

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of meeting – Thursday, 16 October 2024 at 7.30 pm.

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

Residents raised no issues.

1. Apologies

North Yorkshire Councillor Wilkinson and Cllr Herbert. The Council accepted these apologies.

2. **The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, September 19, 2024**, 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

Bus Services

North Yorkshire Council Passenger Transport Team replied to the Council's request for their position on running buses when diversions are in place. They explained that every road closure differs due to several variables, and there is no one rule.

VE DAY 80

The Parish Council shared the possible outline programme for the D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations with community stakeholders. Details will be shared with the community nearer the date when plans have been agreed and firmed up.

Water Quality

Yorkshire Water confirmed that they can't find any issues. No one has complained directly to them, and they can't do anything further unless they have more information. They recommended that the residents call them directly if there are any further issues at 0345 124 2424. Cloudy water is a sign that there is air in the supply, not that it is contaminated.

Yorkshire Water tests over 500,000 water samples every year. The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) then examines the results and creates an independent report on its findings, advising the government on its performance.

Savings Account

The Clerk has applied to open a 35-day notice savings account.

4. Burial Grounds

a) Parish Cemetery

The interpretation board has arrived and agreed on a suitable position. It will hopefully be erected shortly.

A small metal plaque acknowledging the National Lottery funding of the Lychgate has been installed. The hedges are due to be cut before the official opening of the Lychgate.

b) St Mary's Churchyard

The contractor has apologised for the inconsistent cuts in the churchyard over the past two months. This has been partly due to prioritising the scything of his flower meadow and the contractor's equipment malfunctioning. The long grass in the churchyard should be cut in the next two weeks as the flower meadow is almost finished, and the equipment is now working again.

c) St Andrew's Churchyard

The four remaining graves, due to be moved, require specialist equipment due to their size and weight. The railed grave has had tree growth removed to facilitate its movement.

A section of a coniferous tree within the unsold section of the Churchyard has broken and fallen, partly into the sold section. NYC has been informed of this.

5. Correspondence

YLCA Training (01010/24), YLCA Weekly News and Notifications (0210/24), Dangerous tree on Fleetham Lane (0310/24), VE DAY 80 - 8TH MAY 2025 (0410/24), Bus Service Improvements - copy of HarBus letter (0510/24), Bus Services (0610/24), Parish Update: October 2024 (0710/24), Hambleton Parishes – Queries to North Yorkshire Council (0810/24).

North Yorkshire Council - Sandbags Support to Communities during Flooding

North Yorkshire Council is simplifying its approach to supporting communities who need access to sandbags during a flood incident. The offer available to communities from the previous District and Borough councils was inconsistent, so this has been updated to ensure a single offer across North Yorkshire.

From the beginning of October 2024, if a resident requires access to sandbags, they should Google Sandbags North Yorkshire or by the following link:
www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/flooding/request-sandbags.

If there is an immediate need for sandbags, please call 0300 131 2 131 and either say Sandbag when prompted or follow the instructions. The Clerk will send this notice via InfoNet.

North Yorkshire Boundary Review - Initial Consultation

A ten-week public consultation invites proposals for new council divisions and division boundaries for North Yorkshire Council. Our consultation will close on 9 December 2024.

North Yorkshire Council intends to publish draft recommendations in April 2025. They will then hold a further period of consultation on their draft recommendations. The final recommendations are expected to be published in September 2025.

The new electoral arrangements will occur at the local elections in 2027.

Footpath

Correspondence received from a resident in September concerning the safety of the footpath at a local farm was further discussed. The Council also has addressed the issue with the land owner. There is an electric fence in place, but the landowner is clear that providing complete electric fence protection to all sides of the whole footpath is not practical, noting that the cows are in there for short periods only. The landowner has also pointed out that the electric fence on the other side is regularly disabled due to interference by certain people using the footpath. It was noted that walkers should exercise appropriate care when using the footpath and always keep their dogs under control.

6. Finance

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

Chq	Amount	Payee	Service
BACS		N.Lowe	Clerks wages for Oct
BACS	£162.00	HMRC	
BACS	£75.00	R.Richards	Mowing and strimming St Mary's churchyard.
BACS	£316.80	CE & CM Walker Limited	Parish Grasscutting - Inv 24316
BACS	£65.00	AW Dick	Burial ground grass cuts

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

b) Income:

There has been £5,100.00 income for this month.

7. Planning

a) Applications

ZB24/01971/SCR: Proposed development of a battery energy storage system, associated infrastructure and access

Location: OS Field 6537 Fence Dike Lane Scruton North Yorkshire

Applicant:

This is a screening application at this stage, and therefore, detailed information is limited. It was noted that the southern boundary of the Parish is fairly uneven around this development. However, it was thought that the development falls either wholly or at least in part within our KFF Parish boundary, whereas the application indicated that it is in Scruton Parish.

The Councillors did not express any objections, in principle, to the development but raised several concerns as follows:

1. The development will be visible from Low Street and Fence Dyke Lane, and we would wish to see adequate screening with hedges and trees to reduce its visibility.
2. The development is on good quality arable land, which the applicant acknowledges is Grade 2 or 3.
3. The Council is aware that such facilities emit low-frequency sound, which can cause daylong disturbance to nearby properties. We acknowledge that there are relatively few nearby properties. Still, we would seek assurance that this is thoroughly evaluated to ensure it does not impact those properties and that all appropriate noise screening measures are considered.
4. It is noted that a new permanent entrance will be created directly onto Fence Dyke Lane, and a further emergency access road will be created through the copse area to the west of the site. We would question why these are necessary when an established access road to the substation is next to the site. We are also concerned that tree felling for the emergency access should be avoided.
5. The site boundary on the plans is significantly larger than the area designated for the battery facilities. We therefore query whether the developer has further plans for the unused area of the plot.

ZB22/00924/DCN01: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3, 5, 11,12 and 13 for previously approved application 22/00924/FUL | St Andrews Terrace Great Fencote North Yorkshire DL7 0RT

Location: St Andrews Terrace Great Fencote North Yorkshire DL7 0RT

This application primarily concerns the detailed design of drainage and landscaping for the development. It should be noted that the reference to St Andrew's Terrace is incorrect; the reference should be to St Andrew's Church.

The Councillors raised no specific objections to the plans. Still, they noted that the design of drainage trenches and manholes must not be sufficiently deep to represent any danger of disturbance of graves situated directly below them. It was acknowledged that providing all graves are as deep as expected, then this should not be an issue but wish to emphasise the importance of this matter.

b) Outcomes

None

8. Lychgate - National Lottery Heritage Grant

Invitations have been sent regarding the official opening of the Lych Gate at the Parish Cemetery on Todd Lane in Great Fencote, which will be held on Sunday, 10 November, at 2 pm. A short reception at the Village Hall will follow the occasion.

As it is held on Remembrance Sunday, wreaths will be laid under the War Memorial plaque. A representative of the Royal Scots will lay a regimental wreath, and a resident has kindly agreed to lay a wreath recognising the entire roll of fallen servicemen from the wider community.

9. Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council received a written application for the office of Parish Councillor and co-opted a candidate to fill an existing vacancy.

Cllr Walker welcomed Mr Wall. The written application was circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting. Mr Wall introduced himself, gave information on his background and experience, and explained why he wished to become a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Walker proposed Mr Wood's application, which was unanimously agreed upon. The Councillors voted in favour of Mr Wall's application, and he then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Parish Clerk will notify the Electoral Services Officer at North Yorkshire Council of the council appointment.

10. Review of the Council's Policies, Procedures and Practices

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

- a) **GDPR General Privacy Notice** – Cllr Walker proposed that the updated GDPR General Privacy Notice as of October 2024 be accepted and adopted by the Parish Council immediately, and Cllr Edwards-Heathcote seconded this. It was resolved that the GDPR Privacy Notice, Staff, Councillors, Role Holders and Volunteers be adopted.
- b) **GDPR Privacy Notice, Staff, Councillors, Role Holders and Volunteers** – Cllr Walker proposed that the updated GDPR Privacy Notice, Staff, Councillors, Role Holders and Volunteers as of October 2024 be accepted and adopted by the Parish Council immediately, and Cllr Edwards-Heathcote seconded this. It was resolved that the GDPR Privacy Notice, Staff, Councillors, Role Holders and Volunteers be adopted.
- c) **Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme** – Cllr Walker proposed that the updated Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme as of October 2024 be accepted and adopted by the Parish Council immediately, and Cllr Edwards-Heathcote seconded this. It was resolved that the Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme be adopted.
- d) **Health, Safety and Welfare Policy** – Cllr Walker proposed that the updated Health, Safety and Welfare Policy as of October 2024 be accepted and adopted by the Parish Council immediately, and Cllr Edwards-Heathcote seconded this. It was resolved that the Health, Safety and Welfare Policy be adopted.

11. Community Transport and Social Care

Community Transport

A copy of a letter from HARBUS (The Hambleton and Richmondshire Bus Users Group) was circulated to the North Yorkshire Council to discuss the bus service improvements. The letter invites the council to send representatives to its next meeting on 28 October 2024. Cllr Lamperd will attend.

Social Care

The next Fleetham and Fencotes Outings Group visit was to Wensleydale Creamery. The next Outing will be held on 10 December 2024 with a visit to 'Whitegates Cafe' and Garden Centre.

12. Playground

Councillors met with the potential new land owner to discuss leasing a small plot to build a playground. Discussions will continue.

13. Defibrillator for Little Fencote and Training

Cllr Herbert has discussed the possible locations with a local charity and North Yorkshire Council. The Council is checking if locating a new defibrillator next to a streetlight is feasible.

The Parish Council is still discussing the location of a new defibrillator. North Yorkshire Council's policy is not to attach any new assets to people's property, regardless of permission.

14. Any Other Business

Items for November's Agenda

- Precept
- Risk Assessment
- Parish Insurance

The meeting closed at 10:01 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 November 2024.