

## Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Present – S Jopling (chair), S Cowan, M Halliday, J Richardson, A Mansfield and N Welton.

Plus Mr G Varty, Mr A MacLennan of Forestry England and Cllr J Riddle.

No.	Activity
1	No Apologies for Absence
2	<p>Alex MacLennan, Recreation Manager, Forestry England – Ash Chalara disease is affecting all the Ash trees along the riverside walk and they need to be removed ( the disease is county wide). This will happen over the autumn. In the longer term it is hoped a community project can be established to replant a variety of new trees along the riverside.</p> <p>An update was given on the various events that would be happening around Kielder forest, during September there would be the Dirty Reiver and a 4X4 event. Events are being programmed which were cancelled from 2020 due to the pandemic.</p> <p>It is hoped an event list can be established and published locally.</p> <p>Extensive repair work on the North Shore of the lakeside way is about to commence and money is allocated for an annual maintenance programme.</p>
3	<p>Cllr J Riddle, Local Services, NCC – During July Cllr Riddle, Mr A Olive , Tynedale Area Manager, Highways, NCC, met with Mark Halliday to look at and discuss various highway issues that concerned the parish council. To date some action has been taken and works orders are in place for others.</p> <p>Mr Varty expressed concern at the lack of passing places on the Donkleywood to Lanehead road.</p> <p>The need for passing places on a single track road is determined by a risk assessment conducted by NCC Highways. It was agreed a risk assessment be carried out.</p> <p>Any road closure order has to be entered onto a national database, but information there is not specific enough as road closure dates can cover a long period of time, but in reality the closure could only be two or three days.</p> <p>Obtaining a parish council link for road improvements is being looked at.</p>

	<p>Cllr Riddle stated that utility companies can apply as and when they require work to be done on the highways but communications between the utility companies themselves does not take place, which would be the most sensible solution.</p> <p>The underground drain at the far end of Stannersburn was mentioned and it was agreed to inform A Olive, NCC, of the problem.</p> <p>NCC agree they must work smarter to keep the roadside gullies clear. A new 'gully sucker' machine had been purchased and it hoped to GIS all the drains/gullies for future reference.</p> <p>There is a roads maintenance programme but most work is reactive.</p> <p>Public Transport in the Tyne Valley is being looked at.</p> <p>Cllr Riddle has money allocated to him, to spend on his area ( 9 parishes), on capital projects, not revenue/running costs.</p> <p>The Community Chest can cover revenue costs of projects.</p> <p>Some good news –</p> <p>The Northumberland Line, will reopen 6 train stations on the east coast.</p> <p>The battery factory proposed for Blyth will create many jobs.</p> <p>NCC have allocated £24k funding to Kielder Observatory towards a digital project.</p>
4	Public Participation - none
5	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>Previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
6	Matters Arising - none
7	<p>Planning Applications –</p> <p>21/03169 – 1 Braeside, Mouseyhaugh – single storey extensions – no observations</p> <p>21/03165 Falstone Barns – conversion of stone barn and hay barn.</p> <p>It was agreed to check if a new septic tank was required.</p>
8	Village Website – Nothing to report
9	Correspondence

	<p>Notification of Kielder Marathon on weekend 2/3 October.</p> <p>NCC members are keen to schedule meetings with parish councils as part of their key priorities.</p> <p>Climate Emergency Declarations – NCC are asking for information on what local councils are doing to towards emission reductions. NCC declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set the challenge of reducing carbon emissions across Northumberland to ‘net-zero’ by 2030.</p> <p>This raised the question on the electric charging point within the village, linked to the Tearoom. After discussion it was agreed to ask a representative from National Park to update the parish council on the proposals for Falstone tea room and to upgrade the electric charging point.</p>
10	<p>Financial</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of 21/22 precept received, £2225.00.</p> <p>£13.00 received from NCC as cemetery double charge.</p> <p>£20.00 refund received from Gibson &amp; Co as over payment to Land Registry</p> <p>Received £50.00 from Falstone Tearoom</p> <p>Bank balance at 28 July was £12580.40</p>
11	<p>Village Hall Update – AGM scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> September. Andrew Mansfield agreed to attend as parish council representative.</p>
12	<p>AO B</p> <p>J Richardson requested a notice board for the residents of Yarrow, which was agreed.</p> <p>J Richardson asked about mobile phone reception, as his medical condition requires mobile access to download.</p> <p>There is an O2 mast, with 4g at Yarrow Ops centre and an EE mast is being investigated.</p> <p>For the next meeting, councillors to consider where possible tree inspections may be required on pc land, due to the Ash Chalara disease.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> October.</p>

Signed

Date