

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2025

Present – S Jopling (chair), S Cowan, M Halliday, S Walker and R Stone. Plus Mr G Varty as a member of the public.

No. Activity

1 No Apologies for Absence

A Mansfield has tendered his resignation. M Halliday was thanked for his past service to the parish council as he will not be standing as a councillor in the new term.

2 No Public Participation

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

EV Charger – As previously noted, met with the installer to agree the position of a single pillar with two charge points plus an electric box. These will be freestanding at the front of the village hall. An estimation of 8 weeks to be completed.

Tree Thinning – The thinning at Braeside had gone well at the end of March. Invoice received for, as agreed, £2940 including VAT.

100 years of Kielder Forest in 2026 – A reminder on the agenda to gather ideas.

5 Planning Applications - none

6 Correspondence

Kielder Community Design Challenge – notes from the March meeting held at Kielder, a project for opportunity to collaborate, innovate and accelerate ideas that address real challenges in Kielder and surrounding areas. Agreed to continue to take part.

Parish Council Tax – To ask and understand why on our council tax bills, the parish council contribution from 2024/25 to 2025/26 is a -14.5% change, when the precept has not changed.

- 7 New Car Parking Below the Blackcock
Cllr Riddle has earmarked money from his Community Fund to finance a major part of the estimate received from Coulson Construction. The parish council agreed to fund the small difference.
Need to clarify if any planning application is needed for the change of use for the verge.
- 8 Grasscutting 2025 – Kielder Country Sport will continue with the grasscutting around the parish council area for the 2025 season.
- 9 Financial
The bank balance at 28th March was £10677.90
Money committed carried forward is the investment payment of £1000 to the B4RN project and the payment to Redeswood Forestry of £2940.
Account details were produced but final figures will be presented with the Audit papers for 2024/25. All to be completed by 30 June 2025.
- 10 Village Hall Update
The warm hub is now suspended until October.
AGM is scheduled for 16 April.
- 11 AO B
A new local bus service has been launched, running on Saturdays from Kielder to Bellingham and return. Copies of the timetable will be requested and posted in local venues.

It was suggested to ask if NCC would provide 'poo bags' as we have a 'dog poo' bin in the village.

G Varty suggested creating some passing places on the roadside from Falstone to Donkleywood. These could be created by using a flail mower over the grass verge.

Post Office – Although a mobile Post office service from Stocksfield is willing to visit Falstone, the Post Office will have to fund the service. Plus they will need phone/wifi access. It was agreed to contact a Post office rep.

The next meeting scheduled for 6th May, which will be the AGM and annual parish meeting.

Signed

Date

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