

## Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.

Present – S Jopling (Chair) S Cowan, S Walker, R Stone and L Elsdon.  
Plus Mr J Swinney from Stannersburn.

### No. Activity

- 1 No Apologies for Absence but G Varty was absent.
- 2 Public Participation - Recent flooding in Stannersburn, (March 26)  
Mr Swinney asked for parish council support to find a solution to prevent possible future flooding of East Cottage in Stannersburn. The problems are the camber on the road, raise the kerb, drains blocked and the ditch filled with silt. Neighbours worked together to prevent water getting into the cottage and North. Water did visit the site soon after the event. The land ownership was discussed and who would be responsible for the ditch cleaning. NCC highways would be asked to look at the site.  
Also the flooding at the Railway Arch in the village would be mentioned to NCC.

Mr Swinney also asked if the parish council could maintain the area across the road from Field House, keeping the grass down.

It was agreed to publish information regarding the 'Fix My Street' System, where numerous faults, issues or problems can be reported to NCC, online.

- 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
Previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 4 Matters Arising  
100 years of Kielder Forest – A tree planting will take place above Stannersburn near compartment 1, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April. Followed by a presentation of a framed map of the original compartment, which will reside in the village hall.  
On the evening of 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Stargazing event hosted from the village hall.

Riverside Walk - A huge improvement for users but a complaint was received about a gate being left open and dog mess.

Dog Mess generally – it was agreed to try to educate dog owners of the potential hazards of not picking up dog mess. A post for social media will be forthcoming.

The cost of a new dog poo bin would be investigated.

5 Planning Applications – none

6 Correspondence

Parish Councils are being offered a sapling from the Sycamore Gap tree. Falstone pc have accepted the offer but a position for the planting has not yet been agreed.

7 New Car Park below the Blackcock – The pre application has been submitted at a cost of £250.00, with a decision due on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Insight Architectural Design submitted their invoice for the pre app submission, £540.00.

8 Financial

A revised price for the grasscutting in the village and cemetery received from G Varty, was agreed, from £300 to £310 per cut.

The bank balance at 31 March was £22980.96.

Application for a council debit card was supported but the bank signatories have to be updated.

Audit instructions for fy 25/26 have been received, with completion by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

9 Village Hall Update from March meeting.

The roof leak will be investigated and it has been suggested the older solar panels should be cleaned.

A visit from Communities Energy Officer from CAN is expected.

The bonfire committee will be asked to remove the bonfire remains.

10 AO B

The new path from Kielder Waterside to Calvert Trust crosses the C200 road. At the road crossing, water is running down the road and there is no warning signs to inform motorists of a possible road crossing. The 'Visit Kielder' team would be asked to comment.

The road closure at Tasset bridge, scheduled for 8 weeks from 20<sup>th</sup> April is causing some concern.

After comments on social media regarding the state of the village, S Cowan, with offers of help, was to organise a few hours of village tidy.

L Welton expressed concern that on the upgraded riverside footpath, with new fencing and gates, sheep could panic and run into the river if they are crossing to the riverside and someone is walking their dog.

Next meeting, the Annual Parish meeting and the AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Signed

Date

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