

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 7 January 2025 at Acklington Village Hall.

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

### **Open Session**

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council to outline concerns about speeding within Acklington. There was agreement that speeding is a problem, and the Parish Council was open to ideas of how to deal with the issue.

Extensive conversation took place as to the work the parish council could do and the history of investigation into this matter and the frustrations of the likelihood that any investigation into the matter will lead to little or no change.

It was agreed that looking into the provision of stop signs was a good idea.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

None.

#### **2. Disclosure of Interests**

None.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 November 2023 were agreed as a true record.

#### **4. Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Watson reported that Northumberland County Council were considering imposing a double rate of council tax for second homes. Cllr Watson also reported that road between Warkworth and Acklington would be resurfaced. This was dependent on Northumberland County Council scheduling, but it was suggested that this might occur in March.

#### **5. Planning**

24/04212/FUL Featherdown, Cavil Head

Concern was raised about this application at the meeting and it was agreed that representations stating the concerns of the parish council in respect of the height of the ridge of the property and that the building should be ancillary to the use of the existing building should be made to NCC Planning department.

#### **6. Neighbourhood plan update**

Cllr Ingleby reported that since the last meeting an independent examiner had been chosen. Few changes had been made to the plan by him. Revised policies were outlined by Cllr Ingleby. It was reported that the Referendum would likely be held at the end of February (later formally confirmed as 27<sup>th</sup> February).

#### **7. Finance**

a. A financial summary and bank reconciliation to 31st December 2024 was presented as there being £12,326.51 in the bank. The clerk noted that he was in the process of getting full access to

the bank account.

b. The following payments were authorised.

S Ingleby	£12	Plants
Village Hall	£20	Room Hire (paid 5/11/24)
Robson & Cowan	109.28	Footpath expenses (paid 5/11/24)
Village Hall Donation	£700	Agreed at this meeting
NCC	129.76	Grass cutting (paid 5/11/24)
NCC	577.33	Extra grass cutting (paid 5/11/24)
S Malone	214.58	Footpath expenses (paid 5/11/24)
J Newton	41.98	Poppy wreaths (paid 5/11/24)
Pest company	NO INVOICE	Wasp nest removal
K Hadfield	66.68	Clerk for September meeting

c. Receipts were noted.

d. The budget was discussed. It was agreed to change the draft budget to reflect:

- Donations to be changed from £1200 to £1300
- Street Furniture to be changed to £850 from 950
- Footpath Warden Scheme to be changed from £500 to £934.40

e. It was agreed to set a precept of £11,294 for the 2025/26 Financial Year. This represented an increase of 4% compared to the 2024/5 2024/25 Financial Year. The full budget is presented on page 13.

## 8. Playground Update

CLlr Mezza reported that four specific actions had occurred.

- Permission had been agreed to remove the trees that did not belong to the Parish Council which had branches encroaching onto the play area. The trees were confirmed as being moved.
- Four posts had been removed as they had started to rot.
- The steps leading to the sleigh had been completely removed
- The concrete pipe had been removed. It may be used as a planter.

CLlr Mezza mentioned that some of the work could be undertaken but that materials would need to be purchased. It was agreed that expenditure in the region of £700 was required.

#### 9. **2024/28 Acklington Road Signage and Traffic Calming**

As the matter had received extensive discussion during the public session no further update was given.

#### 10. **Additional items:**

- **Footpath Progress Report.**

Key points raised were:

Progress made at the end of the mowing season to get popular footpaths cut and ready for winter

Thanks were given to farmers and landowner for their support during the sowing season.

Permissive Pathway signs had been refreshed.

Yellow-topped marker buoys had been repainted.

An audit had been carried out on the equipment belonging to the parish council and this was passed to the parish clerk.

#### **Defibrillator**

It was agreed to make contact with nearby resident Allison Bell about taking over duties to be the guardian of the defibrillator.

- **Planter movement**

It was agreed that in the spring the planter would be moved. The chair suggested the installation of some new paving slabs in relation to this.

- **Memorial event.**

It was agreed to provide £100 for refreshments for the event commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Guyzance Tragedy.

#### 11. **Items for Next Agenda**

It was agreed to further any agenda items to the parish clerk after the meeting.

#### 12. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall.

EXPENDITURE										
	Budget	Actual		Reserves at	Budget	Other	To Date	Forecast	Projected	Budget
	2023-24	2023-24	Administration	01-Apr-24	2024-25	Income	24 -25	24 -25	Balance	2025-26
	200.00	100.00	Audit fee		100.00			100.00	0.00	100.00
	1,400.00	775.90	Clerk's Salary		1,500.00		215.16	380.16	1,119.84	1,500.00
	50.00	-	Clerk's Expenses		50.00			0.00	50.00	50.00
	-	-	Election Costs [R]		0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
	300.00	427.57	Insurance		900.00			900.00	0.00	900.00
	75.00	75.00	IT Costs		80.00		75.00	75.00	5.00	80.00
	-	-	Miscellaneous		0.00		41.98	41.98	-41.98	0.00
	-	-	Room Hire		180.00		125.00	185.00	-5.00	180.00
	50.00	19.95	Stationery		50.00		0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	300.00	139.39	Subscriptions and Training		300.00		167.49	167.49	132.51	300.00
	250.00	1,307.18	VAT - Recoverable		250.00		38.74	38.74	211.26	250.00
	1,200.00	250.00	Donations		1,200.00		0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,300.00
			Amenities						0.00	
	250.00	65.90	Community Defibrillator [R]		0.00				0.00	100.00
	1,000.00	4,743.59	Footpath Warden Scheme [R]		1,800.00		296.32	296.32	1,503.68	934.40
	1,700.00	1,385.87	Landscaping/Grass Cutting [R]		500.00		1,871.09	1,871.09	-1,371.09	1,800.00
	-	377.38	Jubilee Fund (R)		0.00				0.00	0.00
	500.00	6,795.00	Neighbourhood Plan [R]		500.00			500.00	0.00	500.00
	-	84.00	Play Area [R]		1,000.00		108.00	258.00	742.00	950.00
	-	16.98	Street Furniture [R]		1,000.00		193.68	193.68	806.32	850.00
	250.00	128.75	Flower Planters (R)		250.00			250.00	0.00	250.00
	-	-	VAS		0.00				0.00	0.00
	7,525.00	16,692.46			9,660.00	-	3,132.46	6,457.46		10,094.40
										6,578.67
										1,500.00
<b>INCOME</b>										
	Budget	Actual			Budget					Budget
	2023-24	2023-24			2024-25					2025-26
	15.00	22.90	Bank Interest		50.00		105.57	123.57		50.00
	-	0.00	Donations		-					-
	-	4,480.00	Footpath Warden Scheme							
	-	368.34	Jubilee Fund							
	-	10,000.00	Neighbourhood Plan							
	-	0.00	Miscellaneous		-					-
	250.00	0.00	VAT Refunds		250.00					250.00
	9,000.00	9,000.00	Precept		10,860.00		10,860.00	10,860.00		
	9,265.00	23,871.24			11,160.00					300.00
										11,294.40
										11,594.40
										11,594.40