

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2025

Present – S Jopling (chair), S Cowan, S Walker and R Stone. Plus Mrs L Bell from Village Hall committee

No. Activity

- 1 Apologies for Absence – received from M Halliday and A Mansfield
- 2 No Public Participation
- 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Previously circulated from the January meeting, were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 4 Matters Arising
Adverse Possession Application – The relevant form had been sent to Land Registry .gov for the grass area outside the UR Church. A £30.00 fee was also paid. It could take over 1 year for the process.
- 5 Planning Applications - none
- 6 Correspondence
EV Charger – The charger is programmed for install in early March.

Second Homes – Council tax records show there are currently 21 second home properties in Falstone parish, but no accurate figures on the number of holiday lets.

- 7 Financial
The bank balance at 2nd February was £12168.66.
A new battery for the defribulator had been purchased at a cost of £279.54 from Welmedical.
Renewal for one year, falstone.org, from JustHost, was paid, £221.69.
Invoice received and agreed for clerical services, J Sanderson, £1610.00
- 8 Village Hall Update
Points from the January meeting were – quotes had been received for upgrading the tennis club into a MUGA.

CAN were to be contacted again, following on from last year's energy audit for the hall, for a replacement heating system.

The grasscutting contract for the Croft area would be advertised.

- 9 Tennis Court – Tracey Morgan from Community Action Northumberland (CAN) attended the meeting to brief councillors on the relationship of the parish council, village hall committee and the tennis court.

Parish council are custodian trustees. The village hall committee are the management committee for the village hall building and the Croft play area including the tennis court.

There is an agreement dated 1968 with Ridley, Park End for the tennis court.

In 1980 the croft play area was bought from Ridley, Park End to create the current play area, including the tennis court.

The conveyance of 1980 would supersede the agreement with the tennis court. Due to lack of evidence it is assumed the 1968 agreement for the tennis court has just carried on without question until now, when the tennis court committee are handing it back to the village hall.

The tennis court does not need to stay as is, but the village hall committee must use the land to achieve their charitable purposes. Any deviation from the committee's charitable purpose as stated in the 1980 conveyance must be approved by the Charity Commission.

- 10 AO B

Falstone Cemetery suffered some major damage during storm Eouwyn. A large tree had blown down, taking a section of wall down too. At the main entrance a tree came down taking out another section of wall. Northumberland County Council have been made aware as they are responsible for the boundary wall and trees. It was agreed the cemetery should be closed, but not locked, for safety reasons.

Simon reported some fly tipping at Yarrow.

Thinning of trees at Braeside – It was suggested, when the thinning takes place, that trees encroaching the electric transformer in the Croft, be taken back at the same time.

Next meeting scheduled for 4th March 2025.

Signed

Date

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