

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 5 July 2022 at Acklington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs D Barras, L Craig, J Newton (Chairman), S Ingleby, S Malone, T Mezza, S Shanks.

2022/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Thorpe

2022/25 Disclosure of Interests

None

2022/26 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held 3 May 2022 were agreed as a true record.

2022/27 Report from County Cllr Watson

Cllr Watson sent his apologies.

2022/28 Planning

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

- a. 22/01627/FUL – Plot 22 Land North West of Acklington Drive. The Parish Council discussed whether there is appropriate road access to this plot.
RESOLVED Cllrs to review application and to send comments to Clerk.
- b. 22/01872/VARYCO – Land North East of Keepers Cottage Acklington. This application is connected to 22/02060/FUL Land South of Guyzance Mill.
RESOLVED Cllr Ingleby and the Clerk will draft a response.
- c. 22/01062/FUL - Land North Of The Old Joiners Shop Guyzance Village. This application was omitted from the list. The Parish Council has supported the application.

2022/29 Finance

- a. The financial summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 28 June 2022 was received. The Parish Council noted two large grants received from NCC (via County Cllr Watson’s Members Small Schemes Budget) for the two new mowers, and from Locality for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- b. **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Reason	Amount	Payment Reference
Acklington Village Hall	Room Hire – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	£40.00	22/23.2
Robson & Cowan	Mower Purchase	£3,096.00	22/23.4
S Ingleby	Reimbursement – Plants	£34.00	22/23.5
Robson & Cowan	Credit Note – service package	(£336.00)	22/23.6
Robson & Cowan	Mower Purchase	£981.00	22/23.7
Ludman Planning Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy Services	£2,500.00	22/23.8
J A Ainsworth	Audit	£100.00	22/23.9
C Lewis	Reimbursement – Jubilee trees	£452.87	22/23.10
Robson & Cowan	Credit Note – service package	(£336.00)	22/23.12
S Ingleby	Reimbursement – Plants	£108.00	22/23.11

c. The following receipts were noted.

Date	Payee	Reason	Amount
11/4/22	Lloyds	Interest	£0.11
9/5/22	Lloyds	Interest	£0.09
16/5/22	NCC	Members Small Schemes Grant for Mowers	£4,480.00
23/5/22	NCC	Jubilee Grant	£368.34
9/6/22	Lloyds	Interest	£0.10
17/6/22	Groundworks	Locality Grant for Neighbourhood Plan	£10,000.00

d. The insurance policy is due for renewal. The Parish Council considered its need to have in place appropriate cover for public liability, personal injury and theft. The Parish Council noted that its equipment is currently stored in locked premises and should be insured against theft by break in. Councillors and volunteers carrying out mowing or brushcutting as part of the Footpaths Working Group have training on all equipment before use and must have a banks person present when using the machinery. A health and safety briefing is given. Volunteers sign to state they have completed this on beginning the role and every twelve months thereafter. The Footpaths Working Group carries out work according to a planned rota.

RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to arrange a suitable level of insurance to take into account the above information. The Clerk will seek councillor input on the cover and premium if this needs to be changed substantively from the current cover.

[Cllr Shanks declared an interest in the next item as he cuts the churchyard grass].

e. The Parish Council noted that the Churchyard is an important community facility in the centre of the village. Having considered the legal topic notes circulated by the Clerk and the advice received from Northumberland ALC, the Parish Council agreed that a donation should be made.

RESOLVED to make a grant of £250 to St John the Divine towards the cost of grass cutting and churchyard maintenance.

2022/30 Footpaths Working Group Update

- At the recent NCC Love Northumberland Awards the Footpaths Working Group was awarded Highly Commended in the category of Best Coast and Countryside Project. This comes with prize money of £50 which will be paid into the Footpaths Working Group earmarked reserve fund.
- The two new mowers have arrived and are being deployed on the footpaths. The brushcutters will continue to be used to clear overgrown footpaths and the mowers will then be used to maintain the cleared path.
- More volunteers are needed! If you would like to volunteer to use a brushcutter or one of the new mowers, please contact Cllr Malone or the Clerk. All training is provided.
- Footpath 20, which runs through part of North Park Wood and skirts High Park Farm, has been cleared by Northumberland Estates thanks to the efforts of Estate Manager Barry Spall.

2022/31 Flower Planters

Cllr Ingleby and Mrs Boulby have finished the summer planting. This year has concentrated on annual plants in the Jubilee colours, but the longer term plan is to move to more sustainable perennials and bulbs. The next stage will be winter planting in September and October. They have a number of plug plants ready to grow on. The Parish Council agreed that the new planting looks lovely.

2022/32 Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group is in the process of arranging its next community consultation, on the Neighbourhood Plan's Vision and Objectives. The consultation will be carried out via online survey and paper survey. Cllrs agreed to assist with delivering the paper copy. The Steering Group is hosting a second consultation coffee morning on 6 August, from 10-12am.

2022/33 Play Area

The Clerk will follow up with play area consultants for the works which are needed to replace equipment. The ROSPA Safety inspection report is expected imminently. The bin door is missing.

RESOLVED Clerk to purchase a new single bin.

2022/34 Trees

- a. The Parish Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of applying for Tree Protection Orders, in particular whether any individual tree is significant enough to justify having a TPO in place, and what protection is offered by a TPO, especially if there are health and safety reasons for felling or cutting back a specified tree. The Parish Council does not intend to apply for any TPOs at the present time.
- b. The Parish Council discussed the proposals made by Cllr Malone to commence an ongoing survey of trees within the parish. The Parish Council noted that trees are a wonderful parish asset, contributing to biodiversity. The Parish Council discussed the possibility of carrying out photographic surveys and agreed this would be useful where development is planned to record trees on site. With regard to wider surveys, there may be students at the local universities who wish to undertake a project of this sort.
- c. The Parish Council is very conscious about looking after the environment and has recently planted seven trees to commemorate the Jubilee and approximately 35/40 smaller saplings. The seven larger Jubilee trees are being watered by two local households, which is appreciated by the Parish Council. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks. Cllr Mezza has spoken to the NCC mowing team, who are cutting around the trees. Residents are asked to refrain from playing ball games under the trees until they are more established.

RESOLVED Cllr Barras to purchase a plaque for display beside the Jubilee Trees.

2022/35 Items for the next Agenda

Cllr Barras is concerned about access to primary healthcare. There are very few GPs and similar issues with other healthcare professions, but despite this more residential development is taking place. Cllr Barras would like to ask NCC what it is doing to ensure the CCG provides adequate healthcare services to cover an enhanced population. County Cllr Watson will be asked for a response at the next meeting.

2022/36 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:13pm.