

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on Tuesday 3 September 2024 at Acklington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs L Craig, S Ingleby (Vice Chair, in the Chair), S Malone, T Mezza, S Thorpe.
Cllr J. Watson (NCC)

2024/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Newton and Shanks.

2014/19 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2024/20 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 28 May 2024 be agreed as a true record, subject to the inclusion of County Cllr Watson in the attendance and that Minute No.10 (b) refer to “West Lodge”.

2024/21 Report from County Councillor

.The sign at the junction had been reported but not replaced yet. He would chase this up •
He had received correspondence from the residents of the Southfields estate about the road adoption. •
.He was working with officers to try and get a solution •
The road from Acklington to Warkworth was in poor condition. He had been told verbally that there •
was extra funding available which could be used for repairs, but this had not been confirmed in •
.writing yet •
.The new schools in Amble were opening very soon •

There was some discussion about having a traffic counter installed. This would be followed up with NCC by the Clerk.

2024/22 Planning

Some concerns were expressed about the number of current applications which involved holiday letting.

It was noted that applications would soon be considered by NCC in light of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- CLPROP|Certificate of proposed lawful development for use of the existing building for/24/02791 •
agricultural storage and as a mess facility for staff employed by the Estate and the farm, forming part •
of the agricultural operational buildings required to run the farm and the Estate|Barn South Of •
.Waterside Cottage Acklington Northumberland -Noted
- CLPROP|Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed demolition of existing single/24/02586 •
storey garage to side of dwelling house and construction of new deeper garage|8 St Omer Road •
.Acklington Northumberland NE65 9DA – Noted
- Proposed internal remodelling of bungalow and small rear flat roof extension 5 TheFUL/24/02508 •
.Village -Noted
- Demolish an existing dwelling and reconstruct for residential use (Use Class C3).FUL/24/02428 •
.Consent for leasing or holiday letting Barnhill Farmhouse Guyzance – Noted
- Listed Building Consent: Construction of 2no. timber field shelters in rear LBC/24/02416 •
paddock (North East), Conversion of outbuilding to garage/workshop, 4 Guyzance Village Guyzance •
– Noted
- Conversion of existing, redundant stone barns to residential use (Use Class C3 and/orFUL/24/02522 •
short term let) along with conversion of adjacent and contiguous barn for ancillary storage and/or •
workshop use East Barn Guyzance Hall Guyzance- Noted
- Conversion of redundant stone barn to C3 residential use and/or short term residentialFUL/24/02790 •
letting, and/or longer term residential leasing, and/or holiday letting Chauffeurs Cottage Guyzance •
.Hall Guyzance -Noted

2024/23 Finance

Cllr Craig wished to record her unhappiness re the present situation with the bank account signatories. Members were advised that the forms had been submitted to Lloyds to make the required changes but this seemed to be taking some time. Additional signatories to the account were needed.

There had been no success in efforts to recruit a new Clerk. It may be possible to advertise this on NCC's internal website. The Clerk would investigate this.

- .The financial summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 24 August 2024 were received
- .RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments

Supplier	Reason	Amount
S Ingleby – reimbursement	Village planters	£132.48
S Malone – reimbursement	Footpaths Working Group	£189.68
Robson & Cowan	Footpaths Working Group	£102.64
Playsafety Limited	Playground inspection	£108.88
NCC	Bins installation	£193.56

- :The following receipts were noted

Date	Source	Reason	Amount
9/5/24	Lloyds	Interest	£13.07
10/6/24	Lloyds	Interest	£13.96
25/6/24	NALC	Overpayment - refund	£242.49
6/7/24	HMRC	VAT refund	£3611.81
9/7/24	Lloyds	Interest	£12.66
9/8/24	Lloyds	Interest	£12.14

2024/24 Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation had ended on 20 August though the comments which had been submitted had not been seen yet. Three potential independent examiners had been identified. After some discussion, it was **Resolved** that Candidate 3 was the members' choice.

2024/25 Footpaths Working Group Update

- Work was ongoing to restore Rake Lane and Cllr Malone had been contacted by a team of walkers from Hexham keen to see what the Group did
- .Cllr Craig had been contacted by a resident to thank the PC for the work they did
- Verge cutting was discussed and it was noted that one side of the road through the village was the responsibility of NCC, whilst the other was maintained by the PC. A balance had to be struck between maintaining sight lines whilst still allowing wildlife to flourish
- Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan – some suggested comments were proposed which were supported by the members. The final response would be submitted by Cllr Malone on behalf of the .PC and the Footpaths Working Group

2024/26 LTP Priorities 2025-26

- 1.Acklington Drive resurfacing.
2. Morwick Road resurfacing within the Parish boundary.

2024/27 Playground

Quotes had been received for the upgrade. Option One was £82,918.35. Option Two was £53,095.77. Members discussed this at length. It was agreed that these costs were very significant, given the levels of

reserves. It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Mezza develop two plans for smaller scale works at the playground as follows:-

- **Removal of the mound (including removal of the slide and the concrete pipe)**
- **Removal of the overgrown vegetation and the maintenance work identified by the Playsafety report**

Resolved that Cllr Mezza bring these costings to the next meeting for consideration.

2024/28 Acklington Road Signage and Traffic Calming

There had been two recent traffic accidents at the junction and there was some discussion about possible causes for these, including traffic speeds and sight lines.

It was **resolved** that NCC be approached to install a speed traffic counter. This would be actioned by the Clerk.

2024/29 Airfield Memorial Update

There had been no reply to date. The Vice Chair would chase this up.

2024/30 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall – this meeting may be cancelled if not required.

Agenda Items:

- Playground works
- Councillor Vacancies – the Clerk advised that vacancies could not be filled in the six months before an election but she would check this with the Elections Team

Members thanked the Vice Chair for her work in the absence of a full time Clerk.

The Vice Chair closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.