerable Improvement.

There is a review being undertaken of local transport including volunteer schemes which will be available once completed. Superfast broadband is available upon request in Feckenham. The green grit bin on Swansbrook lane which had been agreed to, is no longer permitted as green bins cannot be on WCC ground. As Astwood Lane is a primary grit route and Swansbrook Lane is a secondary route- additional grit should not be necessary. Cllr Potter agreed to investigate this with the Headteacher and Highways.

6. **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT:** Cllr Clayton advised when the Conservatives took back the Council, one of their manifesto promises was to upgrade the town centre. Currently the Council have asked a Consultancy company to carry out an assessment, the results will be available from Feb 2019 which will then go out for public consultation. Similarly, there are 'soft' market tests being undertaken by Homes England (old development corporation) to look at improving Matchborough and Winyates areas' including shops and parking. The results of these will be presented to the April 19 Council meeting and then out for public consultation. There are plans to build 67 properties which will include 50 x 2-bedroom bungalows. The idea of these is to enable a Carer or family member to be able to sleep or provide care. Cllr Clayton advised he thought he had seen details regarding a planning application for 5x 5- bedroom houses in Astwood Lane but was unsure of the details and would forward to the PC if he was correct. **Note:** *After investigation by the Parish Council, no such application appears to have been made for such buildings.*

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**OPEN FORUM: The meeting was suspended to enable 2 members of the public to ask questions.**  
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## 7. PLANNING

A. For Council Consideration: None received.

Due to no meeting in December 198. The Councils' delegation for planning submitted the following:

18/01421/LBC The Moat House: Feckenham Parish Council decided not to enter a comment.

B. RBC Approvals: 18/01370/FUL: Barn at Priory Barn

C. RBC Refusals: None.

D. RBC Pending: None.

E. RBC Withdrawn: None.

F. RBC Appeals: None.

G. Planning Enforcement: None.

## 8. FINANCE

TO APPROVE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

To note payments made between last meeting already agreed to:

Cheque no:1072 @ £56.00. Village Hall Rental (Sept- Nov 18)

Cheque no:1073 @ £187.50. Lengthsman: Nov 18 payment.

To approve the following payments:

Cheque no: 1074 @ £187.50. Lengthsman. Dec 18 payment.

Cheque no: 1075 @ £20.00 Worcs. CALC. Clerk Training.

Cheque no: 1079 @ £299.24 To reimburse Clerk for printer ink, Batteries for Defib machine, SLCC Membership and SLCC (ILCA) Training.

Cheque no: 1078 @ £860.38 Clerks wages 19/10- 17/01/19 inc home office allowance, mileage.

Cheque no: 1077 @ £195.80. HMRC for Clerks wage **deduction**

**9. To approve: Nov 2018 – December 2018. Approved.**

**10. To approve: Nov 2018 to Dec 2018 Reconciliation. Approved.**

	Date		Date
<b>FPC Reconciliation for the Period:</b>	01/11/2018	to	31/12/2018
	Credit	Debit	Total
Current Account balance	£3,618.93		£3,618.93
Deposit Account balance	£26,141.87		£26,141.87
Cheques paid uncleared:	-£263.50		-£263.50
<b>Balance C/F</b>			<b>£29,497.30</b>
Opening Balance Deposit Account			£28,140.67
Add receipts for period			£1.20
Less payments for period			-£2,000.00
Opening Balance Current Account			£1,813.57
Add receipts for period			£3,660.55
Less uncleared cheques			-£263.50
Less payments for period			-£1,855.19
<b>Closing Balance</b>			<b>£29,497.30</b>
		Date:	09/01/2019

Accounts emailed to Finance Committee prior to January 2019 meeting.  
All payments accepted, agreed. Cheques were signed and countersigned.

#### 11. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

- A) 'Feckenham Past, Present, and Future' event - 25th November. Marion Chute gave a presentation on forming a Feckenham Archive of photographs and recordings that reflect the homes, work and lives of the people of the Feckenham Parish. Mrs Chute has had experience of this sort of work in her previous work life. It is thought the archive would have a two-pronged effect to attract new residents to become involved with the area whilst providing a history of Feckenham. The event itself was hugely popular and although the Council had agreed to underwrite the costs, this had not been necessary due to the selling of teas and cakes. The Council thanks Mrs Chute, Mrs Cary, Tea team and all those who were involved and supported the event. A grant form was issued to detail what would be required in terms of funding. The Parish Council subject to the costs were all in favour, proposed by Cllr Dormer and seconded by Cllr Cary. Mrs Chute has already received offers of help to put together the records.

B) Cllr Guise presented the results of the resident's requests that had been compiled at the event:

1). Q. Can the Parish Council consider how it communicates with Parishioners now?

A. The PC propose greater use of Facebook and regular reports in Feckenham news, together with updating their website. However, Parishioners are advised that if they wish to communicate with the PC, this must be done via the clerk.

[Clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com](mailto:Clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com)

2). Q. Please can we improve the playground?

A. The playground belongs to Redditch Borough Council, but the PC are looking at possibilities of asking them to do more and obtaining permission from English Heritage to extend the site.

3.Q. More dog bins?

A. There are already 11 dog and waste bins around the village as dog waste can be put into both. Parishioners can suggest other locations if they wish?

4.Q. An easily found agenda on the website?

A. The website is planned for revision.

5.Q. Organised activities around the village to combat loneliness and obesity?

A. If the person proposing this, and that below, would draw up a plan of action and submit a funding request, the PC would be happy to consider / support.

6.Q. Organised walking for health?

A. As above.

7.Q. Litter picking?

A. If willing participants of a litter pick pass their names to the Clerk, this would then be actioned.

8.Q. Parking opposite the Forrest amongst the flower tubs?

A. WCC have promised to reinstate the post which will solve the problem.

9.Q. Additional Parish Notice board in outlying areas e.g. Ham Green?

A. The PC are considering this.

10.Q. Improve village website, including photo archives that are researchable.

A. Already part of the PC plan

11.Q. Re-surfacing of the High Street.

A. Responsibility of WCC; but believed to be planned for 2019.

12.Q. Don't resurface the high street as it slows traffic.

A. Traffic calming around the village is continually discussed with Worcestershire Highways.

13.Q. When can we have a formal village plan? the pressure for development only grows and over the next 10-15 years, a **registered plan** will be key.

A. A village plan was considered by the PC. There was a poor response to the questionnaire sent to all Parishioners and those returned did not indicate any clear direction. Village plans are very expensive, and their effectiveness is debatable.

C) Future meeting dates for 2019 taking account RBC and WCC Councillor availability. This was discussed and agreed to change the standing orders to enable the dates to be as follows: **Meetings of the Council shall be held in each year on a minimum of seven occasions, generally on Thursdays in the months of January, March, April, May, July, September and November. These meetings to be held at a public place, usually Feckenham Village Hall, and commencing at 19.30 unless otherwise agreed. Meetings should not continue for longer than 2 hours without a break.**

***Further meetings may be held on such dates and times and at such place as the Council may direct.***

***Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Cary. All in favour.***

- D) **Parish Council Elections:** There will be an election on 2nd May 19 the costs of which will be passed to the Parish. An uncontested election costs around £77.01 and a contested election around £1154.01. There is an election briefing on 23 January at County Hall, places to be booked in advance. There will also be further sessions available via the Borough Council. The Clerk will send out the guidance regarding standing for election. More details will be available in January or on line at electoral services at Redditch Borough Council or contact the Clerk at [clerk.feckenham@feckenham.com](mailto:clerk.feckenham@feckenham.com) This would be very helpful if you are thinking of standing for election but this is not mandatory.
- E) **PRECEPT Request:** After budget meetings it was decided to request the same amount of money as previously requested: £8,300, to be paid in 2 instalments. This will enable the Parish Council to have sufficient reserves whilst still able to carry out it's business/ Proposed by Cllr Cary, seconded by Cllr Guise. All in favour.
- F) **Defib Training/ Updates:** The new batteries have now arrived and will be fitted. After discussion with the defib supplier, it was established the defib machine did not require servicing. The Clerk will contact a local charity with a view to arranging defib training and updating the skills of those previously trained.
- G) **CCTV / Recent Break In's:** Cllr Smith advised the issue of CCTV was very complex, the matter had been previously discussed with the Police, but no updates were available. Cllr Smith asked if this was something the Village wished to pursue? Cllr Smith agreed to obtain further information and guidance.

## 12. CLERK'S UPDATE

- A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration – as emails. The PC had been invited to a meeting with the Campaign to protect rural England (CPRE) but no one was available to attend. The next meeting is 12 March at Bromsgrove Council House, Parkside.  
Redditch Borough Council had issued a consultation on the licensing policy which the PC noted.  
The Lengthsman equipment still seems to be undecided as currently WCC do not have the funds to provide the equipment needed despite the current contract stating this. The contract will be changed in April 19 to reflect the Lengthsman will provide their own. FPC have advised the Lengthsman they will provide the essential equipment on an indefinite loan to enable him to work safely. The Lengthsman will price this up and advise the Clerk. FPC agreed to reimburse upon receipts to £200.
- B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence Received (not already noted). None
- C. Schedule of Correspondence Sent (not already noted). Thank you, letters, sent to Feckenham Charity for the donation towards the Dragons teeth and a thank you to the Tea Team for supporting the event in November.

## 13. PROGRESS REPORTS

- A. **Doctors Surgery:** Statement regarding the Potential closure of the Doctors Branch Surgery in Feckenham.

**Parishioners;**

"The Parish Council are saddened to report that the Ridgeway Surgery has now made a formal application to Redditch & Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (RBCCG) to close the GP branch surgery in Feckenham. We have written to RBCCG to point out that there is strong local opposition to this proposed closure and that parishioners have also had longstanding and significant problems accessing GP appointments at the main surgery in Astwood Bank. We have asked RBCCG to examine these difficulties in detail and to investigate whether there are any related contractual or safety issues. Whilst we believe that Parishioners would prefer the branch surgery to remain open, we accept that this may not be possible. If it does close, we are trying to ensure that there will be improvements to the service offered by the main surgery. We have also questioned whether RBCCG has followed appropriate NHS guidelines in overseeing the whole process and made suggestions to them about how our Parishioner's interests might be safeguarded. We are currently awaiting a response to this letter, however the final decision about the closure lies with the Primary Care in Common Committee - which is convened by the three Worcestershire CCG's. At the time of writing, we do not know when this committee will be considering the application." Copies of our letter to RBCCG are available on request to the Clerk."

- B. **Traffic Improvement Programme.** It is hoped the work planned for March will improve the traffic on the B4090. The plans to renew the road surface in the High street will also improve the roads. The new road safety initiative as part of a £500,000 investment from the Police and Crime Commissioner, will be looked at by the Parish Council in due course.
- C. **Green Bin for Swansbrook Lane:** Discussed as part of WCC Cllr report.
- D. **Data Protection and Transparency:** On-going process
- E. **Standing Orders:** As agreed at Annual Parish meeting: Standing Orders require revisions as a result of NALC recommendations and meeting dates to be amended as agreed.
- F. **Dragons Teeth:** It is hoped these will be added to the B4090 in March 2019.
- G. **Smartwater:** Available upon request to the Clerk.

**15 COUNCILLORS REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Councillors may use this opportunity to report matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**16.DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday 7 March at 7.30pm. Back room Village Hall.**

Signed:

Dated:

**Public Forum:** *It was asked what more the PC could do to improve the dog fouling situation in the village. After discussion it was agreed the member of the public would speak to the Headteacher at the local school to organise a competition to design a poster to go on the dog waste bins. The PC would also consider attaching waste bags to the bins to encourage people to bag and dump the waste in the provided bins. The Parish Council agreed they would 'sponsor' the competition and would pay for the prize, posters and additional bins deemed necessary. The Clerk will ask the Borough Council for a map of the bin layout and request an additional bin to go by the whirly hole.*

*The second question was regarding the current balance held by the PC. Cllr Cary advised this was to enable the Parish to keep their reserves to a satisfactory figure. There are additional monies due to be spent which have yet to be paid but this will be completed by the end of the financial year.*

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