

Feckenham Parish Council

Ordinary Meeting.

Thursday 13th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Back Room Village Hall.

In attendance: Cllr Ian Bellion (Vice-Chair), Cllr Erica Guise, Cllr Karen Reynolds, Cllr Rob Oaten, Cllr Jacqui Barrett- Meade, WCC Cllr Sue Eacock, WCC Cllr Roger Bennett, RBC Cllr Craig Warhurst, and RBC Cllr Chris Hoyz.

Cllr Bellion was elected to chair the meeting. All in favour.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Paul Downes, Cllr Alan Smith (accepted reason), and Cllr Brandon Clayton (RBC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS: None.

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 October 25. Agreed as a true representation of the meeting. All in favour.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT. Cllr Bennett advised the WCC had met and formally adopted to have one Unitary Council rather than a north south divide. This will be presented to Audit and Governance (WCC) on the 18/11/25, then sent to Cabinet and then on to Government for their final decision. The Government decision will be announced in Spring 2027. It was felt there was insufficient information on these changes made decisions more difficult.

Cllr Bennett is aware of a vandalised VAS sign in Astwood Bank. He has also, (following a recent PACT meeting with the police) visited local companies following complaints received about speeding commercial traffic.

Cllr Bennett enquired if there were any updates about Moors Lane. The PC said they had given a grant of £5,000 and Cllr Warhurst advised the WCC Cllrs had given £3,000 towards improving the surface but no works have been undertaken.

Cllr Bennett remind the parish council the WCC Councillors were in possession of monies which could be used towards costs of flood works.

Cllr Eacock has been in contact with Worcestershire on demand bus service urging them to include Feckenham. Cllr Eacock is also following up Healthy Worcestershire sessions in Feckenham.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT. Cllr Warhurst said the information regarding local government reorganisation was provided just before Christmas 2024 with a return date of Jan

2025 which gave little time for all considerations. Redditch felt two Unitary Councils would be their preferred choice. Cllr Hoyz reported there was still no added information about any changes to parish councils under Unitary Authorities. Cllr Hoyz reported the locations of potential building had not been released as yet but it was understood the call for land had not yielded high results. It is likely the projects will be 79% Webheath, 15% Astwood Bank and 3% Feckenham. Neither the figures nor locations have been confirmed.

Cllr Warhurst said he had raised a formal complaint to the CEO at the Borough Council about the length of time involved in planning decisions in Feckenham, Astwood Bank and outlying areas.

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: 25/01058/FUL. Badgers Cottage. It was agreed by all the PC not to enter a comment.

b. RBC Approvals: 25/00984/FUL Parklands Care Home. Noted.

c. RBC Refusals: None.

d. RBC Pending:

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).

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

25/00628/FUL Grenergy BESS.

25/00888/FUL Wheaten Hill. 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.

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

e. RBC Withdrawn: None.

f. RBC Appeals: None.

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. **Parish flood works and costs.** The PC were concerned following the last flood meeting that the funding may no longer be available. Cllr Warhurst was unaware of this change and requested along with the WCC Councillors to organise another meeting to discuss further. The PC were led to believe the funding had been available, but the Environment Agency have said it is unlikely they can fund. It was agreed the earlier works including the culvert on Swansbrook Lane had helped the flooding, but more work was needed. This may affect the parish council precept demand.
- b. **Initial Precept discussion.** It was agreed to defer the discussions until the next meeting. All in favour.
- c. **To agree amounts of reserves to deposit into higher interest accounts and select provider.** The PC chose to transfer monies to another financial institution which could pay increased interest. The PC chose to have a 45-day notice account with Hinckley and Rugby Building society.
- d. **To discuss Feckenham in Bloom Terms of Reference.** The terms of referenced were agreed and all in favour.
- e. **VCS applications open for Main Grants pot: FIB or another village organisation.** [VCS applications open for Main Grants pot](#) It was agreed Feckenham in Bloom would apply for a grant to help with installing water tap near to the village square for watering purposes. The PC will approach The Square Management Committee before accepting a grant (if it is successful) to ensure all parties are satisfied with arrangements. All in agreement.
- f. **To agree / not agree on Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration Edition 14 at a cost of £144 plus postage.** Purchase agreed by all.
- g. **To agree / not agree on appointing Ruth Mullett as internal auditor for 2025-2026 accounts.** It was agreed to ask Ruth to continue as the IA for Feckenham. All in favour.
- h. **ELANCITY-UK - Warranty Extension UK1045.** The PC agreed not to take on the warranties for the VAS machines due to the prohibitive costs. Money will be set aside in the budget to pay for repairs.
- i. **Website, email, and planning option £489.60 inc vat.** Agreed to continue with the current provider Parish Council Websites. Payment approved

- j. **To agree dates for 2026 parish council meetings.** Dates agreed.

10. CLERK'S UPDATE

A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration (not already noted). The PC had received initial confirmation they had been awarded a grant to help with the Planning Consultant costs. The amount of the grant was not yet known. Feckenham in Bloom have also been awarded a grant, again the amount unknown. The PC have been advised there will be a police officer covering Feckenham. His name is PC Matt Hunt. It is hoped he will attend one of the meetings.

B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence Received (not already noted). None.

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

11. PROGRESS REPORTS

- a. **Planning Consultant for larger applications for homes within Feckenham.** See 11B.
- b. **Parish Neighbourhood Plan.** The PC are due to meet with the Planning Consultant on the 17th November to look at the village on foot and a zoom call is booked for 25th November with Redditch Borough Council.
- c. **Housing Needs Survey.** Surveys have been received in the village and the PC understands Community First are starting to receive completed forms. The survey was a pre-cautionary measure to ask the parish where they would be happy to see developments and an idea on the type of homes. A third party is conducting it to avoid any perceived bias. A complaint had been received from a parishioner regarding the security of the survey. The complainant was concerned that there was potential for duplicate entries and for entries from outside the Parish. It was agreed by all to write to the Parishioner to explain the process and the precautions which had been taken.
- d. **Copyright Planning Objections.** Resumes of the last two detailed objections can be found on the parish council website.
- e. **Volunteer Parish Path Warden.** The current path warden has agreed he will deal with any urgent issues for a limited time whilst the role is advertised.
- f. **Project Gigabit.** Residents are contacting open reach as the PC understands. The project was detailed in the November Feckenham News.
- g. **Healthy Worcestershire.** See WCC Councillor reports.
- h. **Unitary Authority.** See WCC Councillor reports.
- i. **Update on Round Hill Solar Farm Project.** No Update.
- j. **Boom Power BESS Facility.** No Update.
- k. **Innova BESS application.** No Update.
- l. **Feedback from Feckenham Energy Action Group.** A meeting is due to take place 26 November.
- m. **FVAT update.** The annual meeting will take place after the next PC meeting on the 11th December.
- n. **Update on Bridge repairs on B4090.** No Update.

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.

The PC requested an agenda item for December to consider the Moors Lane grant as no works on the lane appear to have been started.

DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

7:30pm on 11th December 2026 at Feckenham Village Hall.

All welcome to attend.

Public Forum

There were two members of public in attendance.

The first questions were about the planned flood works and what they would entail. A discussion took place on updating the parishioner about earlier flood works and what works are needed to make more improvements.

The second member of public attended as they were concerned the recent housing needs survey could be misused by people outside of the village and give a significant bias to the results.