

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of meeting – Monday 15 February 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mr Jones, Mr Walker, Mrs Herbert, Mrs Edwards-Heathcote, Mr Lamperd, North Yorkshire Councillor Wilkinson and 3 residents.

Bus Shelter

Residents confirmed that they fully support the repair of the bus stop on Kirkby Fleetham village green however they are against the replacement of the pantiles and stone ridges with concrete tiles and ridges.

The local community has a petition with a significant number of signatures requesting the Parish Council to reuse and source old pantiles and stone ridges instead of using modern concrete tiles in keeping with the village. The petition was handed over to the Parish Council who agreed to formally acknowledge receipt in writing.

1. Apologies

None

- 2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 15 January 2024** were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting proceedings and signature agreed upon.

Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Edwards-Heathcote.

3. Matters to Report

The Close

Broadacres has confirmed it accepts responsibility for cleaning and that a job has been raised for cleaning the road edging but it will not be done immediately as it's not a day-to-day job.

Community Emergency Plan

The Community Emergency Plan has been printed and the Clerk will email a copy to the Emergency Department at North Yorkshire Council.

Noticeboard

The high winds ripped the front panel off the Great Fencote noticeboard due to the top lock not being secured. The front panel has been refitted and the lock fixed.

Defibrillator funding from the Department of Health and Social Care

The Councillors agreed funding from the Department of Health and Social Care wasn't a viable option. The Clerk will contact the Stronger Communities team at North Yorkshire Council to enquire about available grants.

A site for a new defibrillator has been identified, the Clerk will write to the homeowner to seek permission.

Highways

The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended the hosted meeting by Highways to discuss the closure of bridges over the River Swale and the associated closure of the A684. A question and answer session took place between the affected Parishes and Highways. Highways intends to create a holistic plan and ideas to mitigate issues in the future. Management of the River Swale is with The Environment Agency and there are no plans for measures to prevent overflow of the river at this site. Much discussion took place on ensuring prompt and effective reporting to all affected communities.

Cllr Jones created an InfoNet article with guidance on how residents can report potholes following the increased traffic in the Parish following the associated road closures.

The Parish Council requested some curative work be conducted on the narrow lanes that link Station Road, Scruton with Langton Bridge. The roads were very heavily utilised to secure access over the River Swale with the closing of the A684 recently.

The Highway Officer who carried out the inspections arranged for a sweeper to sweep the carriageway between Scruton and Great Fencote and the work was completed on Monday, 29th January. This was the only section of the road that was deemed to meet their criteria for sweeping on inspection.

Jetting works to road gullies were completed on Fleetham Lane where there was some flooding, further action is needed here due to the build of silt in the system and this will be resolved when the "big jetter" is available next and Highways can't carry out this work until Yorkshire Water are finished on Low Street.

The Officer advised that there are plans to further inspect the gullies in Kirkby Fleetham and on Low Street to Langton Bridge and he will do this as soon as the weather settles down so he can judge the silt levels in the system.

4. Burial Grounds

a) Parish Cemetery

The Council plans to level the existing molehills and the waste soil will be used to re-level the sunken grave.

The Cemetery noticeboard has been removed. Due to the lack of use, the locks have seized up. Cllr Walker will review repair options and alternative costs of purchasing a new noticeboard.

b) St Mary's Churchyard

Dales of Thirsk has been to look at the state of the potentially unsafe memorial and reported a slight lean forward and a small wobble from the headstone to the base. The Councillors agreed for Dales of Thirsk to cement (tube Vinylester adhesive) and lead wedge the joint to stop the wobble for £55 plus VAT.

c) St Andrew's Churchyard

The Clerk has contacted North Yorkshire Council to inform them of the mole infestation.

The planned sale of the St Andrew's church is scheduled for completion in April/May. The History Group, Dales of Thirsk and the Church met to discuss the relocation of headstones. An interpretation board will be created and placed in an accessible part of the churchyard, explaining and detailing the headstones that have been moved.

The Font will be sealed and removed from the Church and placed in a publicly accessible part of the churchyard.

5. Correspondence

NALC Chief Executives Bulletins (0102/24), Urban grass cutting 24/25 Kirkby Fleetham with Fencote (0202/24), The Rural Bulletins (0302/24), NYC bulletins (0402/24), White Rose Updates (0502/24), Training E-Bulletins (0602/24), A684 Morton Flatts - Road Closed (0702/24), Village Bus Service Route 54 (0802/24), YLCA Information Bulletin (0902/24), Morton on Swale A684 - NOW OPEN (1002/24), YLCA Law and Governance Bulletin (1102/24), The Rural Bulletins (1202/24), A684 Morton on Swale Bridge - OPEN (1302/24), SW-19140-Station Road, Scruton (1402/24), BBC news story on abuse and intimidation of councillors by members of the public (1502/24), Road Sweep (1602/24), Parish Domain Helper Service (1702/24), D Day 80 -latest version of the Guide (1802/24), Residents can now pay for a licence for the 2024 garden waste service (1902/24), Low Street (2002/24).

Parish Domain Helper Service

A document prepared by the Cabinet Office about the Parish Council Domain Helper Service was emailed to the Clerk. The document explains the benefits of councils owning a .gov domain and of staff using a .gov email address. The Clerk will seek further information and report back to the Council.

Grass Cutting

The Clerk has received a quote for grass-cutting services for the upcoming season from CE & CM Walker Limited. The Councillors resolved to accept the quotation of £132 per cut (14-15 cuts) for the village greens

and £75.00 (2-3 cuts) for the Parish Cemetery. However, until the Parish Council agree on the appropriate contracting party for the Cemetery, Walkers are to be advised that they must not mow this area without specific prior approval.

6. Finance

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

Chq	Amount	Payee	Service
BACS		N.Lowe	Clerk wages for February
BACS	£138.00	Imprint Business Services	Pullup banners and posters for Garden Space Project - Inv SI-36881
BACS	£48.00	WK Stubbs & Sons	Hedge trimming at Parish Cemetery
BACS	£87.01	North Yorkshire Council	Treatment for Moles at Parish Cemetery - Inv 7037721
BACS	£1,956.27	A.Arrowsmith	Heritage consultant fees - Inv 2023-24 029
BACS	£60.00	Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall	Hire of the Village Hall (Lychgate project) - Inv KFBVH 257
46	£42.00	North Yorkshire Council	Green bin licence

This was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Walker.

b) Income:

There has been £0.00 income for this month.

7. Planning

a) Applications

ZB23/02621/FUL: The Clerk has not received a response from Planning regarding the Council's request for a time extension and further information to allow for a conclusive decision on the planning application. The Clerk will email Planning for a response and copy North Yorkshire Councillor Wilkinson.

b) Outcomes

None

8. Lychgate - National Lottery Heritage Grant

The Lychgate structure is nearly complete, awaiting the final pointing of the random stone infill once a frost-free period is confirmed. Additionally, work on the gravel approach is scheduled to commence soon.

Councillors Walker and Herbert, in discussion with George Harland, have arranged to reset the paving under the Cemetery bench and replace a rotted post for the side gate. Following the completion of Harland's work, it is proposed to fill small gaps beside the Lychgate with hawthorn hedging, for which Councillor Herbert has procured suitable bare root plants.

The decision was made to forego a formal subcommittee meeting for the current month.

The Heritage Day event held on January 20th at the village hall attracted over 100 attendees and was deemed a success.

Oral history volunteers now number six, have completed eight interviews to date. New volunteers have undergone training, and a meeting is scheduled for March 7th to discuss upcoming interviews.

School involvement and the gravestone element of the project are slated to begin on March 14th.

Evaluations from two specialists, for the NLHF grant project have been received. The Council agreed to further engage with Specialist 2.

Cllr Herbert and Walker will start to create plans for the interpretation board.

9. Urban Grass Cutting 24/25

North Yorkshire County Council has written to the Parish Council about continuing the Urban grass-cutting in the Parish.

Should the Parish Council wish to carry out urban grass cutting in 2024/25, North Yorkshire Council will similarly make payments in 2023/24. North Yorkshire Council will supply a purchase order to the Council in the summer of 2024 and the Clerk will invoice the North Yorkshire Council. Based on the rate of 8p per m², the funding for grass cutting of urban highway will be £402.32 in 2024/25

The Councillors agreed to accept North Yorkshire County Council's offer. The Clerk will inform Highways Asset Management of the Council's decision by 10 March 2024.

10. Bus Shelter Restoration

Cllr. Jones emphasised that we are not mandated to replace the tiles on a strict like-for-like basis, also noting that we are obliged to exercise financial due diligence in sourcing quotations for such work scopes.

The Council has received two quotes for the work, one of which is for replacing the bus shelter tiles with reclaimed pantiles and re-using the current ridge tiles if possible.

One roofing contractor has strongly recommended that the Council use concrete tiles as they will lock in better, noting that the old pan tiles may not bed in properly. The Council have found an alternative pantile profile interlocking concrete tile in farmhouse red which would be more in keeping with the village. This was agreed to be a reasonable compromise and would still be in keeping with the village conservation area character.

Cllr Herbert will revisit the previous quotes and request they be updated to reflect this tile option and will endeavour to secure a third like-for-like quote for comparison.

11. D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations

Cllr Jones and Herbert have created a draft event plan for the anniversary celebrations totalling 2 hours. Cllr Herbert will arrange a Community Working Together Meeting to coordinate event activities.

12. Community Transport and Social Care

North Yorkshire Council are keen to announce positive changes to bus services throughout the County in advance of the forthcoming Mayoral elections and as the first part of their 15-year Transport Plan.

The results of the 2023 Let's Talk Transport survey reinforced those of the previous years, that the improvement of rural transport is the number one priority in the eyes of the residents.

The Fleetham and Fencotes Outings Group are to hold their 2nd Outing on Tuesday 20th February, with the Venue being Kiplin Hall. Plans are being made for outings for the remainder of 2024.

Promotion of the services and the seeking of volunteers; to support the same, for the charity Hambleton Community Action continues.

13. Any Other Business

Chairman Resignation

Cllr Jones informed the Parish Council of his intention to resign from both being Chairman and as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect for private and personal matters. The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Jones for his excellent service for his excellent service in the Chair and as a Parish Councillor.

The meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 March 2024.