

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 12 July 2021 at Acklington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Newton (Chair), D Barras, L Craig, S Ingleby, T Mezza, S Thorpe and the Parish Clerk Mrs C Lewis.

024/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Malone and Whiteley

County Cllr Watson

025/21 Disclosure of Interests

None received.

026/21 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held 18 May 2021 were agreed as a true record.

027/21 Report from County Cllr Watson

None. County Cllr Watson was unable to attend due on the rearranged date.

028/21 Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Other Policies and Terms of Reference

The Clerk has reviewed the current policies. The Council should review and re-adopt policies on a scheduled basis. Rather than do these all at one time, the Clerk is proposing to carry this out over the year, with one or two policies brought to each meeting. This proposal was agreed.

029/21 Finance

- a) The financial summary to 30 June 2021 was noted.
- b) The bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 30 June 2021 were received and noted.
- c) **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Reason	Amount	Payment Reference
HMRC - PAYE	Clerk's Salary	£45.80	21/22.4 (605)
Zurich	Insurance	£257.60	21/22.6 (601)
Acklington Village Hall	Donation	£700.00	21/22.8 (607)
Play Safety – ROSPA	Play Area	£100.00	21/22.9 (608)

- d) The following receipts were noted.

Date	Payee	Reason	Amount
09/06/2021	Lloyds	Interest	£0.10

- e) The Clerk provided an update on the changes to the bank mandate. Unfortunately, despite managing to process one of the two forms, Lloyds claim not to have received the second, which was sent in the same envelope. The signatories are therefore unchanged. The Clerk was advised by Lloyds to resubmit the form to amend the signatories. In the meantime, payments have not yet been made. The Clerk has spoken

to Zurich and the payment of the insurance premium can be made up to 28 days after it falls due without invalidating the insurance cover.

030/21 Planning

- a. 21/02287/FUL – Land South of Waterside Cottage, Guyzance – Convert and extend redundant Cow Byre to residential use (C3) for holiday let.

The cow byre is very dilapidated. The Council is concerned to receive yet another application for a holiday let. The road junction is very narrow giving rise to safety concerns and the access path would need to be reinforced to allow for construction traffic; this would need to strike a balance so as not to become attractive to 4x4 off-roaders but safe enough to reach the construction site. The application is not about conserving an agricultural property but about developing a residential property for holiday letting. The Council noted that it would be more comfortable if the intention was for it to be used as a permanent residence. The Council noted the number of applications pending for holiday lets and discussed the Guyzance will soon be surrounded by a “holiday village” threatening its character as a rural undeveloped community. The Clerk will draft a response to include the issues discussed and Cllrs Ingleby and Craig will review this before it is submitted.

- b. 18/00560/OUT – Outline Permission with Layout: Development of 21 Dwellings (4 affordable) – Land North West of Acklington Drive – HWG1 Construction Method Statement and Reserved Matters Application

The required document has now been uploaded and the issues seem to have been resolved. The developer has been in contact with the Council and is willing to have a site meeting. The developer is adamant that they haven't removed any trees which they should not have done. The Council discussed the Construction Method Statement which contains details of road traffic management, suitable on-site parking and cleaning of vehicles. The traffic management for each construction site is being dealt with in isolation but there needs to be discussion between the teams regarding the traffic lights. There are ongoing issues with pedestrian access being blocked. Warnings should have been put out on both sides and they should have leafleted the village; none of this has been done. Access needs to be moved to the eastern end and traffic calming will need to be moved accordingly. The Council is waiting for a response about the chicane. There is also concern about the presence of bats and whether the works are disturbing these.

- c. 21/02466/FELTPO – 6 Dairy Court

The application will be looked at by the Tree Officer at NCC. The trees clearly need to be managed and the Parish Council has no objection. However, the Council noted that

the village is gradually becoming less and less wooded and it would be good to see trees being planted on alternative sites when trees are removed.

d. 21/02512/FUL – Cloverfield Cavil Head Farm

Cllr Thorpe is aware of opposition to the proposed application. The property has no back garden. There is a parking space and front garden. The Council recognises that it cannot object on the grounds that the proposed development blocks the view, but in this case the other properties will be hemmed in by the development, which will stick out beyond the normal curtilage of the house. The Council agreed that Cllrs Thorpe, Newton and Malone will carry out a site visit.

031/21 Footpath Working Party Update

Cllr Malone was unable to attend the rearranged meeting date but provided an update sent out with the Agenda. This was noted by the Council. Cllr Newton reported that clearing the new permissive path had been very onerous and had taken volunteers four Saturday mornings to achieve; their time and efforts are appreciated by the Council. Cllr Newton is researching whether there are machines which could be used to clear hogweed instead of strimming.

032/21 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Ingleby has ordered the leaflets and these are arriving tomorrow; 500 were ordered as the price did not change up to this quantity. Delivery will take place this week and weekend. The Clerk will put the survey live on the Parish Council website ready for people to complete it electronically. Completed paper surveys can be posted through the Village Hall's letter box.

033/21 Playground Equipment

The Clerk has found some quotes previously obtained for repairs pre-Covid. The Council discussed how repairs are normally triggered by the ROSPA Safety Inspection Report. Quotes were obtained previously for the seesaw, mound slide and roundabout. The Council discussed the sharp vegetation on the mound and whether this needed clearing before works could be carried out. The timber frames are beginning to deteriorate. The Clerk suggested that a working group could meet to begin the process of reviewing the needs and seeking quotes.

RESOLVED:

- a. Cllr Mezza to continue with visual inspections, fortnightly during the school holidays and monthly in term time.
- b. Cllrs Newton and Barras and the Clerk to meet as a working group to look at beginning the playground repair/replacement project.

034/21 Acklington Well/Water Pump

Cllr Whiteley has done some research into the ownership of the water pumps. In her absence, the matter is deferred until the next meeting.

035/21 War Memorial

The Council discussed the inaccessibility of the War Memorial to parishioners as it is located inside the prison grounds. The Council noted that the War Memorial was commissioned as part of a prison project and is made from brick and stone. It cannot practically be moved or relocated and it is unlikely that this would be agreed to in any event. It was also noted that invitations to memorial events are not issued. The public can attend but it is often unclear on what day a service will be held, for example if this falls mid-week, whether it will take place on the actual day or on the closest Sunday. Cllr ~~Malone~~Thorpe has identified a charity, Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust UK, which installs airfield markers made from granite to honour historical airfields. The Trust pays for the marker and its installation but welcomes donations. Several have been installed in the area, for example at Chatton.

RESOLVED: Clerk to approach ABCT UK to ask whether a marker could be installed to honour Acklington Airfield.

036/21 Any Other Business

- a. Cllr Newton has received a query from a resident about a speed sign at the prison entrance. This was discussed by the Council on 1 September 2020 and was one of the Council's requests for inclusion in NCC's Local Traffic Programme. Unfortunately NCC has confirmed that this request was not selected for inclusion in the Programme.
- b. The direction signs for the new Southfields Estate are all pointing the wrong way, resulting in traffic being directed down the prison road. The advertising information on the Southfields Estate website states that there is a village school. The Clerk will contact Buchanan Estates to ask for these matters to be corrected.

037/21 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7:00pm.