

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 4 July 2023 at Acklington Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs L Craig, S Ingleby, S Malone, T Mezza, J Newton (Chairman), S Thorpe. Cllr S George joined the Meeting after his co-option (Minute 2023/23).

2023/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Barras, Shanks

2023/22 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2023/23 Co-option of New Member

**RESOLVED** to co-opt Steve George to the Parish Council.

2023/24 Minutes of Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 May 2023 were agreed as a true record.

2023/25 Report from County Councillor

- a. County Cllr Watson is willing to contribute towards the cost of new village 'gateways' from his Members' Small Schemes Budget. He will need to see copies of any quotes and it is likely Highways permission will be needed; County Cllr Watson can assist with this.
- b. NCC are returning to carry out further repairs to the roads between Acklington and Warkworth, which are still in poor condition despite prior repairs.
- c. County Cllr Watson has received a large volume of correspondence on Planning Application 22/02845/FUL (Land North of 18-24 Acklington Village), in particular regarding road safety issues and the measurements relied on by NCC Highways in their assessment. There is a Local Area Committee meeting next week, but the application is likely to be heard at the following meeting.
- d. An issue with a streetlight on St Omer Road has been reported. It may be possible to have a back-shade put onto the light to prevent light shining into the property. The Parish Council noted that there are other streetlights on the same side of the road.
- e. An application has been received for 480 houses in Amble. Outline permission has already been applied for and granted. There may be issues with construction traffic. The Parish Council noted that there is no additional healthcare infrastructure planned. The Parish Council noted that the new school car park will be available out of school hours for use by visitors to the Welfare Ground which should ease parking issues at popular times.

2023/26 Local Transport Programme Plan 2024-25

**RESOLVED:**

- a. To set the following three priorities for submission to NCC, to be considered for inclusion:
  - 1) Resurfacing of the road between Acklington and Morwick.
  - 2) Resurfacing of the road between Acklington (crossroads) and North Broomhill.
  - 3) Resurfacing of Acklington Drive.
- b. To request separately the extension of the 30 mph zone near the junction of Churchill Way.

2023/27 Village Gateways

Deferred until quotes obtained.

[County Cllr Watson left the Meeting.]

### 2023/28 Planning

- a. 22/02845/FUL – Land North of 18-24 Acklington Village. The Parish Council noted County Cllr Watson’s comments and that the matter will now be decided by NCC Planning.
- b. 23/01387/FUL and 23/01388/LBC – Land South of Magnolia Cottage, Guyzance Village. The Parish Council considered the application and noted the size of the three proposed polytunnels, which will be sited on the location for which an earlier planning application was submitted for two cottages. Cllr Ingleby spoke on the impact which the proposed polytunnels will have on the street scene of the village, which is an identified feature under the Conservation Area. The Parish Council also considered the impact on the nearby Grade 2 Listed Wall, the neighbouring properties and the ecological impact of commercial polytunnels with extensive hours of lighting. The Parish Council expressed concerns about noise and disturbance, impact on dark skies, the nature of the crop, and noted the objections submitted by Historic England.

**RESOLVED** to object to Planning Applications 23/01387/FUL and 23/01388/LBC for the above listed reasons.

### 2023/29 Finance

- a. The financial summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 28 June 2023 was received. The Parish Council noted that the unspent Locality Grant amount (Neighbourhood Plan) had been returned, and that the correct current balance was £1,019.28 for the Neighbourhood Plan Earmarked Reserve Fund and £0 for the Neighbourhood Plan Locality Grant Earmarked Reserve Fund.

- b. **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Reason	Amount	Payment Ref
Acklington Village Hall	Parish Council Meetings	£11.67	23/24.6
S Malone – reimbursement	Footpaths Warden Scheme	£199.55	23/24.8
T Mezza – reimbursement	Footpaths Warden Scheme	£47.20	23/24.9
PlaySafety	Play Area	£106.80	23/24.7
L Hamlin	Audit	£80.00	23/24.11
C Lewis	Salary (May-Jul)	£304.64	23/24.12
HMRC	PAYE	£12.40	23/24.13

- c. The following receipts were noted.

Date	Payee	Reason	Amount
9/5/23	Lloyds	Interest	£6.88
9/6/23	Lloyds	Interest	£7.71
16/6/23	Groundworks UK	Repayment of unused Locality Grant Funding in line with terms of grant	-£3,290.00

### 2023/30 Footpaths Working Group Update

- a. The Footpaths Group regularly mows 7.5km of pathways in the parish per month. The Group is continuing to help Warkworth Footpaths Group, which is still establishing itself, in particular with Footpath 137/044.
- b. Northumberland Estates have started work clearing Station Wood and work is expected to take six weeks with a target reopening date mid-August.
- c. Cllr Malone had a very productive meeting with Bob Hodgson (NCC Area Manager, Neighbourhood Services) and his colleague Martin Duddy. Mr Hodgson has offered to clear and collect large managed

piles of cut vegetation by agreement with the Footpaths Group. There were issues at the start of the season with machinery resulting in missed cuts by NCC but these have now been resolved.

- d. The Group is happy to report great support from landowners during May and June, in particular High Park Farm, Morwick Dairy Farm, Acklington Park Farm and Coal Houses Farm.
- e. The Group's priority is now to deal with two urgent issues: a 500m overgrown section of Footpath 101/007 as it exits Station Wood towards Rake Lane; and a 700m section of Footpath 101/016 (Rake Lane) which is badly rutted and overgrown.

#### 2023/31 Neighbourhood Plan

The consultant has amended the draft Neighbourhood Plan to incorporate the Parish Council's comments, all of which the Steering Group found to be very useful. The amended draft has been circulated to councillors and the Parish Council was asked to approve this. The Steering Group is waiting for the SEA Screening to be completed by NCC before it can then be published for public consultation. This has been delayed by NCC staffing issues.

#### 2023/32 Play Area

- a. The zip wire is out of action while awaiting repair. Cllr Mezza has removed the seat to ensure it cannot be used in the meantime.  
**RESOLVED** to instruct The Zip Wire Company to carry out the replacement of the overhead wire.
- b. The Clerk has arranged play area visits with consultants from Playdale and Streetscape.
- c. A new post is needed for the No Dogs Sign.
- d. The ROSPA Safety Inspection Report has been received and the Clerk will circulate this.

#### 2023/33 Streetlights

No action required until construction completed – carry forward to the next Meeting.

#### 2023/34 Noticeboard

The Parish Council noted that the Clerk is still waiting for an installation date from the contractor holding the noticeboard.

**RESOLVED** to recover the noticeboard from the contractor.

#### 2023/35 Items for the Next Agenda

- Parking Issues

#### 2023/36 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 5 September 2023 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:37pm.