

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of meeting – 15 January 2026 at 7:00 pm.

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

Residents didn't raise any issues before the meeting

1. Apologies

Cllr Wall. The Council accepted these apologies.

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 20 November 2025

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

3. Matters to Report

New Assertion 10 In the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2026

The Parish Council is transitioning to a council-owned email system and will adopt a .org.uk domain.

With the new assertion, Council websites must meet accessibility standards under WCAG 2.2 AA and the 2018 Accessibility Regulations. At the moment, the current website does not meet those standards.

The Councillors agreed to improve the current website rather than purchase a new one. Changes have already been made to the website and will continue, with the aim of meeting the accessibility standards.

Fly Tipping

A notice on InfoNet asking residents to stop fly-tipping garden waste at the top of Kirkby Lane, near the Village's outskirts, went out. Unfortunately, the fly-tipping is still happening.

4. Burial Grounds

a) Parish Cemetery

Over the Christmas period, a large amount of residential waste, including an unwrapped turkey carcass, was left in the Parish Cemetery bin. The Council strongly urges residents not to use the Cemetery's bin for household waste.

The Lychgate gate is stuck because the wood has swollen in the weather. The Council has instructed someone to shave the wood.

b) St Mary's Churchyard

The large yew tree at the east end of St. Mary's, which was growing close to the stained glass window, has now been cut.

The Church is continuing to raise funds for the Church repairs.

c) St Andrew's Churchyard

There is no further news on the sale of the Church.

Signed.....

Chair

5. Correspondence

YLCA Training (0101/26), YLCA Weekly News and Notifications (0201/26), Update Low Street (0301/26), Fly tipped garden waste on Kirkby Lane (0401/26), Lumley Lane potential housing questionnaire (0501/26), Thank you Parish Councils and Village Groups (0601/26), The Mayor's Precept Survey 2026/2027 (0701/26), North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison: December 2025 Update (0801/26).

These were all circulated via email.

Hedge Cutting

Residents have raised concerns about the lack of hedge cutting along the field boundary between the Green and Fleetham Lane. Especially around the 30mph sign, which is now engulfed by the hedge and it's sticking out into the road.

Similarly, a bit further along the same road, heading to Scruton from the village on the other side, the partially collapsed tree is on the verge and could injure someone or damage vehicles.

The Council will try to contact the owners to inform them of the hazards.

Footpath

The Clerk has received several emails requesting whether it is possible to construct a footpath across the green from The Close to the Village Hall. Concerns were also raised about the soft ground, which is becoming very muddy. Also, vehicles are parking to the left of the hall and appear to be creating deep gouges in the ground, which fill with water when it rains. This is creating a dangerous area with no firm surface to walk on.

RAF Leeming

There will be increased movement by aircraft operating from RAF Leeming from 19 January to 6 February. The Station will host helicopters for an Exercise that will include low and late flying. There will also be some increased jet movement during daylight hours on 26/27 Jan and 2/3 Feb.

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 December
BACS		N Lowe	Clerk's wages for January, plus £22.15 for ink cartridges and £27.30 for registration of kffpc.org.uk for 5 years
BACS	£207.36	N.Lowe	Zoho Workplace for Parish Council. 6x users at £28.80 /user /year.
BACS	£80.00	T Duffield	Trim yew at St Mary's church - Invoice 04
BACS	£227.00	Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall	Booking village hall from Jan to Dec 2025 - Invoice KVVH 481
BACS	£116.80	HMRC	6 Nov to 5 Dec, month 8 PAYE bill 2025 to 2026 6 Dec to 5 Jan, month 9 PAYE bill 2025 to 2026

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

b) Income:

The Parish accounts received no income this month. The Parish savings account has received £112.93 in interest.

Signed.....
Chair

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) Application

ZB25/01763/CAT: Application to fell a tree in a Conservation area. Hawthorn tree

Location: Fleetham House, 1 The Green, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton

Applicant: Simon Dowson

The Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.

ZB25/01059/FUL: Conversion, Extension and Alteration of Existing Former Agricultural Buildings to Form Additional Living Accommodation to Existing Dwellinghouse, 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 Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.

ZB25/02223/FUL: Application for single-storey rear extension, front timber frame porch, loft conversion, and minor internal alterations.

Location: Hibray, Lumley Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton

Applicant: Mr & Mrs James Pitcher

The Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.

ZB25/02249/FUL: Conversion of Existing Out-Building

Location: Fleetham Mill, Fleetham Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton

Applicant: Mr And Mrs M Hilyer

The Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.

d) Outcomes

ZB25/01763/CAT: Application to fell a tree in a Conservation area. Hawthorn tree

Location: Fleetham House, 1 The Green, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton

Applicant: Simon Dowson

The application was granted.

8. Community Transport and Social Care

Community Transport

The letter concerning the reintroduction of the village 54 bus service through Catterick to Richmond has been forwarded to the Head of Rural Bus Services at the Combined Authority.

The next meeting of the Harbus committee is scheduled for 29th January and will include representatives from the Combined Authority Bus Services team, at which the contents of the letter will be discussed.

Signed.....

Chair

The newly appointed Head of the Combined Authority Rural Bus Team will be in attendance and is currently overseeing the transfer of all bus-related responsibilities from the North Yorkshire Council. It is anticipated that clearer communication channels for the new bus team will be established in due course.

Social Care

Following a request from the four charities that attended the Hub day on 14 October 2025, agreement was given for them to return on 14 January 2026 on a Hub day. They were based in the Village Hall alongside the regular Hub session in the Library. The event was publicised through laminated notices on village noticeboards, including those in Great Langton and Scruton, as well as via InfoNet bulletins. The charities have expressed interest in making these visits regularly. Citizens Advice was identified as the most frequently used service among villagers due to its wide range of issues.

A new organiser is sought for the Fleetham & Fencotes Outings Group, as the current organiser will step down at the end of 2026.

The village Egg Box Service is expected to resume in February, once the new flock of hens begins laying. The villages are believed to be unique in offering this type of service.

9. Community Solar Farm Grants

Following several emails from residents requesting a footpath from The Close to the Village Hall, the Parish Council discussed whether exploring the option would be a good use of a Community Solar Farm Grant. The Council agreed it would be.

Plans in the possession of the Parish Council show that a footpath once existed. The plan would be to reinstate the footpath. The Council will look into options.

10. Kirkby Fleetham Village School

There is no further news on the School.

11. Any Other Business

Urban Grass Cutting 26/27

North Yorkshire County Council has written to the Parish Council regarding the continuation of urban grass-cutting in the Parish.

The rate that North Yorkshire Council will pay the Parish Council to cut urban highway grass has been raised by 3.4% from 2025, and the rate for visibility areas will be 8.27p per m² for the 2026/27 financial year. North Yorkshire Council will continue to fund five cuts per year. At a rate of 8.27p per m², the available funding for grass cutting will be £416.00.

The Councillors agreed to accept North Yorkshire County Council's offer. The Clerk will inform Highways Asset Management of the Council's decision by 28 February 2026.

Lost and found box

The Parish Council will explore purchasing a box to be stored in the Kirkby Fleetham bus shelter for all lost and found items left on the Village Green.

Fencote Chapel

The Clerk will try to contact the owners of the Chapel, Great Fencote, to ask if the trees and brambles growing beyond the boundary wall can be cleared.

The meeting closed at 8:54 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 19 February 2026.

Signed.....

Chair