

NOTICE OF MEETING

Feckenham Parish Council

Back Room Village Hall.

Thursday 2nd April at 7.45pm for the purpose

In- attendance: Cllr Alan Smith (Chair), Cllr Ian Bellion (Vice-chair), Cllr Erica Guise, Cllr Karen Reynolds, Cllr Jacqui Barrett-Meade, Cllr Rob Oaten. Cllr Sue Eacock (WCC), Jo Monk (WCC leader of the council), and Jane Bull, clerk to FPC.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Paul Downes, Cllr Craig Warhurst (RBC), Cllr Chris Hoyz (RBC) Cllr Roger Bennett (WCC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

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 5th March 26. The minutes were agreed and accepted as a true representation of the meeting.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT. Cllr Eacock advised she was hopeful the community on demand bus would be available to Feckenham residents. Cllr Eacock requested the emails regarding the parish path warden and lack of training to be forwarded to her. Cllr Eacock and Cllr Bennett will speak with WCC to see if anything can be done.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT. Cllr Clayton advised there is a pre-application for Arrow Valley Solar project by Island Green Power. Due to the size of the planned works the planning decisions will be made by central government. The actual application is outside of the parish but will need the cables/pipe works connected at Feckenham. If approved the construction would take place in 28/29 and likely to go online from 2031. The parish council has concerns the battery element or BESS may be within the Parish. It is thought the government are likely to approve the project. It is likely the parish will be inconvenienced with additional traffic for a long period of time. It is thought the application will be granted by government.

The Borough Council elections will now be taking place in May 2026.

The “call for sites” should be announced in late June which will tell us which sites have been put forward as suitable for new homes. Once the land has been designated as suitable for homes it will remain open for housing. If Redditch falls short of its target it may be possible for them to go to adjoining councils under “duty to adopt” and ask them to provide land for building.

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.

No members of public in attendance.

7. PLANNING.

Planning comments given since last meeting: 25/000018/CM Land off Saltway (Worcestershire Regulatory Services). The PC objected to the planning application. For full details please see the website of FPC or WRS website.

For Council Consideration 26/00091/FUL Q21 The Cottage, Trickses Lane. The PC elected to lodge an objection to the application on the grounds it is an inappropriate development within the greenbelt.

b. RBC Approvals: 26/00038/PIP Land adjacent to Yeates Acre- Up to 2 dwellings.

c. RBC Refusals:

d. RBC Pending:

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

25/00628/FUL Greenergy 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.

25/01232/LBC & 25/01231/FUL Old Berrow Farm.

26/00039/PIP Land adjacent to Rockhill Farm- Up to 5 dwellings.

e. RBC Withdrawn:

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. The PC agreed to accept the reconciliation report and transaction report.

9. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

A. To consider adoption of revised Financial Regulations (March 25) as per NALC revisions.

The PC agreed to readopt the 2025 Financial regulations.

A. To note 31ST March 2026 finance figures. See attached print out. The PC noted and elected to adopt the reconciliation figures and in agreement.

- B. **To consider the financial risk assessment of 2026 - 2027.** The PC agreed to adopt the financial risk assessment.
- C. **To review March 2026 asset register.** The PC agreed the details of the asset register for 2026-27.
- D. **To agree on the 2026 to 2027 annual budget.** The PC agreed the annual budget preparations and adopted the budget for 2026-27.
- E. **To review Feckenham scheme of Biodiversity.** The PC readopted Feckenham's scheme of biodiversity.
- F. **To consider adopting said motion "Ensuring an Influential Role for Parish/Town Councils in Neighbourhood Governance"** and include submitting NALC's suggested template to Chris Bloore MP. The PC agreed to email Chris Bloore MP and adopt the above motion.
- G. **To discuss the annual litter pick.** It was agreed to hold the village litter pick from 12-2 on Saturday 16th May. For details please do contact the clerk.
- H. **Astwood Lane Community Speed Watch.** Safer Roads have recently conducted more speed checks on Astwood lane. The results now show a reduction which means should there be volunteers community speed watch could become a reality. The clerk will contact the neighbourhood policing team.
- I. **Arrow Valley solar. (Island Green Power IGP)** The Chair will speak with Dr Chris Ford who has previously helped the PC form their objections to BESS proposals.

10. CLERK'S UPDATE

- A. Schedule of Correspondence for Consideration (not already noted). As the Borough council elections will now take place on 7th May the PC will check for the next available Thursday and rearrange the PC meeting.
- B. Schedule of Tabled Correspondence Received (not already noted).
- C. Schedule of Correspondence Sent (not already noted).

11. PROGRESS REPORTS

- a) **Flood works and Highways.** The next meeting will take place 24th April.
- b) **Parish Neighbourhood Plan.** The PC has asked the planning department to consider adding Feckenham as a separate page to the New Local Plan using the report commissioned by the PC which has been sent to the Borough Council. A decision is awaited. It is thought WCC will accept local plans without redoing them.
- c) **To open a higher interest account.**
This will be done as soon as time allows. It will be within financial planning guidelines.

d) Initial discussion on potential Community Project at the Winfield's site.

There will be an introductory meeting arranged for Thursday 5th Feb at 7pm. The PC agreed to arrange a parish meeting purely to give the village a chance to come together, discuss and exchange details with the current owner. The PC is purely arranging the meeting and is not involved in any commercial activity with either Winfield's or any other parties. It must be noted this is a commercial arrangement and anyone/organisation is urged to seek legal advice. No Updates.

e) WCC Highways- Planning Department to request HGV's and other large vehicles do not use the High Street for access.

The PC have asked for the Highways planning Team to attend the next Highways / Flood meeting on 24th April 26.

f) Website specific page on BESS /Solar information.

The website developer has been asked to create a separate page. Awaiting contact from Website provider.

g) Website specific page for FVAT (Feckenham Village Amenity Trust).

h) The website developer has been asked to create a separate page.

i) **Volunteer Parish Path Warden. The parish are pleased to announce a potential volunteer has come forward but there appears to be an issue with arranging their training with WCC.** Paul F has kindly agreed to help out until the training is arranged.

j) **Project Gigabit.** No update.

k) **Healthy Worcestershire.** Cllr Eacock advised there may be an update after April.

l) **Unitary Authority.** No update.

m) **Boom Power BESS Facility.** No update.

n) **Innova BESS scop application.** The Borough Council advised there was no live planning application at this time.

o) **Feedback from Feckenham Energy Action Group.** Next meeting 20th April.

p) **Feckenham Emergency Plan.** To meet 22nd April.

q) **Jislon Satellite and Milestone Islands. To consider improving visibility of the satellites due to discolouration.** The parish has purchased the replacement covers. WCC liaison engineer has requested one cover be sent to him to see if WCC Staff can fit. The clerk has emailed requesting an address to send out a cover.

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 14th May 2026 at Feckenham Village Hall.

All welcome to attend.