

Acklington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Acklington Village Hall, on Tuesday, 6th May 2025

Present	Cllr Alison Bell	Cllr Sharin Ingleby	Cllr Sean Malone
	Cllr Tony Mezza	Cllr Anne McDougal	Cllr Steve Shanks
	Cllr Steve Thorpe		Barry Flux (Clerk)
In Attendance	County Councillor Pauline Davidson		
	NB. Jeff Newton attended the start of the meeting, however, left without signing the declaration of office		

No public questions / speaking

Agenda Item

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Following a vote by members Cllr Sharin Ingleby was elected chair and signed her declaration of acceptance of office which was received by the parish clerk.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Steve Thorpe was elected as vice chair and he signed his declaration of acceptance of office which was received by the parish clerk.

3. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office all councillors

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The chair confirmed there were two planning applications 25/01252/LBC and 25/00623/LBC where she had a disclosable interest and confirmed she would not take part in any discussion and leave the meeting if either were subsequently discussed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th March were approved as a true record.

6. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

It was noted that there were vacancies on Acklington Parish Council following the recent uncontested election. As such it was agreed that an open advert be produced and displayed and for councillors to contact the clerk / chair if they knew of potential interested people to fill the vacancies.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Cllrs Bell, Ingleby, Malone and Shanks were appointed to the Footpath Working Group.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

- Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Other Policies and Terms of Reference.

It was confirmed that all standing orders, other policies and terms of reference would remain consistent with the precious parish council term. Banking arrangements were confirmed.

Signed

Date:

- Internal Audit

It was confirmed that Lisa Hamlin was to work on this and the Parish Clerk confirmed he had a forthcoming meeting with her on this.

9. TIME AND PLACE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The following meeting schedule was agreed.

- 1 July 2025
- 2 September 2025
- 4 November 2025
- 6 January 2026
- 3 March 2026
- 5 May 2026

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Councillor Davidson attended her first meeting since her election as a County Councillor the previous Thursday. Given she is newly elected her presentation was largely an introduction from herself and a brief outline of her background. It was expressed that it was hoped that a relationship of reporting back issues to the parish council would be maintained as has occurred for many years.

11. PLANNING

24/02540/FUL	Change of use of agricultural building to a facility to dry paper pulp to produce animal bedding to include feeder, drum, burner, stack installation and control room. High Park Farm High Park Farm Drive Felton Northumberland	Resubmission
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It was agreed that Acklington Parish Council are content to pass their allocated speaking time at any future planning committee to West Thirston Parish Council.

25/00587/FUL	Proposed side extension to existing dwelling 2 Acklington Park Cottages Acklington Northumberland NE65 9AA	Registered
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It was agreed to make no further comment on this application.

25/00784/FUL	Proposed hipped roof over existing garage 5 The Village Acklington Northumberland NE65 9BJ	Registered
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It was agreed to make no further comment on this application.

Signed

Date:

25/01181/MISC	Proposed base station installation. Vodafone Communications Mast Acklington Northumberland	Decided
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In respect of the above application, it was commented that this was a permitted development and that the mast height was not changing and that the Parish Council had not further comment they wished to submit.

In respect of 25/00062/CLPROP Cllr Thorpe wished to make further comment in respect of this, notwithstanding the application approval and it was agreed he would liaise with the parish clerk in respect of this outside of the meeting.

12. KEY PROJECTS

Bus Stop - investigate the request stop at Coal Houses Farm being made a permanent bus stop. Clerk to confer with Cllr Shanks and contact Arriva and NCC.

Road Safety - continue efforts to improve road safety. Request NCC officers and police to visit and observe problem areas.

New Bins - survey west end of village to determine where new or bigger bins are needed.

13. GENERAL ITEMS

Neighbourhood plan – next steps

It was reported to the meeting that Rob Naples has offered to have a briefing session and it was hoped as many members as possible could attend.

Speed survey update

It was noted that there was generally a backlog of speeding surveys being completed across Northumberland. It was suggested this may need following up for a progress report.

Airfield memorial – final arrangements and signage

The unveiling was confirmed for 10th May. The memorial is not at the Parish Council's preferred roadside location so it was agreed to investigate brown tourist signs being installed to help direct visitors. County Councillor Davidson agreed this is a good idea and is willing to discuss a contribution to costs.

14. FOOTPATH WORKING PARTY UPDATE

A permanent mowing route between Togston and High Park Farm is being considered in cooperation with Togston Parish Council.

Cllr Mezza has repaired a rotten bridge in Station Wood. NCC has responsibility for repairs to bridges on footpaths however they consider this a low priority so the parish council decided to repair immediately on safety grounds.

The Husqvarna ride-on keep burning out one of the drive belts with an approximate cost of £100 for repairs.

Signed

Date:

The Parish Council will see if it can get a permit for Alnwick Waste Recycling.

15. PLAYGROUND UPDATE

It was reported that work had been completed and maintenance was up to date on the playground. Some clearing work had been undertaken within the playground. Some enquiries had been made about the zip wire and whether the rope was too slack, however technical reasons for this were provided.

A request was made for the parish clerk to investigate options for the installation of swings for toddlers.

16. NEXT MEETING

To confirm the date and time of the next meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 1st July 2025

Meeting closed at 21:00

DRAFT

Signed

Date: