

**FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 18th of July 2024 at 7.30pm.
Back Room, Feckenham Village Hall.**

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES: Rob Oaten (accepted), Cllr Brandon Clayton (RBC), Cllr Craig Warhurst (WCC) and Cllr Mike Rouse (WCC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary and nonpecuniary interests (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) which are to be with the clerk as soon as possible prior to a meeting.
- c) **TO CONSIDER GRANTING REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Requests for dispensation must be made on an individual basis.

3. MINUTES: To consider the approval of the Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 9th of May 2024.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT

6. FVAT REPORT

OPEN FORUM

The Parish Council meeting will be suspended for 15 minutes. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chair. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting.

7. PLANNING.

Planning comments submitted since last meeting:

**24/00408/FUL 40 Droitwich Road. No objection subject to listed buildings consent.
24/00387/FUL Q18 Statkraft. FPC Objection. Details available online.**

A. For Council Consideration:24/00624/CPL Black Smith Cottage. The PC elected not to submit a comment.

B. RBC Approvals: 24/00123/FUL 3 Droitwich Road.
23/01237/CPE 6 Moors Lane.

C. RBC Refusals: None

D. RBC Pending:

23/00417/FUL. BESS Application. Land at Astwood Lane.
23/00192/FUL. Cross Boundary application for W/23/00270/FUL,
W/23/00270/FUL. Roundhill Solar Farm (Wychavon Planning Authority)
20/00569/FUL& 20/00570/LBC: Lower Berrow Farm.

21/00249/FUL. Land North of Droitwich Road
 23/01237/CPE 6 Moors Lane.
 23/01308/FUL. regarding the Land at Rockhill Lane, Astwood Lane Astwood Bank.
 23/01275/FUL. Faraway Cottage
 24/00408/FUL. 40 Droitwich Road
 23/01332/FUL. Redditch Golf Club
 24/00173/FUL. Land at Brookhouse Lane.
 24/00387/FUL. Land South of Astwood Lane (Feckenham Greener Grid).

- E. RBC Withdrawn:** 24/00530/FUL & 24/00531/LBC Middle Bean Barn, Bradley Green.
 23/00701/HHPRIO 6 Moors Lane.
- F. RBC Appeals:** 23/00652/FUL. The Coach House, Bradley Green. Appeal lodged.
 24/00090/ENFGA | 23/00140/INV Old Yarr.
- G. RBC Permission Required:** None.

8. FINANCE

Payments made since last meeting:

28/6/24: CPR/DEFIB Training (donation to Redditch Community Responders) @ £110.00.
 28/6/24: FIB/Ground clearance and gravel on Church Walk @ £600.00.
 28/6/24: Pound clearance for Wake day @ £90.00 .
 10/6/24: CALC- Clerks salary scale check @ £120.00.
 27/5/24: Lengthsman April 24 @ £184.80.

Payments to approve:

Clerks Wages 12/4/24- 11/7/24 @ £1637.90
Clerks HWA 12/1/24 – 11/3/24 @ £78.00
Clerks HMRC 12/1/24- 11/3/24 @ £409.60
Chairmans Allowance (Highways meeting) £55.65
Mr Clarke @ £30 delivery house-to-house BESS leaflets
Mr Clarke @ £30 delivery house-to-house BESS leaflets
Reimburse Councillor for BESS Leaflets @ £34.19

As the Parish Council now have an accounts package you will find the latest figures added to the agenda which will show all payments and account balances.

9. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

A. To note dates of the confirmation of public rights exercise for the 23- 24 accounts. Dates commenced 17th of June to 26th of July 2024. Noted and accepted by Council.

B. To discuss options regarding the cost of the parish council domain and number of years. Resolved to purchase an additional five years.

C. WCC Proposed plans to reduce speeds from 40mph to 30mph as per plan attached. The PC resolved to respond to WCC advising the speed should be reduced to 30mph at the earliest point as possible to try to reduce the speeds entering the village.

D. Church Walk- further improvements. During investigations as to who owned Church Walk, it became known the path was not owned by the church or property owners on the path. The PC agreed to investigate this further. It was suggested this could under Feckenham Village Amenity Trust. It was stressed the cottages and church would keep their rights of access / use. There were

concerns if this action were not taken it could cause problems going forward. The clerk will speak to a CALC Solicitor.

E. PCC Survey. Noted by Council.

F. Reformed CALC meetings. The clerk advised Bromsgrove and Redditch CALC meetings have restarted and have a new area clerk, Matthew Davies. Matt is keen to make the meetings relevant and to improve attendance and will be trying to invite Speakers to attend,

H. Clerks' evaluation- spine points grading. The Executive Officer from CALC undertook a review of the clerk's duties which have increased since 2018. The review showed the clerk's spine points should be twenty-eight rather than twenty as these have never increased since 2018. In monetary terms this is an additional £3.30 per hour. All in agreement. The increase in salary will be backdated to 5th of July 2024.

I. To propose a replacement notice board. The clerk had asked the Lengthsman for a quote on removing the old noticeboard and replacing a new one as authorised at the May meeting. He advised it was likely to be between £200 - £250 plus VAT. It would depend upon how much concrete would need to be removed and then replaced with new. Resolved to accept the quote for the fittings and the noticeboard.

I. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy for Worcestershire

Consultation exercise. The village hall had not received any feedback regarding their concerns as to the access for disabled people into the hall. The clerk agreed to contact them and ask for a progress report.

J. To consider ring fencing money from 2024- 2025 budget for Feckenham in Bloom working party. The PC resolved to ring fence a further £500. All in favour.

K. Grant Application: Feckenham Erstwhile Border Morris. The PC resolved to award the grant of £880 towards equipment posts subject to confirmation there was no payments received from their appearances at village events. Confirmation received and grant payment made.

L. Innova BESS application. Innova are due to hold an information event next Tuesday, which will be followed by a parish meeting. All households will have received a posted document from Innova as well as a leaflet from the Parish Council highlighting their concerns and the cumulative effect of all the applications. There are concerns the new government may allow BESS applications like the recent solar farm approvals.

M. Statkraft and Immersa. It was noted the recent Statkraft (24/00387/FUL) application formed a part of a much larger development and will be two ½ times bigger than the original. The PC have raised the question of an EIA relating to the cable but have been advised by Redditch Planning it is not necessary. There are concerns the cable application does not meet with the fire regulations including the lack of alternative exits from the site. It was noted the cable for the Wychavon site, despite being four times less cabling work would take the same five months as is proposed for the Feckenham cable works.

No specific updates regarding Immersa.

There are concerns the new government may relax the NPPF which may impact on the BESS applications.

CLERK'S UPDATE

- A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration (not already noted).
- B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence Received (not already noted)
- C. Schedule of Correspondence Sent (not already noted)

10. PROGRESS REPORTS

- A. Feckenham Flooding.** Cllr Smith reported that the recent work at Swansbrook Road seemed to have had a positive effect. Discussions are currently taking place between landowners, Worcs County Council and North Worcestershire Water Management. It should be noted the project is entirely in the hands of the landowners who can withdraw their consent at any time.
- B. Feckenham Orchard.** No Further update.
- C. Planning issues and Redditch Borough Council:** No further update.
- D. Feckenham in Bloom: Working Party:** Church Walk has been cleared and the surface much improved. The area will be planted with native bulbs and climbing plants with fan shaped trellis. This information has been sent to Redditch ReNew compact with thanks for their grant.
- E. Update on Round Hill Solar Farm Project.** It was noted a MOP had submitted a comment in support of the application, whereas the MOP was completely against the project and his objection was clearly noted. Wychavon have been asked to remove the comment.
- F. Village White Gates and Bench (FIB).** Delivery and installation of the new bench completed. The PC paid for the white gates at the end of March 24. Installation along with the VAS machines has been delayed by WCC. The gates are due to be installed w/c 19th of August.
- G. Traffic Meeting/ Speed Reduction Measures.** A meeting took place on 19th June. No update received.
- J. Update on proposal on batteries park from Immersa for a battery energy storage system.** See Item M above. No specific updates.

- 12. 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.

DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

7:30pm on 29th August 2024 at Feckenham Village Hall. All welcome to attend.

Please Note: There will be a Parish Meeting on the 23rd of July 2024 to discuss the INNOVA Battery plans. This will follow Innova's information drop-in from 3pm until 7pm. Let the Parish Council know your thoughts regarding this additional application and whether you are in favour or against.

Leaflets will soon be delivered to all households and can be accessed online under www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk.