

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of meeting – Thursday 21 March 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mr Walker, Mrs Herbert, Mrs Edwards-Heathcote and Mr Lamperd.

No residents attended the meeting and no matters of concern were raised.

1. Election of Chairperson

Cllr Herbert proposed Cllr Walker and was seconded by Cllr Edwards-Heathcote. This was agreed upon unanimously.

2. Consider the appointment of a Vice-Chairperson

For the time being the Councillors decided against appointing a Vice Chair, although this situation will be reconsidered in forthcoming months.

3. Apologies

North Yorkshire Councillor Wilkinson. The Council accepted this apology.

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

Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Lamperd.

5. Matters to Report

Grass Cutting

The Clerk has accepted CE & CM Walker Limited's quotation for grass-cutting services for the 24/25 season. The Clerk informed the grasscutters not to mow the Parish Cemetery without prior approval and this fact has been acknowledged.

Parish Domain Helper Service

The Clerk explained the process of owning a .gov domain to the Parish Council and the potential costs associated after receiving further information from Parish Council Domain Helper Service.

The Council are happy with the current website arrangements but agreed for the Clerk to enquire further about the .gov email service.

Defibrillator

A letter has been drafted to the homeowner of the recently identified site for a potential new Defibrillator.

Resident groups or community organisations can apply for grants of up to £1,000 to help fund local projects and events through North Yorkshire Council's Stronger Communities scheme. The Clerk will enquire if the Parish Council is eligible for a grant to help fund the purchase of a Defibrillator.

D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations

The Community Working Together Group met to coordinate event activities and a draft plan was outlined. Cllr Herbert will create an ad for the Social newsletter to notify the community of the plans.

6. Burial Grounds

a) Parish Cemetery

It was agreed to repair the existing noticeboard for the Parish Cemetery due to the cost of purchasing a new one. A locksmith has repaired the old seized locks and provided new keys. Councillors will agree on a suitable location close to the Cemetery entrance for repositioning the renovated noticeboard on a new post.

The excess cuttings around the cremated remains have been removed. The rest of the excess cuttings are to be burned on-site in due course. The no-dogs sign will hung by the gate when the Lychgate is completed

The existing molehills have been levelled and the waste soil was used to re-level the sunken grave

b) St Mary's Churchyard

A contractor recently fixed the metal entrance gate to the churchyard which has been difficult to open and close. The Councillors agreed that they were not responsible for the cost of the repair. The Parish Council is only responsible for the upkeep of the churchyard, not the surrounding walls or entrances.

The Councillors noted that individual parish residents' efforts to secure donations to cover the cost are to be encouraged but, if it remains necessary, Councillors noted that those who are responsible for the entrance may apply for a Community Solar Farm grant.

c) St Andrew's Churchyard

There were no new updates on St Andrew's Churchyard.

7. Correspondence

NALC Chief Executives Bulletins (0103/24), North Yorkshire joint local health and wellbeing strategy (0203/24), The Rural Bulletins (0303/24), NYC bulletins (0403/24), White Rose Updates (0503/24), Training E-Bulletins (0603/24), The Green, Kirkby Fleetham (0703/24), Charing Skills Webinar (0803/24), YLCA Information Bulletin (0903/24), North Yorkshire cost of living campaign (1003/24), YLCA Law and Governance Bulletin (1103/24), The Rural Bulletins (1203/24), Home to school travel policy - consultation (Parish & Town Councils) (1303/24), North Yorkshire Council Subsidised Local Bus Services - update (1403/24), Northern Powergrid - Pole Change (1503/24), York and North Yorkshire Mayoral election 2 May 2024 (1603/24).

North Yorkshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board has written a new joint local health and wellbeing strategy for the county, which sets out the proposed priorities for action, and ideas for working together to achieve them. The aim of the joint local health and wellbeing strategy is to improve people's health and reduce health inequalities.

The Board is taking the draft strategy out for public consultation until 31st March 2024. There are several ways to participate, including an easy-read survey, online events and informal drop-in events at local libraries. The strategy documents, the survey and event details are available on North Yorkshire Council's consultation web page (www.northyorks.gov.uk/WellbeingStrategyConsultation), and paper copies will be available from libraries.

Home to School Travel Policy

North Yorkshire Council has commenced a consultation on proposed changes to the Council's Home to School Travel Policy.

The necessary information can be found here on the North Yorkshire Council's website, <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations/home-school-travel-policy-consultation> together with an online survey form for responses to the consultation and details of engagement events that will be held during the consultation period. The consultation closing date is Friday 12 April.

York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Election

North Yorkshire Council have requested that the Parish Council help share information with voters ahead of the first York and North Yorkshire Mayoral election on 2 May 2024.

Residents must be registered to vote in this election by 23:59 on 16 April 2024. If a resident is voting in person they will need to bring a Photo ID to the polling station.

The Clerk will share the information via Infonet.

8. Finance

Cllr Herbert proposed to remove Mr Jones and add Cllr Edwards-Heathcote and Cllr Lamperd as authorised signatories to the Parish Council bank accounts, this was seconded by Cllr Walker.

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

Chq	Amount	Payee	Service
BACS		N.Lowe	Clerk wages for March
BACS	£60.00	C. Walker	Refurbishing the Parish Cemetery noticeboard
BACS	£66.80	YLCA	Chairing Skills Part 1 - INV-1614
BACS	£216.00	HMRC	Income tax (Jan-Mar 2024)
BACS	£3,000.00	Kirkby Fleetham CE Primary	Solar Farm Grant Application
BACS	£114.07	M/ Wilson	Annual website charges for an email address, contact collection app and domain name.

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

b) Income:

There has been £0.00 income for this month.

9. Planning

a) Applications

ZB24/00387/FUL: Proposed Ground Floor Extension to Existing Garage.

Location: Forge House 3 The Green Kirkby Fleetham Northallerton

Applicant: Mr & Mrs S Faulks

The Councillors had no objections to this planning application.

ZB23/02621/FUL: The Clerk has contacted Planning. Planning has confirmed that planning applications no longer require a design and access statement. The planning officer assigned to the application will call the Clerk to confirm if any waste management plans were submitted with the application.

b) Outcomes

None

10. Lychgate - National Lottery Heritage Grant

The Lychgate structure is complete including the random stone pointing, the only work remaining is the steel edging for the gravel driveway, backfilling around the structure with topsoil, replacement of the side gate post and final spreading of the gravel drive. As soon as this work is complete Councillors will plant hawthorn hedging to fill the gaps on either side of the structure.

The email of the award for the project evaluation specialist services has been sent and acknowledged.

A meeting was held with Kirkby Fleetham CE Primary School on 14 March 2024 and plans for their ongoing involvement in the project were developed and agreed.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund representative has provided a template interim report to enable the Parish Council to claim the second funding allocation against the Grant and its compilation is underway.

11. Urban Grass Cutting 24/25

The Clerk informed Highways Asset Management that the Parish Council wishes to carry out urban grass-cutting in 2024/25.

12. Bus Shelter Restoration

1 of the 2 quotes the Council has previously received has been updated to reflect the alternative pantile interlocking tile option. The Council will contact the other quote provider to update their quote. The Council is still exploring a third quote.

Cllr Wilkinson has provided the Clerk with useful links to funding providers.

13. Parish Casual Vacancy

The Notice of Vacancy has been displayed on the noticeboards in Kirkby Fleetham, Great and Little Fencote around the Parish and on the North Yorkshire Council's website. The Notice of Vacancy must be displayed continuously until the end of the day on 2 April 2023.

After that date, the North Yorkshire Council will inform the Council if an election or co-option will take place.

14. Damage to the Kirkby Fleetham Village Green

Several vehicles are parking on and around the Village Green leading to vehicles mounting the kerb and driving over the Village Green. This is causing significant damage to the Village Green.

The Council discussed various solutions to reduce the damage and congestion including grass reinforcement. The Council will continue to look at all options proactively.

The Councill agreed for the Clerk to draft a letter to Hodgson's bus company to request that the bus drivers reverse up Lumley Lane before driving down Fleetham Lane instead of driving over the corner of the Village Green. The Clerk will also draft a letter to the Village Green owners to check if they were opposed to the Parish Council exploring options

Cllr Herbert will create an ad for InfoNet to ask for volunteers to help repair the Village Green.

15. Community Transport and Social Care

Transport

The North Yorkshire Council Passenger Transport Team (PTT) has failed to make significant improvements to subsidised bus services in North Yorkshire despite issuing new licenses for all routes. Even the 54 service, which operates in Northallerton, has seen only minor adjustments to correct previous faults in its routing. This failure means ongoing issues such as buses damaging the Green as a turning circle will persist, despite the potential solution of reintroducing the route to Richmond. There has been no consultation from the PTT regarding route or timetable changes, and details about the length of new contracts with bus operators remain unknown.

Social Care

The recent outing to Kiplin Hall on 20 February for the Fleetham & Fencotes Outings Group was a success, the minibus was fully booked.

Plans for the next outing on 10 April to Leyburn are finalised. In addition to the Leyburn visit, there's an invitation for a commentary tour of newly restored period rooms at Leeming Rail Station by the Wensleydale Railway volunteers, followed by lunch at Tennants Garden Rooms Cafe. The itinerary includes tours of Ceramic Inspirations and Inspired Chocolates in Leyburn, as well as a visit to White Rose Candles in Wensley before returning to Kirkby Fleetham.

The upcoming 5th outing on 11 June is in the final stages of planning, featuring a minibus journey to Pickering Station, followed by a train ride to Whitby. After a fish and chip lunch at Trencher's, there will be a minibus tour along the harboursides, concluding with a visit to Whitby Abbey.

The Hambleton Community Action charity has expressed a desire to attend Village Feast again. The request has been passed to the Feast Committee. The charity will be offering its full range of services to senior citizens and any residents requiring assistance.

16. Any Other Business

Asset Register

The Clerk updated the register of assets and circulated it at the meeting.

The Councillors agreed to the revised version. The Clerk will contact the Parish insurers to add the Lychgate to the Parish's policy.

Flags

It has been requested that the Clerk update the flag-flying dates for 2024 and forward the dates to the volunteer who kindly changes the flags during the year.

The meeting closed at 10:25 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: 18 April 2024.