

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 7 March 2023 at Acklington Village Hall.

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

#### Open Session

A resident representing the Acklington Community Team attended the meeting and informed the Parish Council that ACT would like the 2007 Calor Best Village Signs to be kept.

The Chairman opened the meeting.

#### 2022/75 Apologies for Absence

None

#### 2022/76 Disclosure of Interests

None

#### 2022/77 Defibrillator

Mrs Williams attended to provide an update on the defibrillator. Despite her considerable best efforts, Mrs Williams has not been able to make progress with the Circuit or CU4 Medical. However, Well Medical were very helpful and organised a check on the defibrillator. There is no problem with the device and it is believed that the battery lost power due to the cold weather. The battery has been replaced at no extra cost. New pads are needed. The new pads will cost £74.94 inclusive of VAT. Well Medical have advised that only an adult pad is needed as the defibrillator can use this for administering the correct treatment to a child. Simon Caiger has agreed to step forward to replace Mrs Williams as the registered guardian. Mrs Williams will continue in a supporting role as will Annabel Caiger. The Parish Council again thanked Mrs Williams for all her dedicated effort.

**RESOLVED** to purchase a new pad for the defibrillator at a cost of £71.94 (incl. VAT).

#### 2022/78 Minutes of Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held 3 January 2023 were agreed as a true record.

#### 2022/79 Report from County Councillor

- a. The plans for the new school building at Calvert Spence are ready, unaltered from those put forward at the consultation held in the school hall. One or two concerns have been addressed concerning cutting down trees and the road layout. SEND pupils will have separate play and school facilities to meet their needs. The building is scheduled to open in September 2025.
- b. County Cllr Watson encouraged the Parish Council to consider what projects it would like him to consider for his Small Schemes Budget for the forthcoming year.
- c. The renewal of the road between Warkworth and Acklington has been carried out as part of the Local Transport Programme.

#### 2022/80 Planning

- a. 22/02757/FUL, 22/02758/LBC, 22/02759/VARYCO and 22/02752/LBC have been withdrawn.
- b. 22/02845/FUL – Land North of 18-24 Acklington Village. New documents have been uploaded and include some minor changes to take account of comments from Highways. The new dwellings will be

in stone with slate roofs. There will be a no-build-zone around the Black Poplar to ensure minimal encroachment in recognition of the ecological value. The tree stump will be moved into an adjacent field and tree cuttings will be taken, to be planted in Hulne Park and Acklington. The new developments will have permitted development rights removed to avoid interference with the tree.

#### 2022/81 Finance

- a. The financial summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 28 February 2023 was received.
- b. The Parish Council discussed the recent invoices from the Village Hall for Parish Council meetings. Previously, the Parish Council has met free of charge at the Hall and has instead made a regular donation to the Village Hall.

**RESOLVED** to pay any invoices raised by the Village Hall for Parish Council meetings and to consider a donation to the Village Hall as and when one is requested.

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

Supplier	Reason	Amount	Payment Ref
Robson & Cowan	Footpaths Equipment – Service (paid by credit held with Robson & Cowan)	£76.00	22/23.28
S Malone – reimbursement	Footpaths Working Group – Fuel	£36.55	22/23.29
Robson & Cowan	Footpaths Equipment – Purchase of long-reach hedge trimmer and accessories (paid with remaining credit held with Robson & Cowan and BACS of balance)	£1,228.94	22/23.30
Bentham Ltd	Stationery	£23.94	22/23.31
Acklington Village Hall	Neighbourhood Plan Room Hire	£45.00	22/23.34
Robson & Cowan	Footpaths Working Group – Parts	£15.02	22/23.33
Zurich	Insurance – additional premium to increase cover	£156.03	22/23.32
Village Hall	Donation	£700.00	

- d. The following receipts were noted.

Date	Payee	Reason	Amount
9/11/22	Lloyds	Interest	£1.29
9/12/22	Lloyds	Interest	£2.76

#### 2022/82 Footpaths Working Group Update

- a. The ground is still very wet, however the first work party is planned for Saturday 1 April. Routine maintenance will be undertaken on footpaths including Rake Lane and Bunny Lane, around the new trees and 100m of roadside hedging.
- b. Footpath 101/007 through Station Wood is still blocked 16 months after Storm Arwen. An alternative footpath route has been suggested by Northumberland Estates but this is not suitable as it runs along the road edge and is dangerous in places. It was agreed that the Parish Council should object to the proposed alternative route.
- c. A safety barrier is going to be erected around the open culvert on the Cheviot Meadows Permissive Pathway. This way is incredibly popular.
- d. The Acton House Loop will reopen following installation of a new stile by the Landowner, creating the first easy access in 10 years. The Footpath Team will undertake additional clearance work to enable access to the 4km loop.
- e. The new hedge trimmer is very versatile, being counterweighted and pivotable. Hedges are not

trimmed during the nesting season unless this is required for safety reasons, for example where the hedge is blocking the pavement causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

- f. Links with Warkworth Footpaths Team are ongoing. A joint working party took place at the end of last year and the Acklington Team is continuing to provide support, which may involve working together on Rake Lane this year.

#### 2022/83 Neighbourhood Plan

- a. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion. Our link officer at NCC is preparing maps for inclusion in the final draft.
- b. The Steering Group intends to circulate the Draft Plan to the Parish Council for its comments, before entering a period of public consultation which will begin on 23 April and run for seven weeks.

#### 2022/84 Streetlights

67AA is still not working. The Clerk will report it again.

#### 2022/85 Play Area

The swings and the slide need to be replaced. The Clerk will seek to arrange some meetings with contractors at the play area to start the process of obtaining quotes.

#### 2022/86 Bins

Cllr Thorpe and the Clerk will carry out a review of bins to identify where new bins are needed.

#### 2022/87 Noticeboard

The Clerk is awaiting a date from the contractor for the installation of the replacement noticeboard.

#### 2022/88 Village Signs

The Parish Council discussed village entrance signs and whether these would help slow traffic entering Guyzance and Acklington, by creating a sense of entering a residential space. Cllr Shanks will research designs and prices for Acklington and Cllrs Ingleby and Criag will do the same for Guyzance.

#### 2022/89 Items for the Next Agenda

The Parish Council discussed the proposed changes to collection times indicated by the sticker on the post box. It was noted that this may impact on people working from home. The Clerk will write to Royal Mail to oppose the changes.

#### 2022/90 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:42pm.