

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of annual meeting of the Parish Council – 18 June 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: C Walker (Chair), A Edwards-Heathcote, J Lamperd, M Wall and County Councillor Wilkinson. Parish Clerk/RFO: N Lowe. Public in attendance: Zero.

Residents didn't raise any issues before the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr Henderson. The Council accepted his apologies.

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 21 May 2026

Were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting proceedings and signed. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Wall.

3. Matters to Report

30 MPH Sign, Lumley Lane

Highways have advised that all speed limits are subject to a legally binding Traffic Regulation Order. To extend any limits, a full review of the location is required, followed by a public consultation if the location is deemed suitable.

The residents' query has been forwarded to the Traffic Engineering team, who will review it further and then contact the Parish Council. The Clerk will email County Councillor Wilkinson.

Slurry Tankers

The Council have been informed that the tankers travelling through the villages have been for agriculture purposes.

Black Horse Planning Application

The Parish Council have not officially been told if the Black Horse Planning Application will be heard by the Strategic Planning Committee, although it has called for by Cllr Wilkinson.

If the planning goes to the Strategic Planning Committee. North Yorkshire Council operates a scheme for public speaking. Normally the following people can speak at planning committee in relation to any specific application on the agenda:

- **speaker representing the applicant,**
- **speaker representing the objectors,**
- **parish council representative and**
- **local Division Councillor.**

Each speaker has a maximum of five minutes to put their case. If you wish to register to speak through this scheme, you must register with the Democratic Services Officer supporting this meeting by midday, 3 working days before the meeting takes place.

Village sign on Lowfields Lane

The wonky sign has been levelled up and the surrounding long grass strimmed.

4. Burial Grounds

a. Parish Cemetery

The grass cutter will leave the area at the back of the Parish Cemetery to grow out. The Council will continue to monitor the mole situation.

b. St Mary's Churchyard

There is no further news.

c. St Andrew's Churchyard

There is no further news on the sale of St Andrew's Churchyard. The owner has visited and cut the grass on a number of occasions recently. The Council have been told that the fence around St Andrew's needs to remain for insurance purposes.

5. Correspondence

YLCA Training (0106/26), YLCA Weekly News and Notifications (0206/26), Parish Liaison notices (0306/26), Additional RAF Flying Leeming (0406/26), The Chapel, Great Fencote (0506/26), NALC Events (0606/26).

These were all circulated via email.

Changes to planning systems and potential impact

In order to become a more efficient and provide a consistent customer service across the whole of North Yorkshire, North Yorkshire Council are currently aligning their systems and processes for dealing with planning applications. This will involve numerous changes that will impact both the Parish Council and residents. The Clerk will notify residents of the changes via InfoNet.

Traffic Lights, Low Street

The lights on Low Street have periodically ceased working. County Councillor Wilkinson updated the Council that at present, 'Development control' have not yet received an updated programme from the developer confirming the frequency of deliveries to the site. As such, the temporary signals remain in place to ensure that safe access to and from the site is maintained, which continues to be the primary consideration.

Measures are now in place to reduce the risk of the signals failing again. 'Development control' will continue to liaise with the developer and will provide a further update once more detailed information on delivery schedules and the anticipated duration of the traffic management is available.

6. Finance

a. It was resolved to pay the following, and the payments were signed accordingly:

Chq	Amount	Payee	Service
BACS		N Lowe	Clerk's wages for June
BACS	£364.80	CE & CM Walker	Parish Grasscutting - Inv 26071
BACS	£58.40	HMRC	6 May to 5 June month 2 PAYE bill 2026 to 2027

This was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Edwards-Heathcote.

b. Income:

Parish savings account has received £52.85 in interest.

c. End of Financial Year Matters 2025/26:

i. To certify Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council as exempt from external audit

The Council agreed that they met the exemption criteria.

ii. Note the Annual Internal Audit Report

This was received and noted by the Parish Council.

The internal auditor informed the Council that they will no longer be able to complete the internal audit in future years. The Parish Council all thanked the auditor for their work over the last few years. The Council will look for a new auditor in due course.

iii. To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement

The Council acknowledges they have met their responsibilities for the following statements: 1 – 8 and 10 and the council acknowledges that statement 9 is none applicable.

The annual Governance Statement was approved. This was signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Clerk.

iv. To approve Section 2 - Accounting Statements

The annual Accounting Statement was approved. These were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Clerk.

v. To approve the publication of documents required by Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, The Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

The Parish Council will publish the annual documents on the public website.

The dates for the period of the exercise of Public Rights and Publication of unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return were set as Tuesday, 23 June to Monday 03 August 2026.

It was agreed that the Notice of the Period of Public Rights would be placed on the notice boards and accompanied by a note to say that full financial information would be on the website.

7. Planning

a. Applications

ZB26/00869/FUL: Replacement of existing dutch barn with new agricultural building to be used for livestock and storage.

Location: Green Gate Farm, Lumley Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton.

Applicant: Mr Heathcote.

Cllr Edwards-Heathcote made a declaration of interest in this planning application and withdrew from the discussions.

The Parish Council agreed that they have no comments or objections.

ZB26/00563/FUL: Planning application for the construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with associated infrastructure, access and landscaping.

Location: OS Field 7823, Fence Dike Lane, Scruton, North Yorkshire.

Applicant: Janco Dreyer.

The planning officer has extended the consultation period until 08 July 2026 for the battery storage application.

The Council will organise a meeting with Scruton Parish Councillors to discuss the application. The Council will coordinate a response to the application. The details will be agreed by all councillors through a series of email reviews of a draft. It was agreed that the primary areas of concern to be developed in the draft will include:

- Development should not be on good quality arable land
- Question why the site needs to be in this location
- Visual impact
- Impact of noise from equipment on nearby residents
- Fire risk, particularly risk of thermal runaway
- Adequacy of the water storage tank to deal with large scale fire
- Pollution risks from fire - airborne, into surrounding land and into watercourses
- Transport issues due to narrow single track Fence Dike lane
- Limiting of loss of hedgerows and trees
- Others as become clear through the review and liaison period

b. Outcomes

ZB26/00563/FUL: Change of use of an existing summer house to a dog grooming room and run a dog grooming business on a part-time basis.

Location: 13 Lumley Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Applicant: Mrs Lesley Bottomley

The planning application was granted.

8. Community Transport and Social Care

Community Transport

The Harbus Committee met on 28 May to discuss current and future bus service requirements. Representatives from both North Yorkshire Council and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority attended.

The Combined Authority provided an update on its approach to the future provision of bus services across York and North Yorkshire. This includes exploring the potential introduction of a franchising model, replacing the current system of individually contracted services, with the Combined Authority assuming greater financial responsibility and risk.

It was noted that North Yorkshire Council has, for the time being, been tasked with overseeing the day-to-day operation of bus services within its area.

Social Care

Outing No. 15 on 25 June is now fully booked. The trip will include visits to Helmsley Walled Garden, Helmsley, and Helmsley Castle, with lunch included in the itinerary.

Planning for the 1 October outing is at an advanced stage. The proposed programme includes a visit to The Auckland Project, followed by lunch and a visit to Binchester Roman Fort. Further details will be announced in due course.

It was also reported that future social care events are being planned in partnership with Hambleton Community Action following a period of reduced activity over recent months.

9. Any Other Business

Trees

The Councillors agreed for the Clerk to instruct a local resident arborist to both crown lift and remove the epicormic growth around the base of the trees for those trees situated around the Parish village greens. To allow people and mechanical grass mowers to pass safely underneath and will endeavour to have this done before the date of the Feast.

Footpath

The Parish Council are still exploring the option of a footpath from The Close to the Village Hall. The plan would be to reinstate the footpath.

The meeting closed at 9:14 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 16 July 2026.