

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2026

Present – S Cowan, S Walker(Chair), L Elsdon and R Stone

Apologies for Absence, received from S Jopling but G Varty was absent.

Public Participation - none

Minutes of the July meeting, previously circulated, were signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising - Tree at Stannersburn, opposite Forest Lodge, reported to NCC as a concern to nearby properties, their reply was they are only able to inspect trees that are dead, damaged, diseased or causing a physical obstruction as a priority.

Kielder Investment Plan- the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 2nd September, J Sanderson agreed to attend. The title of the plan is Kielder but projects could and should include the surrounding areas of Falstone, Tarsset, Wark and Redesdale/Byrness.

Planning Applications - none

Recent Flooding at Stannerburn- Although NCC were asked to consider further long term work on the drains, funding is likely to be an issue. It was agreed to put a map together so councillors can see exactly where the problems could be and who is responsible for each land holding.

Correspondence – Notification of the Kielder Marathon, to be held on 3 and 4 October.

Easements – should be progressing now the solicitor has an understanding of the relationship with the parish council and the village hall management committee regarding the signing of easements and agreements.

Donkleywood Passing Places – NCC will arrange an inspection of the route from Donkleywood to Lanehead to identify any defects or damage that may have occurred following the closure of the Tarsset bridge when the route was used more frequently as an alternative route. Also NCC report that regulations state passing places should have a maximum spacing between them of 200 meters. Indicating the route would need around 25 passing places so the cost would be excessive. It was agreed to contact Tarsset & Greystead pc informing them of the NCC views and ask for their support for passing places.

Proposed Car Park below the Blackcock – With estimated survey costs necessary for the planning application and a likely increase in the actual specification, the grant money given to the parish council would not be sufficient. It was agreed to contact cllr J Riddle for further advice on funding.

Financial – Bank balance as at 25th August was £24718.52.

Payments made during the month were – G Varty grasscutting for May and June, £620.00. Insight Architecture for pre application work, £204.00.

A VAT refund was claimed, up to end of March 26, £530.51.

Invoice received and agreed, G Varty, remedial work to graves in Falstone cemetery during May, £310.00, agreed.

British Gas will be adding non-energy costs to business energy bills from August 2026, adding 0.03p per month.

Village Hall Update – From the July meeting, the indoor bowls equipment is still looking for a new home. An independent inspection will still be required even if the committee commit to a planned maintenance agreement.

Although the PPL/PRS licence will be renewed consideration has to be given whether to renew the MPLC licence (to show movies). At a cost of nearly £400 regular movie sessions will be required over the year to cover the cost. The pc suggest the licence should be renewed, to help with the use of the hall.

The roof space is still to be inspected and rubbish stored up there removed.

Looking Ahead/Calendar – a simple calendar was presented. Discussion took place suggesting items ie Christmas decoration set up, Falstone show and bonfire night entered. Looking ahead, is there a plan of action if the power is off, how long will the new battery storage last and what can be run from them.

A O B – A special thanks to everyone who has helped keep the village tidy and weed free over the summer, it has looked amazing.

Date of next meeting Tuesday October 6th.

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