

Feckenham Parish Council
Thursday 29th August at 7.30pm
Back Room Village Hall.

1.APOLOGIES:

Cllr Craig Warhurst (RBC&WCC), Cllr Mike Rouse (WCC), Cllr Rob Oaten (Accepted Reason), Cllr Paul Downes (Accepted Reason).

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 nonpecuniary 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 Thursday 18TH July 2024. The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held 18th of July.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT:

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT: Cllr Clayton updated the PC on behalf of Cllr Rouse and Cllr Warhurst. It would seem due to the new national planning policy framework Redditch despite having achieved its original target of 4,500 homes (required by 2030) Redditch is likely to be asked to achieve a further 3,000 homes by 2030. It is hoped other councils such as Stratford upon Avon, Bromsgrove and Wychavon may help with this under a “duty to cooperate.” The full details will not be known until the white paper is released, thought to be in December. Depending on the finer details planning officers may not be allowed to say no, and the planning inspectorate would override refused applications. This will depend upon the change to green belt which will be reassessed, and land could be classed as “grey belt” which could then be used for building. It is thought the secretary of state Yvette Cooper could override local decisions. It is not known how the current housing stock in Redditch will contribute to new requirements and the current excess Redditch has achieved.

Local planning officers and Borough Councillors will be asked to complete a questionnaire comprising of one hundred questions. These may include more information on grey belt land.

The PC asked the Borough Councillors to stress Feckenham should be classed as green belt and not grey.

It was discussed the current BESS, solar applications, and housing would enclose the village in a pincer like movement. There was agreement the additional traffic would cause major difficulties to the village.

The PC asked if there was an update to the possible additional parking spaces on the car park. Unfortunately, to date this has not been agreed by the planning office due to the heritage of the village. It was agreed if Cllr Clayton were unable to reach agreement with planning the PC would submit a formal planning application. The Borough Council have funding in place to pay for the

additional spaces, but this would only be available up until the end of March 2025. The PC reminded all the car park would be reduced by four spaces due to the EV charges planned for the car park. All agreed the parking in Feckenham was becoming more difficult in part due to sports parking and village events.

Parking half on and half off the pavement for families with pushchairs and disabled people in wheelchairs or scooters to go out in the road to get by the parked vehicles which exposes them to accidents. The PC will continue to ask the traffic warden to visit the village.

The parish council thanked the Borough councillors for their support.

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.

6. PLANNING.

Planning comments submitted since last meeting: None.

a. For Council Consideration:

24/00392/FUL. Clayfield Farm.

The PC agreed they

b. RBC Approvals: None.

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/HHPRIO. 6 Moors Lane. The PC will look to draft a statement to the Planning Department

23/01275/FUL. Far Away Cottage.

23/01308/FUL. regarding the Land at Rockhill Lane, Astwood Lane.

24/00408/FUL. 40 Droitwich Road.

23/01332/FUL. Redditch Golf club

24/00173/FUL. Change of use to dog walking field including fencing

and car park. Land at Brookhouse Lane, Ham Green.

24/00387/FUL, Q18. Feckenham Greener Grid. Proposed underground cable to connect Feckenham Greener Grid (approved under 21/00195/FUL)

Feckenham sub-station.

e. RBC Withdrawn: 24/00530/FUL & 24/00531/LBC Middle Bean Hall Barn Church Road Bradley Green Worcestershire B96 6RW.

f. RBC Appeals: None.

g. RBC Permission Required: None.

7. FINANCE

Payments made since last meeting:

31/7/24 Lengthsman May 24 @ £140.40

31/7/24 Lengthsman June 24 @ £153.30

25/7/24 Parish Council Websites (Domain renewal 5 years) @ £180.00

2/8/24 Scribe DD @ £14.40

Payments to approve:

29/8/24 Feckenham in Bloom. To reimburse volunteer for bench protection @ £27.29.

29/8/24 Hutchings and Son (FIB replacement trees for Jubilee) @ £259.65.

SLCC Membership @ £148. To be reimbursed to clerk.

The PC agreed all payments and approved the reconciliation for August 24.

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

8. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

A. Parish Council Insurance: To decide on provider and decide on a one- or three-year policy. The PC resolved to select Zurich Insurance as their Insurer (three quotes were obtained) and to agree on a three-year policy.

B. To Consider forming a working party to look at the BESS applications.

It was agreed the PC would organise a first meeting for volunteers who had expressed an interest in becoming involved with a local group. This would not be a PC Committee or PC Working Party and would be entirely separate to the parish council.

C. To agree on a meeting date should item B be approved after 16h of September. The PC resolved to organise a meeting date, and the clerk will contact the volunteers with a choice of dates and decide on the most suitable date.

D. Confirmation of parish council structure. It was agreed the BESS Group would be a separate organisation, but the PC could donate to the group. Approximately eighteen people have expressed an interest in forming a group. This was following Worcs CALC advice.

E. Replacement of two green grit bins. The clerk had received an email regarding damage to two green grit bins. The PC agreed the clerk should investigate the damage and request WCC to conduct the suitability of the site regardless the new bins would be in the same place. This is a requirement of WCC and highways.

F. Church Walk- Ownership and legal costs. This is at present simply a concept idea to secure the future of Church Walk and all those with rights over it.

The clerk has contacted a solicitor who has experience of parish councils and requested a quote for legal fees. Whilst there is no evidence of ownership at the Land Registry this does not categorically mean it is not owned by a third party. The PC will consult with the PCC and FVAT as there are concerns over the land ownership.

9. CLERK'S UPDATE

A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration (not already noted). The PC received complaints regarding about middle of the night traffic and suspicion of anti-social behaviour. The vehicles do not appear to stay long and then speed up Mill Lane. Discussions have taken place with the police who will visit the area and have asked for information on the vehicles to enable them to visit and discuss. Cllr Chris Holz will discuss with the Borough Council to look at whether CCTV can be installed.

B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence Received. The Clerk had emailed WCC to find out why the new VAS machines and white gates had not been installed at either entrance to the village on the B4090. The Officer is on leave. Cllr Clayton advised he would ask Cllr Warhurst to follow up.

C. Schedule of Correspondence Sent (not already noted) None

10. PROGRESS REPORTS

- A. Feckenham Flooding. The next planned works will look at diverting the water off the road at Poplars Lane through to Swansbrook.
- B. Feckenham Orchard. No Update.
- C. Planning issues and Redditch Borough Council: The PC recently complained to the Borough Council using their complaints procedure one and two. The Borough Council responded stating the Department had acted correctly with regards to their planning decisions. The PC discussed the next available options. One of which is to submit the case to the planning Ombudsman for them to investigate. Discussions regarding the specific planning application and to its suitability for referral took place. A motion was made to approve that a report be prepared. This would then be circulated to all

Councillors and then brought back to the committee to discuss the possible submission to the Ombudsman. Four parish councillors voted in favour of this, subject to the PC agreeing with a full report detailing all issues.

Cllr Alan Smith voted against these actions as he believed it was not beneficial to the PC or the Parish at this time to do so.

As the majority voted in favour of the report, it will be compiled and sent to all councillors to study. It will then be decided at the next parish council meeting whether to submit it to the Ombudsman.

- D. Feckenham in Bloom: Working Party: Four replacement trees have been ordered to replace the trees planted for the late Queen's jubilee. Advice has been sought to ensure the trees have the best chance of surviving and flourishing. It was suggested FIB purchase water bags, like ones on the village square which were found to be helpful. Bulbs will also be ordered for Church Wal along with trellis and climbing plants.
- E. Village White Gates and Bench (FIB). The VAS and White Gates have been installed on Astwood Lane. The B4090 has not been included.
- F. Reformed CALC meetings. The PC will attend the CALC AGM on the 26th of September at Pershore.
- G. To propose a replacement notice board. Agreed at July meeting but has been delayed due to lack of time and covid.
- H. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy for Worcestershire Consultation exercise. A meeting took place the 29th of August. There will be four spaces designed for EV Charging units. The initial plans were not suitable as they blocked the disabled entrance into the village hall. Following representation from the Council and village hall, the location will be changed.
- I. Traffic Meeting/ Speed Reduction Measures. Meeting postponed until 25/10/24.
- J. Update on Round Hill Solar Farm Project. No updates.

K & L Innova, Statkraft and Immersa BESS applications: The costs of BESS units are falling, and it is thought Developers are hoping to purchase the units at a lower price. Gresham the main supplier of these units made a huge loss. Private equity firms involved may be more wary of going forward with their investments. This may explain the delay with Immersa and Stakraft. Innova have not yet submitted their application. Statkraft's planning permission expires in January 2025.

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 10th October 2024 at Feckenham Village Hall.

All welcome to attend.