

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 2nd April 2026, 7.30pm.

Back Room, Feckenham Village Hall.

This is the annual meeting for Feckenham electors to discuss parish matters.

**Agenda:**

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

**2. Minutes from last meeting** (5th March 2026) The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting.

**Chair's Report.**

3. Another year passes us by during which the Parish Council has been remarkably busy. Legislation and compliance have significantly affected the cost of running the parish council, as has the need to instruct energy and planning consultants to act on our behalf. We have only been able to undertake these matters by increasing the precept, this current year by 10 %. The Council is now in a position to act on planning applications relating to the significant housing and Energy sites as a result of this decision. We have also been able to enable the flood alleviation works to Astwood Lane

**Energy Applications.**

The good news, three major applications for BESS storage sites have been withdrawn by their applicants. However, there are two major applications currently with the Planning Department, Boom Energy at Wheaton Hill and Grenergy, on the Saltway. The PC has submitted detailed objections to both of these applications via our Energy Consultant Dr. Christopher Ford.

**The New Local Plan for the borough of Redditch**

At the time of writing the Local planning Authority has undertaken a "call for sites" in order to try and assess how they are going to provide 8500 homes by 2040. It would be foolish to think that Feckenham will escape this need, and that land will be allocated for residential development. We will be prepared to act on the views of the parishioners, if and when this happens.

**Unitary Authority**

As all will be aware the government have decreed that our area will become unitary. At the time of writing, we are still unaware as to whether this will be a single or dual Authorities. We are led to believe that this should be decided in June / July this year.

Once that has been decided elections for shadow councillors will take place in May 2027. The Shadow Council will take control in May 2028, at which time The borough of Redditch will no longer exist.

At the time of writing our understanding is that parish councils will remain and may or may not be given additional responsibilities.

As part of this process the parish council instructed a “housing need survey,” which has been submitted to the LPA.

### **Flood alleviation Astwood / Swansbrook Lane**

A scheme for flood alleviation has now been prepared, costed, and funding obtained. Funding from the PC it has enabled additional funding to be obtained to undertake the work. We are now awaiting the final consent from the landowner for works to commence.

### **Highways**

The Parish Council are currently in talks with the highway’s authority regarding routing of HGVs through the village. This a constant problem which will only be exacerbated should any of the possible energy planning applications gain consent.

### **Additional Parking provision**

In conjunction with our local council representatives, we had hoped to provide additional parking spaces to the existing public car park. Unfortunately, the planning department failed to support the application, and this is now unlikely to happen, at least in the near future.

### **Community Transport Scheme**

Discussions are on going with WCC to bring community transport to Feckenham, this would be in addition to “Dial a Ride,” which is already available.

### **Feckenham in Bloom**

The Feckenham in Bloom group continue to conduct sterling work enhancing the village, our thanks must go to them for all their hard work.

### **Grants**

During the past year, the parish council has awarded grants to.

Feckenham Wake, FABSSS and Feckenham Village Amenity Trust.

**4. Redditch Borough Councillor Report.** Cllr Clayton reported the Borough Council elections will now be going ahead in May 26.

**5. Worcestershire County Councillor Report.** Cllr Jo Monk (Leader of WCC) attended the annual parish meeting. The results of how Worcestershire unitary authority should

be announced in July 2026. Cllr Eacock advised she would be meeting with Tony and Roger regarding Sillins Lane, Bentley just within Feckenham regarding flooding.

6. Open Forum. No public in attendance.

7. Residents may comment on agenda items or bring new issues for future consideration Not applicable.

Alan Smith

Chair of FPC

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

DRAFT