

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 4 March 2025 at Acklington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs S Ingleby, S Malone, T Mezza, J Newton (Chairman), S Shanks, S Thorpe.
County Councillor Jeff Watson

Open Session

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Lesley Craig

2. Disclosure of Interests

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 January 2025 were amended to state that Cllr Jeff Watson was present, and that sleigh was replaced by slide in respect of the playground report.

4. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Watson also reported that the resurfacing of the road between Warkworth and Acklington would now take place in May although he pointed out that more funding had now been allocated to this and it should result in a better quality of work than the previous proposal.

Cllr Watson had also received a reply from the Highways Programme Manager about stop signs which suggested that they are not the prescribed for standard junctions such as the junction within Acklington. Cllr Watson has asked for further explanation on this point. Cllr Watson did say that NCC Highways will look at renewing the white lines at the junction. Cllr Watson further outlined the precept rate following the agreement of the budget at the NCC budget meeting. Cllr Shanks raised the issue of white lines to the approach to the A1 at Guyzance. Cllr Watson agreed to write to Highways England on this matter.

5. Planning

25/00283/FUL Construction of 2 No 3 bedroom detached houses on land currently used for agricultural purposes on Guyzance Estate and within Guyzance village itself.

After some debate it was agreed to object to this planning application in relation to its impact on the surrounding heritage assets, its effect on the character of the settlement, and harm to the Guyzance Conservation Area.

25/00062/CLPROP Certificate of Lawful Development proposed for the construction of an outbuilding on site to house a home office, gymnasium, and swimming pool. Phobes Plaice Cavil Head Farm Acklington Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9DF

Following lengthy debate and concern / confusion about exactly what this application concerned and the extent of it and about certificate of lawful development it was agreed that Cllr Thorpe and Cllr Malone would

look at this application and visit the site to better understand the issues involved.

It was noted that the High Park application may be heard at a County Council planning committee soon.

6. Neighbourhood plan update

The result of the Neighbourhood Plan was reported at the meeting. Although the plan is not officially made yet as it has to be agreed by the NCC Cabinet, it does now hold 'full weight' in respect of planning applications. The Council thanked Cllrs Craig, Ingleby and Mezza as well as the whole Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

7. Footpath working party update

Cllr Malone presented the report.

- Following Storm Eowyn a tree had fallen on Rake Lane. Volunteers and the County Council had worked together in a positive manner to resolve the situation Thanks had been passed on.
- Cllr Mezza and volunteers had removed overgrown vegetation from, the play area and the overgrowth had subsequently ended up in the chipping machine.
- 6 Machines are being serviced using manufacturers recommended service package and 1 isa being serviced by Robson & Cowan, with aged oil and petrol being disposed of in the correct manner.
- Up to 10 people turn out regularly and a new recruit had joined the week previously. 5 regular volunteers are 'newcomers' to the village and this was welcomed.
- It was reported that the footpaths had benefitted from late mowing and it was speculated as to whether this would be required again next Autumn.

8. Finance

- a. A financial summary and bank reconciliation was noted and it was also confirmed that along with

an approval process involving the chair and vice chair, that payments could now be fully processed.

b. The following payments were authorised.

Village Hall Hire	£15	Room Hire (PAID 11/02/25)
Village Hall Donation	£700	Donation (PAID 11/02/25)
Village Hall Hire	£37.50	Room Hire (PAID 11/02/25)
S Malone	£41.99	Footpath restoration expenses (PAID 29/01/25)
S Malone	£94.87	Memorial Event refreshments (PAID 11/02/25)
T Mezza	£556.78	Playground material (PAID 20/01/25)
T Mezza	£150.23	Playground material (PAID 29/01/25)
B Flux	£113.40	Clerk Salary (Dec24)
B Flux	£113.20	Clerk Salary (Jan25)
B Flux	£113.40	Clerk Salary (Feb25)
HMRC	£28.20	Clerk Salary (Dec24)
HMRC	£28.40	Clerk Salary (Jan25)
HMRC	£28.20	Clerk Salary (Feb25)
ILCA Qualification	£120 (plus VAT)	

In respect of the ILCA Qualification it was agreed that the cost be split with other parishes which the clerk is employed by on the basis of them agreeing to the expense.

c. Receipts were noted.

d. It was agreed to approach Lisa Hamlin who undertook the previous years internal audit to enquire if she was available to do the same this year.

9. Playground Update

Cllr Mezza reported that a recent programme of works had now all been completed

There were questions as to whether to remove the slide. It was agreed to leave this in place for now.

The costings of a new swing were investigated.

It was reported a bill to remove a wasp's nest had not been received and it was hoped that a bill would be incoming.

10. May 2025 Parish Council elections

The clerk offered a briefing to councillors based upon the briefing all Northumberland Parish Clerks had

been invited to. The nomination process, key dates and other information was relayed to councillors.

11. Defibrillator update

A handover meeting had taken place in respect of signing up Alison Bell as the new guardian for the Village Hall Defibrillator. It was agreed to provide Alison Williams the outgoing guardian with a £30 Amazon Voucher as a thank you gift.

12. Stop signs within Acklington

Given the earlier update from Cllr Watson, no further discussion took place on this item.

13. Items for Next Agenda

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

14. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 6th May 2025 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall.

DRAFT