

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 5th January 2021 via Zoom.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Newton (Chair), E Critchlow, D Barras, S Ingleby S Malone, T Mezza, J Price, S Thorpe, and the Parish Clerk Miss E Brown.

Also, present County Councillor J Watson

1 x Member of public

There were no questions from the public in attendance.

C051/20 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Craig and Orr – The apologies were approved.

C052/20 Disclosure of Interests – None.

C053/20 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held 3rd November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

A member queried the siting of the second new noticeboard. The Clerk would progress this agreeing a location outside the Village Hall with Cllr Critchlow out of meeting.

C054/20 Standing Item – Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Watson informed that Druridge Bay Country Park would be remaining open during the current national lockdown. A grant application for insulation improvements for the Village Hall which had initially been turned down after being classed as revenue costs has been appealed by County Councillor Watson and had now been granted on the basis that insulation would be capital costs. The Village Hall had also obtained funding from the developer of Cheviot Meadows. Cllr Malone was requested to follow up developer's commitment to fund a Vehicle Activated Speed sign for the west end of the village.

Elections were still due to take place on May 6th with Purdah starting on 25th March. The

Annual meeting of the Council date would need to be changed to take place between 10th

May and 24th May.

C055/20 Finance:

- Financial Summary on 23rd December 2020 Treasurers Account £4221.84, Business Bank Instant £12067.77
- The bank reconciliation and budget monitoring on 23rd December 2020 was received for information.

c) **RESOLVED** that the payments be agreed.

04.11.2020	576	Cancelled Cheque		£0.00
05.11.2020	577	Poppy Appeal	Wreaths	£50.00
05.10.2020	578	Cancelled Cheque		£0.00
29.12.2020	579	Gustharts	Brushcutters	£2367.00
05.01.2021	580	Clerk	Wages/ Expenses	£188.00
05.01.2021	581	HMRC	PAYE	£40.60

d) To note receipts

09.11.2020	Lloyds	Interest		£0.12
09.12.2020	Lloyds	Interest		£0.11

e) Funding requests:

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED that:**

- Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972 s 142, a donation be paid to The Pelican to the amount of £100.
- Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972 s 214(6), a donation be paid to Acklington Parochial Church Council towards the maintenance of the Churchyard to the amount of £500.
- No donation be paid to Bailiffgate Museum as it's located outside of the Parish boundary and therefore did not meet the Parish Council's policy on donations.

C056/20 Planning:

- To consider any planning matters: None.

C057/20 Acklington Village Hall Trustee Arrangements

This matter would be deferred to the March meeting. The Clerk and Cllr Critchlow would look at how to progress this out of meeting.

C058/20 Footpath Working Party Update

All the brush cutting equipment has arrived. Everything is secure under lock and key. Cllr Malone will act as Quartermaster: storing, cleaning, issuing equipment and managing all the H&S documentation. Training for the 6 X Volunteer Brushcutters is being arranged for the 'Brushcutters and Trimmers LANTRA Awards and Rural Skills qualification'. Covid19 restrictions and wet weather may delay the training until early spring. Pigdon Farm Ltd have agreed to open a new Permissive Pathway alongside the East Coast rail line. The 1-kilometre pathway will give walkers easy access from the village to Rake Lane, and the network of footpaths beyond. The Pigdon Farm team are going to refurbish the entry and exit points. The Acklington Community Team have agreed to support the project and will pay for the yellow-topped posts and signage. Weather and Covid-19 permitting, the pathway will open in early spring.

Members noted concern of quad bikes churning up local byways such as Rake Lane and in some cases footpaths which are not open to vehicular traffic. It was suggested to deal with this via publicity, speaking to the various landowners and stakeholders regarding the costs of the damage caused by the quads. County Councillor Watson suggested approaching the riders, possible physical obstructions to prohibit access by vehicles where they are not allowed and referring to the Police.

C059/20 Recruitment of Parish Clerk

RESOLVED that:

- the Council create a Personnel Committee to undertake the recruitment and interview process and make recommendations to the Parish Council for the meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 2nd March,
- Cllrs Barras, Malone, Newton, Price and Craig be delegated to sit on the Personnel Committee
- Standard contractual hours be increased to 8 hours per month
- The Personnel Committee review the existing terms and conditions of employment in line with Society of Local Council Clerk Model documents.

C060/20 Budget for 2021-22

RESOLVED that the budget for 2021-22, be agreed as attached as Appendix 1.

C061/20 To agree precept request for 2021-22

RESOLVED that the precept be increased to £8000 for the year 2021/22.

Next meeting: Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council TUESDAY 3rd March January 2021 at

7.00 pm

Appendix 1 – Budget as agreed for 2021-22