

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2025

Present – S Jopling, S Cowan, S Walker and R Stone. Also Mr G Varty as a member of the public

No. Activity

1 Apologies for Absence - none

2 Public Participation

Mr Nick Devitt from Rural Design Centre to explain the Kielder Community Design Challenge, which is to support local communities to develop and accelerate ideas to address challenges within the community. Examples could be travel, protection & improvement, working & living.

Some ideas the councillors had were an enterprise hub, keeping young people in the area, communal wind turbine.

An open public event will be held in Falstone on 9th June.

Following an uncontested parish council election on 1st May, 4 councillors were nominated.

AGM

Election of chair – S Jopling, nominated by S Walker , seconded by S Cowan. Steve accepted.

Vice chair – S Walker nominated by S Cowan, seconded by S Jopling. Simon agreed.

Village Hall Committee – R Stone agreed.

Cemetery Committee – S Cowan, S Jopling and S Walker

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

4 Matters Arising

100 years of Kielder Forest – looking for ideas of celebration.

Post Office – From the mobile van & outreach team, they confirmed they were unable to accommodate an additional stopping point mainly due to the distances involved, plus the average customer per week.

It was agreed to write to our local MP for support, but alternative suggestions were, a village cash dispenser, have a local post office champion to access post office services ie for sending a parcel by Royal Mail, could stamps be sold locally. (confirmed stamps are available from Falstone Tearoom)

5 Planning Applications - none

6 Correspondence

A new mobile library vehicle is now in operation and does visit the valley. Details of the refreshed service to be sought and advertised.

7 New Car Parking below The Blackcock

NCC have confirmed a planning application is required for the change of use.

8 Financial

Bank balance at 2nd May was £8888.83.

Payments during the month –

Redesdwood Farm, £2940 for tree thinning.

Kielder Country Sports, £600 for 3 x grasscutting last year

NCC, £561.18, Gravestone inspection

Turtle Engineering, £30.98 new seal for defibrillator cabinet door.

First half of precept received, £2225.00

£22.71 Wayleave charge from Northern Powergrid also received.

To pay – Village hall for meetings, £105.00

NALC – Annual subscription, £83.02

Kielder Country Sports, £400 for 2 x grasscutting

Discussion took place to consider the increase in the grasscutting rate as detailed in a letter from Kielder Country Sport and whether to engage with P Massie, a gardener for work within the village.

The grasscutting rate per cut was agreed at £300.00, plus an extra £300.00 for filling in and grass over sunken graves within the cemetery.

The gardener rate of £25.00 was also agreed with 2 or 3 hours per month.

With the audit for FY 24/25 in process and with new councillors it was agreed to hold future session on budgets and facebook/website.

9 Village Hall Update – no update as AGM rescheduled for 14th May.

10 AO B

Is it necessary for a narrow road sign at Falstone Tyne Bridge?

R Stone agreed to look at the criteria for such a sign.

Date of next meeting 10th June 2025

Signed

Date

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