

# Acklington Parish Council Agenda

Clerk: Clair Lewis  
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To Members of Acklington Parish Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of Acklington Parish Council on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7:00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business. The Meeting will be held in Acklington Village Hall.

C Lewis  
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

## OPEN SESSION

At the invitation of the Chairman to consider any questions from members of the public prior to commencement of the business to be transacted on the agenda. Questions are limited to a 15-minute period or 3 minutes per person.

## AGENDA

### BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1. Apologies for absence

To approve any apologies for absence

2. Disclosure of Interests

To disclose any interests in items on the Agenda and the granting of any dispensations

3. Minutes of previous meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5 September 2023

4. HMP Acklington Director

The Parish Council has invited the Director of HMP Acklington to attend the meeting

5. Standing Item – Report from County Councillor

To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

6. Planning

To consider any planning matters in circulation (if required). Acklington Parish Council is a consultee on planning applications within the parish. All planning decisions are taken by NCC. Planning applications can be viewed and commented upon via the NCC Public Access Planning Register:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-and-building.aspx>

22/02845/FUL	Land North of 18-24 Acklington Village and Former Acklington School – Demolition of existing redundant buildings and construction of four residential dwellings, gardens, access road, open space and other ancillary works	Refused
23/00903/VARYCO	Land West of Barnhill Farm Cottages – Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 21/04696/FUL in order to	Refused

	further construction of barn structures occupying Phase 2 of the development by the use of interlocking concrete panels on the lower walls of the barns rather than blockwork, repositioning of barn entrances, simplification of internal spaces within the smaller agricultural buildings, greywater collection from the northern roof of the barn, the provision of roof mounted Solar OV on the new barn structures and minor additions to the permeable hardstanding.	
23/02309/FUL	2 Laundry Cottages – Demolition of single storey rear extension, construction of single storey extension, installation composite or timber cladding to external elevations, installation of air source heat pumps, installation of roof mounted photo voltaic panels with battery storage, installation of a packaged sewage treatment plant, replace windows and external doors, full refurbishment and associated works including insulation of floors, walls and roofs, installation of 1no timber garden shed	Permitted
23/02524/FUL and 23/02525/LBC	Guyzance Hall – Replace existing porch with larger porch	Permitted
23/02860/FUL and 23/02861/LBC	4 Dye House Guyzance Bridge – Restore the property’s North elevation, the work includes the replacement of garage door/entrance with a cavity wall and install two wooden-framed, double glazed windows with stone sills that match the existing	Permitted
23/03095/HEGRMN	Land South of Guyzance Lea – Hedgerow Removal notice: Removal of 3m of hedgerow	Permitted
23/03395/VARYCO	Guyzance Hall – Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) pursuant to planning permission 23/00979/FUL to allow additional demolition and rebuilding of a garden wall to facilitate the construction of the proposed Leisure Wing and part of the southern wall of the proposed garaging	Pending
23/03583/FUL	Land West of Barnhill Farm Cottages – Construction of district heating plant room (93m2), electricity meter room (11m2), district heating network of pipes and green energy network of cables. Change of use of 2 bays of already consented agricultural farm building (circa 204m2) to intermediate storage area for wood chips. Construction of phase 2 of farm buildings already consented (phase 1) comprising inclusion of rooflights and adjustments to internal wall divisions, minor changes to office building already consented (phase 1). Provision of composting plant and hard standing wash-down area constructed in permeable concrete block. Provision of amended drainage system and underground diesel storage (red and white). Reconfiguration of staff parking. Realignment of farm track. Provision of additional garden area for units 4A, 4B, 5 and 6. Alternative parking bay for No 2 The Cottages.	Pending
23/03601/VARYCO	Unit 4 Barnhill Farm – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) for alterations to the layout and consideration of information relating to conditions 8 (foul drainage) and 13 (lighting) pursuant to planning permission 23/00363/FUL	Pending
23/03532/FUL	Land South of Magnolia Cottage, Guyzance Village – Construction of 2no. 3 bedroom detached houses	Pending
23/03609/VARYCO	Barnhill Farm – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and consideration of additional information in respect of conditions 4	Pending

	(refuse strategy), 16 (foul drainage), 20 (external lighting) and 24 (boundary treatments) on approved application 22/04490/VARYCO – Internal layouts have been changed to facilitate use of 3 of 5 units to provide disabled access accommodation (Category 2: Accessible and Adaptable dwellings M4(2)). Units 1 and 3 would remain as they are (Category 3: Wheelchair user dwellings M4(3)), and are unchanged insofar as disabled living is concerned, although there are some minor adjustments to the design in terms of bedrooms/study areas.	
23/03608/VARYCO	Land West of Barnhill Farm Cottages – Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application 21/04696/FUL to allow extending the length of the farm building by circa 3.5m to allow regular steel column spacing	Pending

7. Noise from campsite at Railway Inn

To discuss issue and agree any actions

8. Village Gateways

To consider purchase of Village Gateways

9. Finance:

a. To receive Financial Summary and bank reconciliation to 1 November 2023 (pages 9 and 10)

b. To authorise payments

Supplier	Reason	Amount
C Lewis/HMRC	Salary (Aug-Nov)	£431.32
Robson & Cowan	Footpaths Working Group – purchase of ride on Mower	£5,785.20
NCC	Grass Cutting	£1,799.12
Acklington Village Hall	Room Hire for Neighbourhood Plan – paid with credit	£11.66
S Malone – reimbursement	Footpaths Working Group	£34.63
T Mezza – reimbursement	Footpaths Working Group	£12.45

c. To discuss possible donation towards the refurbishment of the Church bells

d. To note receipts

Date	Source	Reason	Amount
8/9/23	NCC	Precept	£4,880.00
11/9/23	Lloyds	Interest	£11.33
6/10/23	NCC	Members Small Schemes Grant – Footpaths Working Group	£4,475.00
9/10/23	Lloyds	Interest	£11.18
20/10/23	Groundworks UK	Neighbourhood Plan Locality Grant	£3,290.00

10. Neighbourhood Plan

To receive update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group including costs

11. Verge Damage in front of Southfields

To discuss issue and agree any actions

12. Road Slip at Guyzance

To discuss issue and agree any actions

13. Footpath Working Party Update

To receive an update from the Footpath Working Party

14. Tree Survey

To discuss parish flagship tree survey and to agree any actions

15. Streetlights

To receive update and agree any actions

16. Noticeboard

To receive update and agree any actions

17. Airfields Memorial

To receive update and agree any actions

18. Items for Next Agenda

19. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 5 September 2023 at Acklington Village Hall.

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

2022/37 Apologies for Absence

None

2022/38 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2022/39 Minutes of Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 July 2023 were agreed as a true record.

2022/40 Report from County Councillor

- a. Some of the pitholes in Guyzance have been filled in.
- b. County Cllr Watson is working with Cllr Malone and the Footpaths Group to progress some of the ongoing issues.
- c. The new school development in Amble is progressing on track.
- d. Cllr Barras asked whether NCC has any plans to improve the infrastructure around the Guyzance A1 junction given the high number of accidents. The Parish Council noted that there have been three serious incidents recently. County Cllr Watson will contact Highways England to raise these concerns.

2022/41 Planning

- a. 23/01387/FUL and 23/01388/LBC – Land South of Magnolia Cottage, Guyzance Village. The Parish Council noted that a previous application for two cottages instead of the current proposed polytunnels was refused.
- b. 23/00903/VARYCO – Land West of Barnhill Farm Cottages. The Parish Council noted that this application proposes to enlarge the barns for which the applicant has previously received planning permission by some 30-50%. This is not well described in the application but can be seen in the plans.
- c. 23/02524/FUL and 23/02525/LBC – Guyzance Hall. The Parish Council noted that event consent is still in place and would remind the applicant of the existing planning conditions around noise.
- d. 22/02845/FUL – Land North of 18-14 Acklington Village and Former Acklington School. The Parish Council noted that this application has still not come before the Local Area Council (Planning). Highways have withdrawn their comments as long as the applicant meets certain conditions. The Parish Council noted its comments already submitted and agreed that nothing further should be submitted.
- e. 23/03095/HEGRMN – Land South of Guyzance Lea. The Parish Council does not have any comments to submit.

2022/42 Village Gateways

County Cllr Watson has agreed to support the purchase of new village gateways from his Members Small Schemes Budget, at a total cost of between £2,000 and £4,000. Cllr Shanks will look at suitable options.

2022/43 Footpaths Working Group Update

- a. The Footpaths Working Group would like to purchase a new ride on mower. The logistics and practical issues arising such as maintenance and storage, associated costs, insurance costs and value for money were discussed in detail. County Cllr Watson will provide a grant of £4,475 from his Members Small Schemes Budget towards the purchase cost. It is estimated that maintenance will cost around £200 per

year and parts/fuel will cost around £200 per year also.

**RESOLVED** to purchase a new Husquvarna 216 AWD ride on mower at a cost of £4,700.

- b. The Parish Council noted that HMP Acklington may be able to support efforts and Cllr Craig will invite the director to speak at the next Parish Council meeting.
- c. 57% of the parish footpaths were obstructed and impossible to walk in 2018 and obstructions have now been reduced to 6%. In the same period, the footpath network in the parish has increased in distance from 14 km to 17.5 km with the opening of several permissive paths. The Footpaths Group has won a Love Northumberland Award, has an active facebook group of just under 150 members, and an active project group of more than 15 volunteers. Many landowners are now supporters of the project.
- d. Regular mowing encourages the grass to grow more quickly, blocking weeds and making the surface more hard wearing.
- e. Station Wood has finally been reopened after nearly two years, and the Parish Council is grateful to Northumberland Estates, Scottish Woodland and the Footpaths volunteers for their hard work in clearing the damage left by Storm Arwen.

#### 2022/44 Finance

- a. The financial summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 27 August 2023 was received.
- b. The Parish Council noted that the cost of the bins was higher than estimated due to the bin housing required and the style.

**RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Reason	Amount	Payment Ref
Zurich	Insurance	£754.73	
For Outdoors Ltd	Zip Wire Cable	£179.99	
Glasdon	Wheelie Bin Housing and 2xGeneral Waste Bins	£2,056.38	
S Malone – reimbursement	Footpaths Working Group	£225.34	
Robson & Cowan	Footpaths Working Group	£18.62	
Acklington Village Hall	Donation	£700.00	
C Boulby – reimbursement	Plants	£28.01	

- c. **RESOLVED** to instruct NCC to carry out additional grass cuts at a cost of £462.61.
- d. The following receipts were noted.

Date	Payee	Reason	Amount
10/7/23	Lloyds	Interest	£8.23
9/8/23	Lloyds	Interest	£8.97

#### 2022/45 Neighbourhood Plan

A further Locality Grant has been applied for successfully. However, despite this, the Neighbourhood Plan is not much further forward due to delays in obtaining the required maps and holiday homes information from NCC.

#### 2022/46 Play Area

Two quotes have been obtained for new equipment. A third quote will need to be sought and then a small

public consultation will need to take place.

#### 2022/47 Streetlights

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

#### 2022/48 Car Parking Issues

The Parish Council noted that there is an ongoing issue caused by parked cars blocking pavements, particularly in the vicinity of the Village Hall when there is an event. This is causing pedestrians to walk in the road especially when the hedge is overgrown. This has been raised by Cllr Ingleby with the Village Hall Committee, who can do little to prevent it from happening.

#### 2022/49 Items for the Next Agenda

- Visit from Director, HMP Acklington
- Possible donation for the refurbishment of the Church Bells
- Follow up on the verge in front of Southfields
- Noise from the campsite at the Railway
- Airfields Memorial

#### 2022/50 Date of Next Meeting

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:29pm.

## Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitoring

<b>ACKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL</b>					
<b>Financial Position at 1 November 2023</b>					
<b>BALANCE b/f at 1 April 2023</b>			<b>22,902.82</b>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Income YTD</b>		
VAT Refunds		250.00	-		
Precept		9,760.00	9,760.00		
Interest received		15.00	61.95		
Donations		-	-		
Neighbourhood Plan			-		
Jubilee Fund			-		
Footpath Warden Scheme			4,475.00		
Miscellaneous		-	-		
		<b>10,025.00</b>	<b>14,296.95</b>		
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>Reserves (1/4/22)</b>	<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>Other Income/ Transfers</b>	<b>Expenditure YTD</b>	<b>Current balance</b>
Clerk's Salary		1,400.00		914.98	485.02
Clerk's Expenses		50.00		-	50.00
Room Hire		-		78.33	
Stationery		50.00		-	50.00
Insurance		300.00	454.73	754.73	-
Audit Fees		200.00		80.00	120.00
Subscriptions/Training		300.00		152.89	147.11
IT Costs		75.00		75.00	-
Street Furniture	1,464.88	-	248.77	1,713.65	-
Landscaping/Grass Cutting	1,351.27	1,700.00		-	3,051.27
Play Area	11,632.57	-		303.99	11,328.58
Footpath Warden Scheme	736.41	1,000.00	4,475.00	5,362.52	848.89
Flower Planters	213.25	250.00		48.01	415.24
Community Defibrillator	184.10	250.00		-	434.10
Neighbourhood Plan	539.28	500.00		31.66	1,007.62
Neighbourhood Plan - Locality Grant	3,290.00	-		-	3,290.00
Miscellaneous		-		-	-
Donations		1,200.00		700.00	500.00
Recoverable VAT		250.00	1,123.06	1,373.06	-
Election Costs	331.80	-		-	331.80
Jubilee Fund	390.96	-	-	-	390.96
VAS		-		-	-
	<b>20,134.52</b>	<b>7,525.00</b>	<b>6,301.56</b>	<b>11,588.82</b>	<b>22,450.59</b>
General Reserves	<b>2,768.30</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>- 203.05</b>	<b>1,826.56</b>	<b>3,238.69</b>
<b>BALANCE C/F</b>				<b>25,610.95</b>	