

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 21st May 2015

Present: Parish Councillors Mr Alexander, Mrs Herbert, Mr Tubby, Mr Dick; District Councillor Phillips; Clerk - Mrs C. Mitton and 1 resident, who was welcomed by Mr Alexander.

1) **Apologies:** Mrs Booth.

2) **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 15th May 2014**, copies of which had been circulated, were accepted and signed by Mr Alexander, chairman of the Parish Meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Tubby and seconded by Cllr Herbert.

3) **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman stated that he had prepared a brief report of Parish Council activities over the year, which were in no particular order.

A. Minerals and Waste Joint Plan

Councillors addressed the proposed workings by Cemex and the situation at Home Farm. This issue has been a focus of their work over the last few months. An Open Meeting was called, which was well attended, and councillors prepared a response to the Joint Plan which reflected the concerns expressed. A response is expected from NYCC during the summer.

B. Affordable Housing

A possible site has been located west of Kirkby Fleetham. The Enabler had called a meeting to display the proposed development but the plans received were not considered suitable and were returned for revision. Once the proposed layout and designs are ready a meeting will be called.

Councillors were made aware that there could be a problem with NYCC Highways Dept. over the provision of a footpath.

C. Highways

Over the year there have been a number of issues involving NYCC Highways Dept. The dispute over the yellow lines in Kirkby Fleetham has still not been resolved and neither has the flooding problem that has been raised at the western end of the village. There have also been problems with roads being closed without notice and no diversion provided.

D. General maintenance

Maintenance of the environment - grass cutting is again the major cost and councillors had been very happy with the work of the current contractor.

New seats have been acquired through Section 106 money, and councillors are looking to have these in place in the near future.

An avenue of trees has been planted along Todd Lane in memory of those lost in the war. The Parish Council has received a kind donation from one family involved. It is intended to hold a commemoration service and provide plaques naming those fallen.

HDC were requested to keep a light in Kirkby Fleetham lit but this was refused.

The tree on the NE side of the green in Kirkby Fleetham has died and needs replacing.

E. Planning

The PC has commented on a number of proposals submitted to HDC and their comments have been considered as part of the Planning System.

F. Burial Ground

This is running smoothly. A number of 'tidying' sessions were held within the year to maintain both the Great Fencote site and St Mary's Churchyard, which is being developed as a wild life area, in keeping with the surrounding area. Advice and help in this is provided by NYCC and it is monitored regularly. Mr Stevenson kindly cuts the borders along the path.

The cremated remains area at the Burial Ground at Great Fencote is in the process of being reorganised. The gravel has been removed, replaced with soil and, when it has settled, this will be sown with grass seed so that it is easier to maintain.

G. Broadband

There has been an issue with signal strength and, despite complaints, BT has been most unhelpful. Help was sought from NYCC but the problem still persists. Fibre cables have now been laid to Kirkby Fleetham but the Fencotes are too close to the sub-station to benefit.

H. Other activities

Councillors commented on or read numerous reports/consultations/questionnaires received. They have also responded to consultation documents including the NYCC Minerals and Waste Joint Plan and liaised with the Rural Housing Enabler. The Standing Orders have been rewritten and approved.

I. Councillor Activities

Your councillors have undertaken a range of activities on your behalf including:

- a. YLCA meetings
- b. Various meetings at Hambleton - District Liaison Committee
- c. Bedale & District Market Town Committee
- d. NYCC meetings

J. Thanks

Cllr Alexander expressed his thanks to fellow councillors and the clerk for all their hard work. He also thanked Mr S Peirson for his work with the Parish Council over the last few years and expressed the hope that he would continue to help with the Burial Ground.

4) Financial Report:

Copies of the Financial Statement for 2014-2015 were circulated and the clerk explained that at the end of 2013/14 a balance of £6661 had been carried forward in the Parish Council Account. During the year £8238 had been spent on the the Parish, £3224 on maintenance costs ie grasscutting, wages, room rental, insurances etc, £1361 on loan repayments on the Burial Ground, £1200 for tree works, £2368 for 5 new benches for the Parish and £85 to pay for the installation of the defibrillator in the Village Hall. At the end of 2014/15 £7604 was carried forward in the Parish Council Account.

A total of £4114 had been carried forward from 2013/14 in the Burial Ground Account and £575 had been generated in 2014/15. Grass and hedge cutting expenditure had been £215, therefore at the end of 2014/15 £4474 had been carried forward into the current financial year.

Total income for the year was £20531 on the two accounts and expenditure totalled £8453, leaving a surplus of £12078. In 2012 councillors agreed to allocate £1500 towards maintenance of the Burial Ground as income from this cannot be guaranteed on a regular basis and to hold a contingency fund of £3000 for unforeseen expenditure. This leaves a balance of £7578 between the two accounts available towards future developments or improvements. £578 has already been spent on the trees to commemorate those from the Parish lost in the war, 5 fallen gravestones are being repaired and suitable bases will need to be organised for the new seats.

5 Open Discussion:

a) Tree Replacement

Cllr Dick offered to look into the possibility of replacing the dead tree with a more mature one. This was accepted with thanks.

b) Bus Shelter

A resident suggested that the bus shelter in Kirkby Fleetham was in need of attention. Cllr Alexander agreed to look into it and report back.