

Feckenham Parish Council

Thursday 10th of July 2025

Draft Minutes.

In-attendance: Cllr Alan Smith (Chair), Cllr Ian Bellion, Cllr Erica Guise, Cllr Karen Reynolds, Cllr Jacqui Barrett-Meade, Cllr Brandon Clayton (RBC), Cllr Roger Bennett (WCC), Cllr Sue Eacock (WCC), Michael H (PCSO West Merica Police) and Jane Bull, Clerk to FPC.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Paul Downes (FPC- accepted reason), Cllr Rob Oaten (FPC-accepted reason), Cllr Craig Warhurst (RBC), Cllr Chris Hoyz (RBC).

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 26th June 25. The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT. Cllr Roger Bennett advised WCC were looking at potential sites for more housing around Hunt End, Love Lyne Lane, and Bredon Hill areas. This has not been decided; however, Cllr Bennett will oppose the scheme if it is selected as much is around single-track lanes. It could be in the region of up to two thousand homes.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT. Cllr Brandon Clayton said Redditch were advertising for land developers to get in touch about possible housing schemes. Redditch itself has little remaining land. Decisions will be made by the Borough later in the year. The six district councils have voted on Unitary Councils and whether there should be one covering all of Worcestershire or two doing a north / south divide. Three councils voted for two including Redditch. Wyre Forrest and Worcester City voted for one, and Wychavon was undecided. The Borough Council have huge concerns about the Adult social care bill, and feel it is more costly in the South than the North, they will meet again 4th September and send their application to central government. Central gov will have the final say. The government want this in place before the end of their term of office in 2028/9.

Cllr Clayton asked Cllr Bennett to look into the possibility of a traffic island at the corner of the High Street, Droitwich Road, and The Lygon. Although this has been considered previously, he felt WCC should consider this again. The PCSO in attendance agreed to look at West Mercia data for the area.

6.OPEN FORUM

The Parish Council meeting will be suspended for 15 minutes. Residents are invited to give their views and question to 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 given since last meeting: None.

For Council Consideration: 25/00628/FUL Grenergy. The PC had received copies of the objection. All in agreement to oppose the Grenergy site. Cllr Alan Smith will submit this the Borough Council.

b. RBC Approvals:

c. RBC Refusals: None.

d. RBC Pending:

24/01057/scop Innova Renewables Ltd. scoping opinion.

23/00192/FUL. Cross Boundary application for W/23/00270/FUL, Roundhill Solar Farm

23/01308/FUL. about the Land at Rockhill Lane, Astwood Lane. Roundhill Solar Farm.

W/23/00270/FUL. Roundhill Solar Farm (Wychavon Planning Authority).

25/00628/FUL Grenergy BESS.

21/00249/FUL. Land North of Droitwich Road.

24/00604/FUL 43 Alcester Road for a Domestic garage to front of main property and associated landscaping work.

25/00527/PIP Alders Court, Green Lane. Planning Committee hearing 17/7/25.

24/00538/FUL Access on land south of Astwood Lane

25/00593/FUL Q21 Old Yarr- Excavation of Bank.

e. RBC Withdrawn: 23/00417/FUL. Immersa BESS Development.

f. RBC Appeals: 23/01332/FUL Redditch Golf Club.

g. RBC Permission Required: None.

8. FINANCE

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.

9. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

a. To consider funding village storage facility @ £130.00 (postponed from 12th June 25). The Chair advised he would be reimbursing the Wake account by using his chairman's allowance. All in agreement.

b. Further details on costs should the PC agree to ask for professional help on strengthening planning comments in view of Government increase of housing targets. The PC resolved in some instances more help would be helpful when commenting on larger planning applications. A local planning company maybe available to lend support to some applications. The company details would be made known in both the minutes and payment lists. A charge of £100 per hour has been discussed. The Chair will go back to his source to confirm this is acceptable. Concerns were voiced about successful applications in the parish made by the same local planning company therefore would it not increase customers asking them to represent them. It was agreed another planning company would charge in excess of £100ph but it may be worth asking Stansgate at Stratford upon Avon for a quote. The final decision will be made at the next meeting. It was also agreed for the Parish to engage with a housing needs survey. First quote by Community First being £828.20. The clerk will endeavour to obtain a further two quotes.

c. To decide upon Parish feedback to future development within Redditch. It was agreed by the PC the Chair would make a request based on the feelings of the parish and PC to request a separate Feckenham page in the new Redditch local plan. A request for an SPD (special planning design) which might include new houses must have solar panels and battery storage for electric cars as the individual could then down the energy when cheap to their own battery. This would remove the need for BESS sites. The PC will design the questions, and the clerk will ask the SLCC for advice and Worcs calc. The ballot paper will be sent out to all in the parish and can be returned online or by completing the voting slip. Each Cllr will be expected to add their own question to the HNS. There will be housing applications in Feckenham as Redditch needs to build nearly 4,000 homes before the next election.

c. Grenergy (25/00628/FUL) BESS application. To agree or change wording prior to submission to the planning department. The PC agreed

to the paper written by Dr Chris Ford. It will be submitted to the Borough Council.

d. Feedback from Shape Worcestershire on 7th July and agree/change Parish feedback.

Unfortunately, neither the Chair nor Clerk were able to attend the recent meeting on the 7th July. The consultation has now been closed. The PC had struggled to understand exactly what they were being consulted on.

10. CLERK'S UPDATE

A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration (not already noted). The clerk had attended two meetings via WCC calc and Works Calc. They had suggested tree inspections should now be every 18 months rather than 2 years. Cllr Bellion will speak to the insurance company.

B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence Received (not already noted).

C. Schedule of Correspondence Sent (not already noted)

11. PROGRESS REPORTS

- a) Worcestershire Wildlife Trust- No Update.
- b) Update on Round Hill Solar Farm Project. No Update.
- c) Boom Power BESS Facility. No Update.
- d) Feedback from Feckenham Energy Action Group. Next meeting 14th July
- e) Progress on WCC pension application. The clerk is applying for a local gov pension but will not go ahead with it. This is to satisfy the Pension Regulator.
- f) FVAT update. Fun on the square in July. Fvat has a new vice-Chair and treasurer Chris Bristow.
- g) Feckenham Flooding. Update. Date of next meeting 5th September. It is hoped NWWM will have an update as to cost and timeline.
- h) Feckenham in Bloom: Working Party: Two trees have been damaged looks like they have been strimmed above the height of the tree guards. Some plants have also been damaged in Church Walk. The group are managing to water all plants, trees etc. The clerk will write to the Borough Council about the strimming.
- i) Update on Bridge repairs on B4090. No update. Cllr Bennett with speak to Tony for an update.
- j) Update on adding Feckenham Digital Archive and Feckenham Archaeology to FPC website. The clerk will request extra pages from the website developer.

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 11th September 2025 at Feckenham Village Hall. It is likely this date will be changed due to holidays. **Please check the PC website for an update.**

Public forum:

One member of public attended and commented which was the lesser of two evils: more housing or more BESS developments.

The PC shared their thoughts it could be both although three BESS developments have now withdrawn. It is highly likely there will be more housing, but the decisions will be made by central government. There were comments about a group of young people who were on the village square at 1.45am creating noise the previous Sunday morning.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.