

# Acklington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Acklington Village Hall, on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Present	Cllr Sharin Ingleby (Chair)	Cllr Steve Thorpe (Vice Chair)	Cllr Alison Bell
	Cllr Sean Malone	Cllr Tony Mezza	Barry Flux (Clerk)
In Attendance	Two members of the public	County Councillor Pauline Davidson	

## Public questions / speaking

One member of the public raised the issue of speeding and speed watch following the recent meeting of Acklington Parish Councillors with the police on the matter and expressed their misgivings of the scheme following their experience with speed watch.

They further mentioned full dog fouling bags had been tossed in bushes near to the camp site.

Another member of the public expressed concern about the lack of warning signs for horses in area.

## Agenda Item

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Anne McDougal and Cllr Steve Shanks

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The chair confirmed 25/01793/TREECA

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved as a true record.

Matters arising

Although not mentioned in previous minutes the matter of donations was raised. £50 donation agreed to Pelican, request treasurer to email asking for contribution.

### 4. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR(s)

It was agreed to ascertain from Northumberland County Council the correct way to advertise of there being two unfilled seats on Acklington Parish Council following the election (specifically if there was a prescribed way in this instance or not).

Following this information an advertisement of some description would be displayed in local noticeboards.

### 5. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

It was agreed that Cllr Ingleby would be the appointed member to the village hall committee.

### 6. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL BANK SIGNATORY

Signed .....

Date: .....

It was agreed to add Cllr Bell as a bank account signatory and the clerk would liaise with in terms of sorting any necessary paperwork for this.

## **7. CLERK'S REPORT**

### **Internal Audit 2024/2025 (Minute AD1)**

It was agreed to accept the Annual Internal Audit Report, governance and accounting statement.

#### **Insurance quote**

It was agreed to either pursue a lower £500 quote from Zurich or other policies if available

#### **Payments – Full Financial Report**

Financial reports with references AC012S, AC001S, AC001I, AC002S, AC003S AC0012/1/2/3I were presented to the meeting. It was also noted that the Community Account held £15,971.50 in funds and the Instant Access Account held £12,384.14

It was confirmed payments are approved and defibrillator pads to be ordered by defib guardian Cllr Bell.

## **8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

It was noted:

- HM Prison Northumberland governor had no objection to a brown tourist sign for the memorial.
- Northumberland Estates had agreed to cut back hedges at The Paddocks.
- The pothole the pothole on B6345 opposite Southfield will be repaired within 4 months.
- Cllr Davidson had quotes for speed cushions and suggested that 6 could be placed in Acklington through her Members Local Improvement Scheme Allowance.
- The Parish Council asked for assistance in the placing of brown tourist signs for the airfield memorial and a suggestion was made to split the cost between the parish council and NCC via the Members Local Improvement Scheme Allowance.
- That the Coal House Farm bus stops had been passed to highways management to put in a schedule to be installed.
- Cllr Davidson is investigating the completion of the unadopted unfinished roads and pavements at Southfield. NCC are quoting for the work.

## **9. PLANNING**

- 25/01984/FUL – It was agreed to submit a general comment to request a condition for extra tree planting to screen boiler house and the back of the hall.
- 25/01639/MISC – Without further information the Parish Council did not wish to comment.
- 25/01769/FUL – It was agreed to submit a comment of no objection from Acklington Parish Council, other than for it to be made clear that the Parish Council wished that building would be an ancillary use only, not for commercial use.
- 25/01793/TREECA – Noted this was already permitted.

Signed .....

Date: .....

- 25/01798/VARYCO – It was agreed to submit a comment of no objection.

## 10. KEY PROJECTS

### **Bus Stops**

Councillor Davidson had previously mentioned this in her County Council update. It was noted this was in the County Council highways team schedule, but this could be any time over the year.

### **Bins**

It was agreed that members would look at the western side of Acklington to see where a bin might best be placed and to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

### **Road Safety**

The recent meeting with the police was discussed. It was mentioned that there were now opportunities to take up community speed watch. A potential 'cuppa with a copper' event was also discussed.

Councillors expressed concerns that road signs are blocked by foliage and need cleaning and Cllr Davidson will check if worn road markings can be redone.

## 11. GENERAL ITEMS

### **Neighbourhood plan – update following training**

It was noted that councillors had received training during June.

### **Amble Town Council joint meeting**

Cllrs Ingleby and Malone were interested in being involved in a joint meeting initiative request and it was agreed to pass this information to the clerk of Amble Town Council.

### **Roadworks – how to inform local residents**

There was great frustration expressed about the recent closure of the B6345 and how this had affected bus services and bus users in Acklington, as well as misinformation about dates of closures. It was agreed Clerk to write to Highways and cabinet member about the matter and to delegate agreement of content to the letter to the chair and vice chair.

### **Plaque for commemorative trees**

It was noted that seven trees planted for the Queens Diamond Jubilee did not have a commemorative plaque. It was agreed for councillors to think what sort of plaque / message they would like and that this item would be revisited at a later meeting.

### **Coffee morning**

The idea of having a coffee morning in October was mentioned which could showcase information from Acklington from the Parish Council, Police, Footpath working group etc. It was agreed the chair would look to book the Village Hall for this (booked for 1<sup>st</sup> Novemember).

## 12. FOOTPATH WORKING PARTY UPDATE

Cllr Malone presented the Footpath Working Group update (appendix 1). Further to this report it was noted that a spreadsheet of expenses / costs was being kept in order to facilitate pre-budget setting discussion for the 2026-27 Budget in January.

Signed .....

Date: .....

The £200 repair to the bridge on footpath no 101/15 was agreed by councillors

### **13. PLAYGROUND UPDATE**

The new equipment item was deferred as a discussion item to get further specification on items and hopefully lower costs than quotes received to date.

It was noted weedkiller was needed for the playground. It was also suggested that a safety sign for the zip wire was needed for the park. There was some debate about what message was required. The clerk offered to provide information from an NCC park sign near to his residence and check if NCC playground maintenance scheme could cover the play area.

### **14. ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING**

The following items were requested for the next meeting's agenda

- Refurbishment of bus shelters
- Tree survey
- Benches on footpaths
- Planters

### **15. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Meeting closed at 21:45

Signed .....

Date: .....