

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Minutes of meeting – Thursday, 21 November 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mr Walker, Mrs Herbert, Mrs Edwards-Heathcote, Mr Lamperd, Mr Wall, North Yorkshire Councillor Wilkinson and one resident.

Residents raised the following issues before the meeting:

St Andrew's Terrace, Great Fencote

A resident was concerned about cars driving too fast and without due care and attention along St Andrew's Terrace, Great Fencote. The resident requested erecting a five-mph speed limit sign at either end of the access road. The Parish Council does not own the road, and the Council do not feel it is appropriate to make decisions on speed limits.

The Clerk will contact Broadacres and Highways to determine who owns the road and, if possible, pass on the residents' concerns.

Many local residents also observed that Low Street was closed at both north and south ends on 14 November without any forewarning. It is understood this was for work by Yorkshire Water. Councillors were unsure why it was necessary to close both ends and will endeavour to find out why.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

- 2. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, October 17, 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 shelter

The Council are trying to get quotes to fix the bus shelter roof in Great Fencote. Cllr Walker will continue to seek a quote.

VE Day

The Parish Council will coordinate and organise events with community stakeholders for the 80th VE Day celebrations.

Savings Account

The application has yet to proceed because it was made by a non-signatory. A Parish Council account signatory will reapply.

4. Burial Grounds

a) Parish Cemetery

The Councillors reviewed the current burial fees and unanimously agreed to keep the fees the same. The fees are to be reviewed again in 12 months.

The interpretation board has been erected, the NLHF acknowledgement plaque fixed to the lychgate, and the area around the notice board edged and covered in gravel. The Council will repoint the cement around the bench paving shortly.

There is a mole infestation at the Parish Cemetery and St Andrew's. The Clerk will investigate the commissioning of a pest controller to try to resolve the problem.

The excess soil from the recent burials has been left behind the interpretation board, and the Council discussed dispersing it around the sunken area behind the Yew trees.

b) St Mary's Churchyard

Cllr Herbert will contact the grass cutter to finish the long grass in the churchyard and trim the hedge.

c) St Andrew's Churchyard

A fallen tree branch in St Andrew's is holding up work on relocating the gravestones. The Clerk will notify North Yorkshire Council again and copy Cllr Wilkinson to the communication.

5. Correspondence

YLCA Training (0111/24), YLCA Weekly News and Notifications (0211/24), SW-QB091282382530040- Low Street, Kirkby Fleetham (0311/24), Royal Garden Party 2025 (0411/24), Responses from North Yorkshire Council (NYC) to issues raised at YLCA Branch meetings (0511/24), VE Day 8 May 2025 (0611/24), Increased Flying RAF Leeming (0711/24), Langton Bridge (0811/24).

Parish Portal

Unfortunately, the supplier is no longer updating the Parish Portal. Highways plan to close the Parish Portal on 9 December 2024. Parishes will then be encouraged to register for a Customer Portal account from 11 December. Highways are also working to improve the Customer Portal, which will be live early in the new year.

The Highway Customer Communication Officers (HCCOs) are working with the Parish Liaison Team to communicate this information to Parish Councils.

Swiss Airforce

The agreement with the Swiss to conduct nighttime flying in the area is in place for another four years. However, the original agreement has already been renewed once.

A resident has raised a concern to the Parish Council about noise and disruption from flying. The resident has requested that the Council arrange for the noise to be measured before the Swiss leave so residents can complain to RAF Leeming.

The Council agreed to draft a response to the resident.

6. Finance

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed and published the new rates of pay applicable from 01 April 2024. The Parish Council is to implement the pay awards immediately and to pay the Clerk's due backpay for April-Oct.

Cllr Wall was nominated as the new bank account signatory. The Clerk will update the bank mandate.

a) It was resolved to pay the following, and the payments will be raised accordingly:

Chq	Amount	Payee	Service
BACS		N.Lowe	Clerks wages for Nov plus backpay
BACS	£40.00	Imprint Business Services	A5 Lychgate Opening prints - Inv SI-37645
BACS	£158.40	CE & CM Walker Limited	Parish Grasscutting - Inv 24368
BACS	£144.80	T.Peacock	Refreshments for Lychgate opening
BACS	£600.00	V.Arrowsmith	Heritage consultant fees - Inv 2024-25 016
BACS	£48.00	WK Stubbs & Sons	Hedge trimming at Parish Cemetery
BACS	£2,000	C. Brown	Lychgate Project evaluation

The payment to C. Brown is approved before an anticipated invoice is received in December 2024 or January 2025. This will facilitate the prompt payment when the work is completed. This is due to there not being a December Parish Council meeting)

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

b) Income:

There has been £0.00 income for this month.

7. Planning

a) Applications

None

b) Outcomes

None

8. Lychgate - National Lottery Heritage Grant

The opening of the Lychgate was held on Sunday, 10th November at 2 pm. The event was well attended and considered by all to have been a success.

9. Precept

The Clerk had updated the financial statement, which showed that whilst there is still a healthy balance, the Parish's annual expenditure is approximately the same as its income. As costs are anticipated to rise annually in line with inflation, a slight increase would be better addressed.

Councillors resolved to increase the Parish Precept by £200 to £8,400 for the 2025/26 financial year.

10. Risk Assessment

The risk assessments are due to be undertaken over the next month. In preparation, the clerk circulated blank forms to each Councillor before the meeting.

11. Parish Insurance

The Parish Council insurance is due for renewal on 01 January 2025. The Clerk expects to receive the renewal quote in the first week of December.

The Clerk has received a comparison quote in preparation for the renewals and is trying to find other comparisons. The Parish Council will review all the quotes outside of the meeting.

12. Community Transport and Social Care

Community Transport

The meeting took place at the offices of Hambleton Community Action in Northallerton, with 23 invitees from towns and villages across North Yorkshire, including specialists from North Yorkshire Council (NYC). A key topic was the previous government's allocation of approximately £2.3 million in funds for improving rural bus services within the NYC region. The newly appointed Public and Community Transport Manager for Integrated Passenger Transport, NYC, was expected to attend to outline these proposals but did not, leaving only one NYC representative present.

Attendees are also awaiting details from the new Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, who has been allocated a significant budget for rural bus service improvements in his region.

Bus operators' responsibility regarding diverted routes was a significant issue during the meeting. The NYC representative responded that guiding this matter was not feasible due to the complexity of routing diversions. However, concerns were raised about why single-deck buses cannot travel on the same diverted routes used by larger vehicles, especially when these diversions often do not significantly increase travel time. Additionally, a recurring issue was highlighted with the local village bus service, suspended for extended periods, including a week without service.

Social Care

The Fleetham & Fencotes Outings Group continues to support local villagers, particularly those who are bereaved or ill, by connecting them with free services.

The next outing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th, with a minibus trip to Whitegates Café and Garden Centre. Participants will enjoy a "Festive Afternoon Tea" while exploring the shop and garden centre for potential Christmas gifts.

13. Playground

There is no further update. Discussions will continue.

14. Defibrillator for Little Fencote and Training

The Council is awaiting advice on which model to purchase. Cllr Wilkinson has confirmed that there is support for funding through the locality budget. Estimated costs will be forwarded to support an application for this. It was agreed that it is appropriate for the remainder of the cost to be taken from the Solar Community Fund.

The post for the defibrillator in Little Fencote has been ordered and will be installed shortly.

The ambulance service will conduct defibrillator training on 18 January 2025 at 10:15 a.m. in the Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall. The Council will advertise the training through community social news and InfoNet.

15. Any Other Business

Councillor Resignation

Cllr Herbert informed the Parish Council of her intention to resign as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Herbert for her excellent service over 21 years as a Chair and Parish Councillor.

Dog Bins

The Clerk will contact North Yorkshire Council to chase them for quotes on two new bins.

The meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: 16 January 2025.