

Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2010

Present: Parish Councillors; Mr Alexander, Mr Tubby, Mr Peirson, Mrs Booth, Mrs Herbert, Clerk; Mrs C. Mitton and 2 residents who were welcomed by Mr Alexander.

1) **Apologies.** There were no apologies.

2) **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2009**, copies of which were handed out at the meeting, were accepted and signed by Mr Alexander, chairman of the Parish Meeting.

3) **Chairman's Report:**

*Burial Ground: Mr Alexander was pleased to report that the Burial Ground is now open, just as St Andrew's Churchyard closed for non-reserved plots. Amenities are gradually being added to the area and a notice board is being costed. He wished to record the Parish Council's grateful thanks in particular to Cllr Booth and the Parish Clerk for all the hard work they have put into the project.

* Gravel Workings: The issue of Gravel Working continues. At the last meeting Mr Alexander reported that Aggregate Industries had applied to work the flood plain area under the existing legislation to which the PC responded in detail in March 2008. Since then there has been no further communication. At the beginning of this year a similar Scoping Report from Tarmac was received for their Killerby Site, which lies to the north of Hook House Farm and involves the demolition of Broad Close Farm. Mr Alexander expressed the view that Tarmac have been very good at keeping the PC informed of their proposals; this area not being scheduled to be worked until about 2017/18.

Recent local publicity indicates that proposals are likely to be submitted for the extraction of sand in the area of Roughly Bank and towards Scruton. Whilst this is not within the Parish, NYCC have been asked to keep the PC informed.

Last month the PC received the NYCC Minerals Core Strategy First Consultation Document (this covers the period until 2023), which requires a response by the end of the month.

*Play Area: The PC has endeavoured to take this forward and Mr Alexander wished to thank Cllr Herbert for her work. An area on the existing green has been identified as possibly suitable. Unfortunately, in order to access funding it requires the owner's written permission which is proving difficult. Nevertheless, the PC remains hopeful.

* Affordable Housing: There has been little progress with regard to affordable housing, though the Rural Housing Enabler has again tried to find suitable land for development, but without success.

* Village Sign Posts: These have at last been installed.

* Planning: The PC have commented on a number of planning proposals submitted to HDC. Cllr Alexander reported that one in particular had caused the PC great concern, namely the development at 3 Kirkby Lane. Despite vehement opposition from villagers, representations to the Development Control Committee of HDC and trees having been illegally felled in a conservation area, it received approval. Continuing problems for local residents over parking and unloading have been taken up with the District Councillor as conditions applied to the planning consent are being flouted.

* General Maintenance: Maintenance in the villages has continued - grass cutting is the major cost. On behalf of the PC Cllr Alexander

wished to record his thanks to those people who keep an eye on the state of the villages - Sheila for regular cleaning of the shelter at Kirkby Fleetham, Jimmy Burns for his work in cutting the verges along Kirkby Lane, Anthony Barker for cutting the churchyard and finally, the late Mike Hughes for his work on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and also his other contributions to village well being. His inputs will be missed.

* Other Activities: Throughout the year the Councillors have commented on or read through many reports/consultations/questionnaires received from Hambleton; following the introduction of revisions to the Freedom of Information Act, have continued to review procedures and protocols - a quite considerable task to undertake.

Councillor Activities: councillors have undertaken a range of activities on behalf of the parish including RAF liaison meeting, YLCA meetings, various meetings at Hambleton, Bedale and District Market Town Committee and with NYCC.

* Mr Alexander ended his report by thanking his fellow Councillors and the clerk for all their hard work in ensuring that they provide an acceptable service to the community.

4) Financial Report:

Copies of the Financial Statement for 2009-2010 were circulated and the clerk explained that at the end of 2008/09 a balance of £6068 had been carried forward, a reduction of £4574 on the previous year. As had been noted the previous year, this was largely due to the work planned for the recently acquired Burial Ground with money acquired through loans being gradually spent as the Burial Ground developed. During the course of the year a further £840 had been spent on the Burial Ground (excluding loan repayments) and a further £1700 remains of the original loan. This will be used for the provision of a Notice Board and upkeep. At the end of 2009/10 the carry-forward figure had reduced to £5248 and with the deduction of the planned expenditure for the Burial Ground, leaves a surplus of £3548. However, there were two bills outstanding from 2009/10 and if these are deducted the actual figure is £3253. Whilst this would appear to be a reasonably healthy figure, it was noted by the Parish Council that for the past three years the expenditure on the Parish has been greater than the income through the precept, including the loan repayments. In 2009/10 the total expenditure was £6103. It was therefore reluctantly agreed, that in order to maintain a reasonable contingency fund, the precept would need to be raised this year.

5 Open Discussion:

* A resident raised the possibility of extending the lay-by on the western side of the green at Great Fencote to help to alleviate parking problems. Mr Alexander explained that it was illegal to take part of the village green for this purpose and that as the green was not owned by the Parish Council it was unable to become involved. The Parish Council did agree to approach Broadacres Housing Association again to ask if it would be possible for Broadacre tenants living around the green to use the parking area beside the main road, in an attempt to reduce the number of cars trying to park in the lay-by.

*Mrs Herbert asked if there had been any progress with the Youth Club reported the previous year. Mrs Booth explained that unfortunately, it had not been possible to provide this.

*A resident expressed concern about dog fouling in the parish. Mr Alexander advised that if people were reluctant to report the problem directly, if names and details were passed to the Parish Council a letter would be sent to HDC asking them to deal with the problem.

- Mrs Booth informed the meeting about a project through HDC bio-diversity aimed at improving verges. Butcher's Bank was suggested as a possible site and Mrs Booth was asked to pursue this further.

As there were no further matters raised, Mr Alexander thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.