

Acklington Parish Council

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED AT NEXT MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Acklington Village Hall, on Tuesday, 5th May 2026

Present	Cllr Sharin Ingleby (Chair)	Cllr Alison Bell (Vice Chair) Newly Appointed	Cllr Steve Thorpe – previous vice chair
	Cllr Sean Malone	Cllr Steve Shanks	Cllr Tony Mezza
	Cllr Ann McDougal	Bonnie Watson (Clerk)	
Also in Attendance	County Councilor Pauline Davidson	MOP = 1	

Annual Parish Meeting

Chair completed a report highlighting points throughout the year, this was read out which will be added HERE to review

Public questions / speaking

Email received as to why the grass Cutting on Omer Road was not being completed – this was received prior to the meeting: Chair has queried this with NCC local services and is awaiting a response.

	Agenda Item
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE N/A
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None received. All new declaration of interest forms have now been completed, including the newly appointed council member and will be delivered to County Hall, Morpeth for submission.
3.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS The minutes from the meeting of 3 rd March 2026 were approved as a true record.
4.	MATTERS ARISING Surrounding are of the new mast to be revisited as some work has been completed to try and get this back to its original state but there are still some items needing completion. CC Davidson will raise this again. Update on Planning: No further action on email to Rob Murfin regarding 25/00062/CLPROP.
5.	ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL To elect or re-elect Chair/Vice Chair and representatives of other groups within the council. Chair – Cllr Sharin Ingleby has been voted in again as Chair – All in Favour Vice Chair – Cllr Steve Thorpe has now stood down, and Cllr Alison Bell has been voted in – all in favour.

Signed

Date:

	Village Hall Representative – Cllr Sharin Ingleby is happy to continue to do this. Footpath Group Representative – Cllr Sean Malone is happy to continue to do this. On the panel for this from the council is also Cllr Sharin Ingleby, Cllr Stephen Shanks and Cllr Alison Bell.
6.	CLERK'S REPORT The full financial report was received. Balances as of 23rd April were noted as £17,880.68 in the Community Account and £12,446.54 in the Instant Access Account. BUDGET AND PLANNING/UPCOMING FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS Discussed that moving forward at each meeting there would be a time to discuss upcoming expenses and what may be required prior to the next meeting. These would be provisionally agreed up to a cost discussed – these will be documented here in future: - Plants for village – £150 - Bins - £2000 – New bins at Station Wood, Play Area, Millennium Footpath, by the paddock and move existing millennium footpath bin to the Cheviot Meadows entrance. - Dog Poo Signs – Unknown cost – Cllr Sean Malone to review prior to next meeting. - Footpath Costs – Agreed to reimburse Cllr Sean Malone on an as and when required basis – this is ongoing.
7.	COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE - Updated that the High Park Farm planning application ref: 24/02540/FUL – planning inspectorate has upheld the refused and if they wish to move forward with this, they will have to go to the high court to proceed. - Cllr Davidson has agreed to see if she can assist with the land held currently by the MOJ – any progress she will contact APC clerk. - Cllr Davidson provided an update on local expenditure and funding matters. She noted that MLIS funding of £5000 has been allocated to Acklington Parish Council for the Flail Mower being purchased. - Mast installation update – comments made on materials/rubbish left strewn around the area and the disruption this has caused within the village in last meeting were addressed and cleared. There are some legacy issues relating to the kerb that still need resolved these will be followed up on after the meeting. - Potholes – unhappy with the way potholes have been resolved, semi-permanent fixes that do not last. - Simple recycling update – as of 1st April 2026 there has been a change to the recycling, and this is to be expected to be rolled out by Northumberland County Council in the autumn in our parish. - Bus stop outside Coal Houses Farm - busses refusing to stop at the bus stop stating this is not a designated stop. This is a request stop. Cllr Davidson is following up on installation. - Speed Cushion update requested – CC Davidson will gain information on this and bring to the next meeting. - Lay-by at the Guyzance turn off on the A1 has been filled to deter continuous fly tipping.

Signed

Date:

8.	PLANNING 26/01365/FUL Agricultural Buildings Morwick Farm Acklington Northumberland NE65 9DG Part-demolition of an existing agricultural building and proposed steel portal framed milking parlor extension and infill roof area, to include an external steelwork staircase. To the proposed East and West elevations, a 1375mm cantilever cover to be added to the whole elevation No Opposition from the PC. 26/00419/VARYCO Variation of Condition 1 (approved plans), 4 (foul water) and 7 (materials) on approved application 25/01798/VARYCO to alter the fenestration; re install oil storage tank to its original position and provide 2no Air Sourced Heat Pumps; revise garage floor, steps and route of drainage scheme and confirmation of materials (as amended). Guyzance Hall Guyzance Morpeth Northumberland. No Opposition from the PC
9.	KEY PROJECTS Key projects for the upcoming year are as follows: • MoJ - resolve land lease/ownership issue • Bus shelters - refurbish and possibly add noticeboard to village bus stop • Road Safety - continuation of project including west of village • Footpaths - improve accessibility and information with gates replacing stiles and footpath information boards • Parish Council land at substation - tidy and decide on use.
10.	GENERAL ITEMS Policies and Procedures Update List of Policies discussed and all were agreed: • Code of Conduct for Councillors • Complaints • Donations and Grants • Equality and Diversity • Financial Regulations • Grievance • Health and Safety • GDPR, IT & Data Protection including Assertion 10 • Safeguarding – Ann McDougal is now APC Safeguarding Lead • Reserves Approval of Donations Approval of the following donations were granted: • £750 for Acklington Village Hall • £100 for the Pelican Magazine Church donation decision was deferred to next meeting to receive further information about Eco Church Garden. Tree survey 2x quotes received for the tree survey on St Omer Road – following discussion we decided to move forward with the one from The Northumberland Arborist – this will be completed at his earliest convenience which will be in July 2026

Signed

Date:

	New Website Update Website now up and running fully and any issues / changes that are needed are to go through the clerk. Groups wishing to run their own pages include the Footpath Group and the WI. Access to be granted to both prior to the next meeting and to see if there is any other interest from other groups in the village. All interest to host a page please contact clerk@acklington-pc.gov.uk Town and Parish Council Spring Conference Update Update given with regards to the town and parish conference update stating that the councillors in attendance were able to discuss issues with attendees including the state of the road and kerbs – Clerk to draft an email to follow up on this. Other issues that were raised was the flooding at Bank House, the 3-year plan and Cllr Thorpe has volunteered to assist NCC bus ambassador Bill Lynch with updating of village bus timetables. Co-option Discussion Review of application prior to the meeting all councillors agreed to Co-opt Simon Caiger in without the need for a closed discussion. Welcome Simon. Bus shelter refurbishments See above that this has now been added to the key projects for the upcoming year.
11.	FOOTPATH WORKING PARTY UPDATE See HERE for the May update.
12.	PLAYGROUND UPDATE Unable to contact MOJ regarding the land ownership CC Davidson will see if she is able to move forward with this query – see above in county councillors report.
13.	AGAR 25/26 Update AGAR is now complete and ready for signing. This was completed during the meeting and is now ready to be sent off to Fortis Mazars for review.
14.	ITEMS FOR THE JULY MEETING • Asset Register update • List of all the meetings for 26/27. • Hall bookings for meetings to be confirmed for the whole of the year.
15.	CLOSED SESSION N/A
16.	NEXT MEETING It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 7th July 2026

Meeting closed at 21:06

Signed

Date: