

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of meeting – 19 February 2026 at 7:00 pm.

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

Residents didn't raise any issues before the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr Henderson and County Councillor Wilkinson. The Council accepted these apologies.

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 15 January 2026

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

3. Matters to Report

New Assertion 10 In The Annual Governance And Accountability Return For Year Ended 31 March 2026

The Parish Council has migrated to a council-owned email system and has adopted a .org.uk domain.

The Clerk has backed up the parish documents and Clerk's emails to the new system and created numerous templates for business continuity and created a new burial tracker, which will track grave number, grant number, amounts paid, double depths and interments.

To meet the new assertion the Parish Council must publish an Accessibility Statement and Privacy notice on its website.

Urban Grass Cutting 26/27

The Clerk has accepted North Yorkshire Council's offer.

Fencote Chapel

The Clerk has emailed the owners of the Fencote Chapel to ask if the trees and brambles growing beyond the boundary wall can be cleared.

Hedge Cutting

The Clerk has contacted Highways to notify them of the partially collapsed tree on the verge.

The Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to contact highways about the hedge growing over the 30mph sign on Fleetham Lane.

4. Burial Grounds

a. Parish Cemetery

A green bin licence has been purchased.

There are still a number of mole hills in the Cemetery, and the Councillors agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

The Lychgate gate is still stuck because the wood has swollen in the weather. The Council will chase the contractor to shave the gate.

b. St Mary's Churchyard

The Church is continuing to raise funds for the Church repairs. A number of specific fund raising activities are being arranged including a heritage day arranged in conjunction with the Local History Group, this is hoped to be valuable in potentially securing Heritage Lottery funding for the Church repairs.

c. St Andrew's Churchyard

The church is now reported as being sold, subject to contract.

5. Correspondence

YLCA Training (0102/26), YLCA Weekly News and Notifications (0202/26), Potholes in Great Fencote (0302/26), Low Street (0402/26), Still time to pay for your garden waste licence ahead of the season starting in March (0502/26).

These were all circulated via email.

Low Street

The Council has received a letter from a concerned resident highlighting vehicles users ignoring the traffic lights on Low Street, which has also been observed by Councillors. This could lead to an accident.

The condensed traffic has also led to large potholes forming on the road and the side of the road.

The Parish Council has raised the issue with North Yorkshire Council again. The matter is being dealt with by the Highway Development Team, not the Area Highways Office. The Council is waiting for a response. The Council has also highlighted it's concerns to Scruton PC and sought their help in communicating the issue to the Solar farm contractor.

6. Finance

a. Financial Statements

The Clerk had updated the financial statements and circulated it before the meeting. The Parish Council duly notes that the financial statements and bank reconciliation have been verified and duly signed.

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

Chq	Amount	Payee	Service
BACS		N Lowe	Clerk's wages for February, plus 14 extra hours for work on Parish email migration
BACS	£58.50	HMRC	6 Jan to 5 Feb month 10 PAYE bill 2025 to 2026
BACS	£52.00	N Lowe	Purchase of green bin licence for the Parish Cemetery. Ref: FS-Case-800866966

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

c. Income:

The Parish accounts received no income this month. The Parish savings account has received £55.68 in interest.

7. Planning

a. Proposed Battery Energy Storage System on Land at Fence Dike Lane

There is no further news. The planning application hasn't gone in.

b. Black Horse Inn Leisure Development

There is no further news. The planning application hasn't gone in.

c. Applications

The Parish Council has not received any planning applications over the last month.

d. Outcomes

ZB25/01059/FUL: Conversion, Extension and Alteration of Existing Former Agricultural Buildings to Form Additional Living Accommodation to Existing Dwelling house, and Demolition of Existing Agricultural Dutch Barn and Replacement with a Detached Garage and Home Office/Gym as amended by revised plans received 18 December 2025.

Location: Glebe Farm, Low Street, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton.

Applicant: Mr C Cumming.

The application was Granted.

8. Community Transport and Social Care

Community Transport

A letter regarding the lack of a bus connection to the growing population of Catterick Garrison has now been delivered to the newly appointed Bus Manager at the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. A response is awaited.

In the interim, it was proposed that a copy of the letter be sent to the Managing Director of Hodgsons Buses, operators of the 54 bus service, inviting their support in reinstating the full bus route. As the only operator not represented at the Harbus meetings, and as a potential financial beneficiary, it is considered appropriate that they be involved. Parish Council Councillors agreed to the proposal.

It was agreed to remind residents of the availability of the local Community Car Scheme for those unable to drive or requiring travel assistance. Further information can be obtained from the Hambleton Community Action team in Northallerton (Tel: 01609 780458 Ext 1).

Social Care

The Egg Box Service is expected to resume later this month, following the settling in of the new flock. Supplies are anticipated shortly, and a further update will be issued via the village InfoNet service.

Discussions are ongoing to enable villagers attending charities for personal reasons to be seen privately within the village hall. Further information will be provided in due course.

An InfoNet bulletin has been issued regarding the availability of restored free phones, laptops and tablets for community members who do not currently have access to modern communication devices and are willing to learn how to use them. Tuition will be arranged through Hambleton Community Action, with additional support from local volunteers. A recently retired villager has kindly offered to act as a tutor.

The Fleetham and Fencotes Outings Group has scheduled four outings for 2026. A new organiser for the Outings Group is still being sought from within the village.

9. Community Solar Farm Grants

The Heritage Day referred to above will incur some relatively low cost charges in printing etc. The council agreed that they will accept an application for these costs from the Solar Grant.

10. Grass-cutting Services

The Clerk has received a quote from CE & CM Walker Limited for grass-cutting services for the upcoming season. The Councillors resolved to accept the quotation of £152 per cut (14-15 cuts) for the village greens.

The Councillors unanimously agreed to the quote.

11. Kirkby Fleetham Village School

There is no further news on the School.

12. Any Other Business

Dogs Walkers

Dog waste has been put into some residents' black bins. The Council will create a laminated map with the locations of waste bins situated in the area for non-residents to access. A copy will be provided to the Black Horse Inn to be made accessible to visitors with dogs.

Some landowners have received verbal abuse when confronting dog walkers when their dogs are not on a lead.

It was noted that walkers should exercise appropriate care when using the footpath and always keep their dogs under control.

Potholes

A pothole around the manhole cover on Fleetham Lane in Great Fencote has been reported and has been inspected and marked for repair.

The meeting closed at 8:51 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 19 March 2026.