

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026 in Falstone village hall.

Present – S Jopling, S Cowan, S Walker (Chair), R Stone. Including Mrs F Sanderson and Mr P Gough, both from Stannersburn.

Apologies for Absence from L Elsdon. G Varty was absent.

Public Participation - P Gough asked for action on a very high Poplar tree opposite Forest Lodge in Stannersburn. BT replied they would not look at trees on private property. NCC are only able to inspect trees that are dead, damaged, diseased or causing a physical obstruction as a priority. All general tree maintenance work requests that are causing no risk of harm to people or property will be dealt with as resources allow. They are unable to provide a time frame for inspections and works relating to low priority requests.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Previously circulated from the June meeting, were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising - none

Planning Applications – none

Recent Flooding at Stannersburn- Although NCC had dug out the ditch, the work done was still seen as a temporary fix. The work was a good result given the restraints of the site. It was agreed to contact the council again to survey the area and find a solution to the problem of the silt building up. The land owner of the grazing fell would be contacted to confirm their boundary in that area.

Correspondence - Kielder Investment Plan – a recent meeting in June was to make a commitment to take ideas forward. The parish council are still interested in these themes/projects going forward. I.e. a bridge over Bakethin, Rivermead Units, Places to Stay are just some of the projects.

Adopt IT Policy – Previously circulated, the IT policy was agreed and would be published on the parish council website.

Donkleywood Passing Places – During the recent road closure at Tasset Bridge the Donkleywood road was used quite extensively, although not a recommended diversion route. There had been reports of vehicles being stuck and having to be pulled out but probably not officially reported. Once again NCC highways would be asked for their views on additional passing places on this route.

New Car Parking below the Blackcock – J Thompson from Insight Architectural Design, was unable to attend the meeting but had put together some quick quotes to show the possible costs to accompany the full planning application. These include topographic survey, drainage drawings, tree survey, ecology survey, design drawings and planning fee, with a total of £5695 plus VAT.

Financial – Bank balance as at 29th June was £25913.92, which included in the last month, £660 for a recent funeral service and Kielder had wrongly paid the cemetery balance of £379.41 for fy 25/26 which needed to be refunded and then paid to them correctly.

Village Hall Update - Last meeting was 23 June. The village hall insurance was renewed with a new insurance company. A correct rebuild valuation for the village hall would be useful. An inspection contract for the play equipment, is being considered. A 5 year agreement with 10 inspection and the maintenance/ repairs listed with costs. Security cameras were being considered.

Looking Ahead and a calendar - Moving into the Autumn and Winter The parish council should be looking at mentioning to NCC to have the drain grates cleared, ensure grit bins are replenished, check for any fences or gates that require repair.

AO B – Mr A Swaile was given permission to use a ‘friendly’ solution, using vinegar to spray weeds around the village.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 1st September.

Signed

Date

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