

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 6 September 2022 at Acklington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs L Craig, S Ingleby (Chairman), S Malone, T Mezza, S Shanks, S Thorpe.

2022/37 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs D Barras and J Newton

2022/38 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr Craig declared an interest in Item 5 (Planning) 22/02371/FUL as Woodbine Cottage is her house.

2022/39 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held 5 July 2022 were agreed as a true record.

2022/40 Report from County Cllr Watson

County Cllr Watson gave a report.

- a. The installation of the Vehicle Activated Sign is scheduled for 8 September. The VAS is covered by a five year warranty. The Clerk will look into whether it needs to be added to the insurance.
- b. There is standing water on the road corner opposite Cavil Head. Northumberland Water are investigating.
- c. County Cllr Watson has listed Morwick Road as his priority for inclusion in the Local transport Programme Plan, particularly the section past Morwick Ice Cream Parlour.
- d. Improvements to the road towards Guyzance are in progress, as it was included as a priority in the Local Transport Programme last year.
- e. The Health service is not the responsibility of NCC. The Committee does not discuss provision of healthcare services. However, County Cllr Watson agreed that health services are a particular problem in this area, for example, dentistry. Alnwick and Amble are struggling to recruit GPs. It seems that the problem is only going to get worse. S106 agreements can only be used to provide capital and not to provide revenue for salaries. GP surgeries are businesses. There are issues with getting GP appointments.

2022/41 Planning

Planning applications generally are progressing very slowly. The Parish Council discussed the following applications:

- a. 21/04370/FUL – Rigg and Furrow Brewery. This application has been withdrawn under advice from NCC and the Parish Council understand that it will be re-submitted in a new format.
- b. 22/00063/FUL and 22/00064/LBC – Land West of Barnhill Farm Cottages. The Parish Council noted that planning applications are looked at on an individual basis and not as a collection of applications, even though there are a number in progress on the estate. The Parish Council is concerned about the long term plans of the estate to create a large scale increase in occupation, with a consequent increase in traffic. Cllrs expressed concerns about the impact on the street view.
RESOLVED Cllrs to review application and to send comments to Clerk.
- c. 22/01627/FUL – Plot 22 Land North West of Acklington Drive. The Parish Council is pleased to note this application has been withdrawn.
- d. 22/02286/FUL and 22/02287/LBC – 18 the Village, Acklington. The Parish Council noted that this application appears to be sensitive.

- e. 22/02757/FUL and 22/02758/LBC – Guyzance Hall. The Parish Council is concerned about changes to the facade including the removal of the neo-Tudor aspects which will be replaced with colonnades. The Parish Council would like to see a restriction on working hours and traffic through the village. Cllr Ingleby will draft a response.
- f. 22/02759/VARYCO – Guyzance Hall. The Parish Council does not object to this application as long as the original restrictions relating to events are not altered or removed.
- g. 22/02845/FUL – Land North of 18-24 Acklington Village and former Acklington School [and Agenda Item 9 – Acklington Black Poplar – Ancient Tree Inventory ID 153492]. The Parish Council noted that following a site walkover visit in May 2021, the development project was cancelled due to the presence of the Black Poplar. The Black Poplar fell in late 2021 during Storm Arwen and the project is now proceeding. However, a resident has sent photos to Tom Reid at the Woodland Trust, in which signs of Black Poplar re-growth can be seen. Mr Reid will add these to the Ancient Tree Inventory. Cllrs discussed whether the re-growth is simply foliage growing from stored energy within the tree. Cllr Malone has spoken with neighbouring properties. The area around the tree is very overgrown and it appears that the area of re-growth is one branch with green leaves, which is separated from the tree stump. The area is congested with vegetation and it is not possible to see whether any shoots are coming up from the stump. Under the proposed planning application, around twenty-four trees will be felled and only six replanted. The Parish Council questioned how the site will be accessed. It is understood that access via Morwick Road was previously refused. The development would be within the settlement boundary and includes one bungalow. The Clerk will make the Woodland Trust aware that a planning application has been submitted.

2022/42 Finance

- a. The financial summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 31 August 2022 was received. The second instalment of precept is now due and should be received shortly.
- b. **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Reason	Amount	Payment Reference
S Malone (reimbursement)	Footpaths Working Group	£270.88	22/23.1
S Ingleby (reimbursement)	Neighbourhood Plan leaflets	£135.00	22/23.14
Zurich	Insurance	£257.60	22/23.15
PlaySafety	ROSPA inspection	£100.80	22/23.18
Acklington Village Hall	Neighbourhood Plan Room Hire	£75.00	22/23.17
C Lewis	Salary (Apr –Aug)	£488.40	22/23.16

- c. The following receipts were noted.

Date	Payee	Reason	Amount
11/7/22	Lloyds	Interest	£0.11
9/8/22	Lloyds	Interest	£0.40

2022/43 Footpaths Working Group Update

- a. The Cheviot Meadows Permissive Path is temporarily closed to allow vital drainage work to be carried out. The surface is being levelled off and re-seeded with grass. The path will re-open once the grass has had an opportunity to re-establish itself.
- b. The Footpaths Working Group is very pleased to be developing good relationships with landowners. Mrs Howie at Acklington Park Farm has recently welcomed the brushcutter team onto her land to cut and trim the bottom half of Footpath 101/010, where it enters Morwick Banks Wood.

- c. The Group is supporting the newly established Warkworth Footpath Team and will be taking part in a joint venture on 10 September to clear overgrown vegetation on Rake Lane between the railway bridge and Morwick Road.
- d. Hedge trimming between the chicane and the Morwick Road railway bridge had begun under the winter work schedule. Bunny Lane, the area around the new saplings, the water pumps and the play area (if required) will be included in the schedule.
- e. The Clerk has spoken to the insurers, who have confirmed that volunteers may use their own equipment, as long as this is carried out under the Footpaths Group's risk assessment and schedule, and that the Group is satisfied of the competency of the volunteer and the suitability of the equipment.
- f. County Cllr Watson commented that the work of the Footpaths Group is exemplary and greatly for the benefit of residents.
- g. The Facebook Group is doing well, with around 125 members, including new volunteers.

2022/44 Neighbourhood Plan

- a. The Steering Group held a Coffee Morning in August, which was very successful. There was a positive atmosphere and attendees included new residents.
- b. A consultation was run alongside the Coffee Morning, to ask residents for comments on the proposed Vision and Objectives. Key points to note:
 - 83% of respondents supported the Vision.
 - 76% of respondents were opposed to extending the Settlement Boundary (set out in the Local Plan), but there was support for housing for older people and first time buyers.
 - 79% of respondents agreed that there should be restrictions on holiday homes, to prevent young people being priced out of properties, the need for affordable housing and because of the damage these can cause to community spirit.
 - Respondents valued community spaces, in particular the Village Hall, and green spaces.
 - There was support for rural businesses.
 - 83% of respondents felt there were places in the parish that need special protection.
 - Respondents identified a number of buildings, landscapes and features of local historic interest.
- c. The Neighbourhood Steering Group will now draft policies based on the responses.

2022/45 Noticeboard

The Parish Council discussed the location for the new noticeboard. The Clerk will write to the property where the current noticeboard is situated to see if they would be happy for the new one to go in the same place. It may be necessary to obtain planning permission; the Clerk will look into this further and may need to apply for pre-application advice at a cost of around £30.

2022/46 Items for the Next Agenda

Noticeboard

New bin for Morwick junction

Play Area

2022/47 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1 November 2022 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:59pm.