

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2026.

Present – S Walker (Chair), L Elsdon and R Stone. Plus Mr C Anderson and Ms K Hollings.

No. Activity

1 Apologies for Absence from S Jopling, S Cowan and G Varty.
S Jopling asked to relinquish his chairman role for the time being.

2 Public Participation

Mr C Anderson, a local farmer came to the meeting for parish council support in dealing with dogs and dog faeces on his grazing land around the village, especially at Hawkhope. Dog walkers are not sticking to the public paths but wandering across the fields with dogs off leads and dog faeces not picked up. The concern is dog faeces left in the fields, gets collected with the harvest and if eaten by stock at a later date, can cause serious harm to animals and could be fatal.

Car permanently parked on grazing land at Hawkhope Road are another concern. These cars are taking up some valuable roadside harvest land.

Mr Anderson proposes to erect a 3 strand fence behind the 12 Hawkhope Road houses, to ensure when the cattle are moved there, he is not relying on the garden fences being stock proof.

Introduction of Wild Cats to Kielder – by Ms K Hollings, Wildcat Project Officer, Forestry England – The reintroduction feasibility project although it is in its second year it is ongoing and is part of Forestry England 'Forest Wilding', which includes beavers and pine martins. The project for the introduction of wildcats covers a huge area including the Scottish Borders, Cumbria and Kielder Forest, and looking for suitable habitat areas. The size, diet and life style of the wildcat were discussed. More details can be found at www.kielderwildcatproject@forestryengland.uk

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Previously circulated, the February minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

- 4 Matters Arising
100 years of Kielder Forest – Hopefully more details concerning Falstone’s part in the celebrations will be discussed on Monday 9th.
- 5 Planning Applications – Circulated during the month 26NP0021 – Proposed construction of stable block with associated yard and landscaping at The Old Rectory, Falstone. – No observations.
- 6 Correspondence
Riverside Path – National Park started work to upgrade the riverside footpath. After complaints were voiced regarding the lack of warning notices and the disruption to a lot of daffodils and snowdrops, NNPA responded stating they will plant more bulbs and spread some wildflower seeds later in the year.

Northumberland County Council are consulting on the counties libraries, with a survey available for thoughts. A ‘borrow box’ scheme for Library books will be investigated. See www.borrowbox.com where you can get your books in an app.
- 7 Proposed Car Park
Insight Architecture have been instructed to proceed with a pre application, to NCC.
- 8 Financial
Bank balance at 2nd March was £23524.49. Income during the month £175, for a memorial permission.
Payments to HugoFox, £14.98 for website and email support.
Gardener for January work, £75.00.
Invoice received from J Sanderson, clerk, 6 month salary £805.00 plus £3.60 for photo costs.
A cheque received from Northern Powergrid, wayleaves, £90.44.
- 9 Village Hall Update
Notes taken from February meeting – 10 new solar panels and battery storage is now complete including a new main fire switch in the doorway. A new fire door into the boiler room may be needed. A small roof leak under the older panels was found.
The FIT income from Scottish Power for 3 months to end of January seemed low, comparisons will be made.

A new postbox/keysafe will be fitted. J Morris MP is planning more community surgeries and various outside organisations have made hall bookings.

The Croft grasscutting, contractor not yet sorted and a repair for the tennis court was received at £16k plus VAT

10 AO B

Kielder Design Sprint held a meeting on 3rd March, to follow up from sessions held last year, led by the Rural Design Centre (RDC), during 2025. To discuss what ideas/projects could be taken forward.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6th April

Signed

Date

Website www.falstoneparish.gov.uk or follow on facebook