Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of meeting – 20 November 2025 at 7:00 pm.

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

Residents didn't raise any issues before the meeting

1. **Apologies**

   Cllr Henderson and Wall. The Council accepted these apologies.

2. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 16 October 2025,** 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 Clerk has received quotes from three providers for the Council to transition to a council-owned email system, domain and website so the Parish Council can meet the new assertion 10 obligations.

   The Clerk will circulate the quotes after the meeting. The Council will discuss the options further with all relevant parties involved in website management and community communications.

   Collaborative Spirit Award

   The judging team has now completed their visits and made the final decisions for the Community Awards.

   The team were extremely impressed by the quality of all the nominated groups, projects, and volunteers they met, as well as by the incredible work being done to support local communities. Unfortunately, our nomination was not selected as one of the top three finalists; however, the project was awarded a Highly Commended certificate in recognition of the outstanding project.

   The winners will be announced at our Wider Partnership Conference on 21 November 2025. Cllr Walker will attend.

4. **Burial Grounds**

   a) **Parish Cemetery**

      The four birch trees are taller than the power lines immediately west of them and are bending in the wind towards the wires. Northern Powergrid will cut them down by half.

      The Council will be given 48 hours' notice before the work. The contractors have agreed not to bring any heavy equipment into the Cemetery, the chipper will park on the gravel drive, and they will hand-carry the cuttings out to it.

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

   b) **St Mary's Churchyard**

      The grass has been cut, but the vegetation still needs to be removed. The church remains open while urgent work has started on it using the church's contingency fund. 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.

5. Correspondence

YLCA Training (0111/25), YLCA Weekly News and Notifications (0211/25), Proposed Battery Energy Storage System on Land at Fence Dike Lane (0311/25), Black Horse development (0411/25), Hambleton Parish Precept Calculator (0511/25), Update and meeting with Balance Power (0611/25), North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison: Parish Update October 2025 (0711/25), North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison Meeting: Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday 29th October 2025 (0811/25), Low Street (0911/25), North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison: Northallerton Town Investment Plan - A Vision for Northallerton (1011/25).

These were all circulated via email.

Traffic Lights Low Street

A number of residents have complained about the traffic lights on Low Street. Unfortunately, the Parish Council was not consulted on the Solar Farm's traffic management plan, as it is outside our Parish.

The Council raised the issue at the beginning of November with North Yorkshire Council, Highways and Development Control.

Highways has confirmed the following:

1. **Out-of-Hours Operation**
   The lights are still operating outside normal construction hours. The previous communication that the lights would be turned off on an evening was incorrect. The reason for this is that planning conditions require the signals to remain in place throughout the construction phase due to restricted visibility splays; removing these would create a safety risk to all users. Operatives are on site outside core hours for security and incident response, so access/egress is still required.

2. **Safety Considerations**
   It is not considered safe to switch the lights off entirely. The road's narrow width and lack of lighting would create a hazard on the carriageway, particularly at night. The current system operates on a three-way cycle with timings now reduced to a minimum wait of approximately 90 seconds.

3. **Impact of HGVs**
   The contractor has highlighted that HGVs waiting at the red light can further narrow the road, increasing delays for vehicles passing once the light changes, thereby adding another safety element to the works. They currently manage deliveries through a logistics schedule and banksmen, but acknowledge this is causing frustration locally.

4. **Next Steps**
   Highways will continue to work with the contractor to explore whether adjustments to delivery scheduling or banksman control can help reduce congestion and improve the situation for the community.

Housing Survey

A housing survey is being sent to every area/village/town in the Richmond and Northallerton constituency to form part of the 'call for sites' process that the North Yorkshire Council is undertaking.

Every resident in the local area will receive a copy, provided they are listed on the local area's electoral roll.

If anyone does not receive a copy, they can obtain a copy from the Conservative Party Richmondshire office in Northallerton.

Signed……..

Chair

The information contained in the survey is already in the public domain and on the Council website: https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/9xm8zj87fjl2.

6. Finance

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

Chq	Amount	Payee	Service
BACS	£233.40	N Lowe	Wages for November
BACS	£230.00	AW Dick	Clerk's wages for November Cut and top the Parish Cemetery
BACS	£115.00	AW Dick	Trim entrance hedges, hedges around the burial ground, trim and mow under the hedges and cut around the graves on 03 Nov 2025.
BACS	£340.80	CE & CM Walker Ltd	Parish Grasscutting - Inv 25710
BACS	£48.00	WK Stubbs & Sons	Hedge trimming at the Parish Cemetery
BACS	£205.00	R. Richards	Mowing and strimming St Mary's churchyard
BACS	£70.00	T.Duffield	Cut and remove epicormic growth on village green trees - Inv 86
BACS	£56.60	HMRC	6 Jul to 5 Aug, month 4 PAYE bill 2025 to 2026
BACS	£154.51	HMRC	6 Sep to 5 Oct, month 6 PAYE bill 2025 to 2026
BACS	£58.40	HMRC	6 Oct to 5 Nov, month 7 PAYE bill 2025 to 2026
BACS	£315.67	M. Wilson	Parish website costs: Domain 29.08.24 - 29.08.26 - £23.26 Premium Plan 11.04.25-11.04.27 - £201.60 Contact Collection app 19.03.25 - 19.03.26 - £24.19 Business email 3.02.25 - 3.02.26 - £66.62
BACS	£686.81	Zurich Insurance Company Ltd	Parish Council insurance - Inv 550191363

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 received £60.88 in interest; since opening, it has received a total of £259.18.

7. Planning

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

A consultation event took place on 22 October. The consultation feedback window closed on Friday, 7 November. Balance Power will collate all comments and questions received and, in November, produce a revised FAQ section for the project website that addresses as many of the points as possible. The developers have indicated that they expect their application to NYC for planning consent to be in January 2026.

Those who registered for further information about the website update will be notified. The project website will remain live until at least the application is determined.

b) Black Horse Inn Leisure Development

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

c) Application

ZB25/01850/FUL: Change of Use and Alterations to Agricultural Buildings to Form an Annexe and Domestic Ancillary Accommodation

Location: Friars Garth, Lumley Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton

Signed.....

Chair

Applicant: Mr S Greensit

The Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.

ZB25/01851/LBC: Change of Use and Alterations to Agricultural Buildings to Form an Annexe and Domestic Ancillary Accommodation

Location: Friars Garth, Lumley Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, Northallerton
Applicant: Mr S Greensit

The Parish Council has no comments on this planning application.

d) Outcomes

ZB25/01140/REM: Application for reserved matter following Outline permission (for construction of 1.no Dwelling (Use Class C3) with all matters reserved except access 22/00806/OUT)

Location: Land West Of 15 Lumley Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, North Yorkshire
Applicant: Mr Simon Cotton

The application was granted.

8. Community Transport and Social Care

Community Transport

Following the Harbus committee meeting held on the morning of the October Parish Council meeting, it was confirmed that the Combined Authority of York and North Yorkshire has now appointed its transport team and is beginning to assess the bus service requirements across all routes. Work is underway to produce a master plan to deliver immediate improvements to bus services across the combined area, and it is hoped that this will incorporate the proposed "Diamond" Plan, developed jointly by Hambleton Community Action and Harbus.

A request has also been raised for the urgent introduction of a bus service between Catterick and Northallerton. It has been suggested that this could be achieved by reinstating the former 54 service and extending it from Kirkby Fleetham to Richmond via Catterick. An email outlining the need and proposing this previously used solution has been prepared for submission to Councillor Malcolm Taylor, NYC Executive Head of Transport.

Social Care

The four charities that attended the Hub morning on 15th October reported that the event was very successful and were pleased with the level of engagement from villagers.

In the New Year, the Parish Council will consider inviting one or two of these charities to return, as many residents valued the opportunity to receive guidance on which organisations could best support their needs. If arranged well in advance, the event can be publicised through InfoNet and the Newsletter, reducing the need for a separate flyer.

9. Community Solar Farm Grants

In 2022, the Council granted £5,000 to develop the parking area at St. Mary's church. The grant was not drawn down. The applicants have submitted a new application with quotes to repurpose the original £5,000 grant and fund urgent repairs to St. Mary's.

The Councillors all agreed to the request, but required a new application with an overview of the project, which was received before the meeting.

The Clerk circulated the new application to the Councillors before the meeting. Cllr Walker sat out of the discussions as he is a member of the Local Church Committee. Cllr Henderson and Wall before the meeting, and Cllr Edwards-Heathcote and Lamperd during the meeting, voted unanimously to support the application.

Signed……..
Chair

10. **Kirkby Fleetham Village School**

King's Council has advised the Church Diocese that, as the School was no longer used for educational purposes on 01 September 2025, the "reverter" clause came into effect and ownership automatically reverted to the donor's estate.

This is clearly a very disappointing outcome for the community. The Langton on Swale Educational Foundation's trustees are considering various options for the future of the School Cottage and will maintain dialogue with the Diocese.

11. **Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices**

The following had all been circulated for consideration before the meeting:

a) **Community Emergency Plan** – Cllr Walker proposed that the updated Community Emergency Plan, as of November 2025, be accepted and adopted by the Parish Council immediately, and Cllr Edwards-Heathcote seconded this. It was resolved to adopt the Community Emergency Plan.

12. **Precept**

The Clerk had updated the financial statement and circulated it before the meeting. They show a healthy balance; the Parish Council believes the annual expenditure will be around the level of income generated this financial year.

It was agreed that, even though costs are expected to rise annually in line with inflation, the Parish Council could absorb those costs and therefore decided to keep the Parish Precept the same at £8,400 for the 2026/27 financial year.

13. **Any Other Business**

Fly Tipping
Residents have been fly-tipping garden waste at the top of Kirkby Lane, near the Village's outskirts. The Councillors agreed to post a notice on InfoNet asking residents to stop.

The meeting closed at 9:54 pm.
Date of Next Meeting: 15 January 2026.

Signed……..
Chair