

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2025

Present – S Jopling (chair), S Cowan, S Walker and R Stone

No. Activity

- 1 Apologies for absence from M Halliday. A Mansfield was absent.
- 2 No Public Participation
- 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Previously circulated from the February meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 4 Matters Arising
EV Charger – A meeting with a rep. from NCC was scheduled for later in the week. (Met with the EVC installer, agreed the position of one pillar with two charge points, and the position of the electric supply box. They will be free standing, away from the hall building. The install is due within 8 weeks.)

Falstone Cemetery – repair work was well underway for the wall rebuild and the clean up of the fallen tree had taken place too. NCC Trees and Woodland Officer, confirmed they are not inclined to take out the tops of the remaining Cedar trees in the cemetery. M Sanderson who volunteered to trap moles in the cemetery had lost 3 traps. It was agreed to reimburse the cost of those.

Tree Thinning – Northern Powergrid replied that they complete maintenance work as part of their routine vegetation management program. They have no immediate plans to undertake work in Falstone.

- 5 Planning Applications
25NP0013 – Variation to windows of the proposed dwelling house at Field House, Stannersburn – No observations.

25NP0017 – Part retrospective application for retention of single storey timber structure to rear elevation at The Cottage, Falstone
No objections/observations.

6 Correspondence

BT are holding a series of drop-in session for questions regarding the Digital Voice switch over. Although the landlines will not go digital until 2027, BT are holding session to explain why the change is necessary and what it means.

Our local session will be 4th April in Bellingham Town Hall, posters to be displayed.

7 Financial

Bank balance at 3 March was £10713.79.

Received from Northern Powergrid for wayleaves, £88.63.

Paid during the month, British Gas for electric £17.90.

Bank Service charge, £4.25

J Sanderson, £61.35 for postage, Land Registry searches and Land registry application.

8 Village Hall Update

From the February meeting – The warm hub attendees have increased.

Grasscutting contract has been advertised on social media.

An application for £250 from NCC VE Day fund has been applied for.

9 AO B

2026 will be 100 years of Kielder Forest. It is hoped a series of local events, from Kielder to Stonehaugh, Bellingham and Brynness will be organised throughout the year, to celebrate the occasion. Falstone have been asked to consider marking the occasion too. I.e. a winter walk, but any ideas welcome.

Sandra agreed to remove the large branch which had fallen into Falstone burn, within the Jubilee Park.

It was agreed to report the collapsed section of the wall on the boundary of the Old School Field.

Council election are due to be held on 1st May. Nomination forms were distributed.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 1st April.

