

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2026

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

No. Activity

1 Apologies for Absence from G Varty

2 No Public Participation

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

December minutes previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

Land at URC Gate – Due to a ‘statement of truth’ not practicable the council agreed to fence off the area with a 45cm high fence, with access. Ask North. Water for advice.

B4RN

5 Planning Applications –

26NO0002LBC – At The Rectory, Falstone, install of woodburning stove and enlargement of existing concealed fireplace – no observations.

6 Correspondence

Old Railway Line , section of the Reiver Trails. As the Reiver Trails project is now complete and signed off, money is not available, but KWFPDT may look for funding elsewhere.

Woodland Management Scheme – J Sanderson met with Forestry Commission who were very positive regarding a scheme for the trees in the Croft area. The scheme would be the community vision, doing work and/or maintenance as required. Certain grants and funding would be available during the 10 year scheme. It was agreed to pass to the village hall committee to action.

7 New Car Park Proposal

No progress but agreed to ask Insight in Bellingham to quote for a permitted development application.

8 Update on email and website moving to gov.uk
Work on the gov.uk domain is complete and the new council email has also been set up.
Simon has completed a lot of work in transferring information into the new website, but is not yet live. A google calendar is on the website which will be used to show community events

9 Financial – Final decision of Precept for FY 26/27 budget
Bank balance at 29th December was £23648.94.
Invoices agreed were from M Macgregor for advice, £70.00.
And P Massie for gardening services Oct and December, £100.00.

Precept – Serious discussion took place on running costs for next year. Ring fence amounts for defibrillator and donation costs was agreed. Council expenditure on the proposed car park ie planning fees and costs above the grant, will be taken from the reserves (approx. £4500) but the reserves will be built up again gradually over a number of years.

The precept was agreed at £6500.00, an increase from £4450.
The justification for the increase was gardening costs and clerk services.

10 Village Hall Update Nothing to report, next meeting January 20th.

11 AO B
The Yarrow noticeboard had blown down. Steve Jopling agreed to have a look at repairing.

The winter grit heaps at Yarrow require topping up and a grit bin would be requested.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 3rd February.

Signed

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