

Acklington Parish Council

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED AT NEXT MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Acklington Village Hall, on Tuesday, 3rd March 2026

Present	Cllr Sharin Ingleby (Chair)	Cllr Steve Thorpe (Vice Chair)	Cllr Alison Bell
	Cllr Sean Malone	Cllr Steve Shanks	Cllr Tony Mezza
	Bonnie Watson (Clerk)		
In Attendance	County Councillor Pauline Davidson	MOP = 0	

Public questions / speaking

N/A

Agenda Item

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ann McDougal

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the meeting of 6th January 2026 were approved as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Acklington Parish Council footpath project equipment check completed – this has now been saved. A note was made that the serial numbers are still required to be recorded to ensure effective monitoring for the future.

CLERK'S REPORT

Conference scheduled for Thursday 5th March 2026 at County Hall, Morpeth, 2 Cllrs attending, full report to follow at next meeting.

The full financial report was received. Balances as of 23rd February were noted as £11,288.63 in the Community Account and £12,436.49 in the Instant Access Account. Full access has now been given to the clerk for the accounts, complete set up to be done prior to the next meeting including HMRC access.

AGAR discussed briefly stating that the external auditor has been sourced and agreement signed in readiness. Further updates will be given if required at the next meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Davidson provided an update on local expenditure and funding matters. She noted that MLIS funding had been allocated to Acklington village hall for toilet refurbishment if required.

Signed

Date:

- Funding – Cllr Davidson will fund the play area swings from her 26/27 budget once the land ownership issue with the MOJ has been resolved. A contribution to the purchase of the flail mower has previously been agreed.
- Mast installation – comments made on materials/rubbish left strewn around the area and the disruption this has caused within the village. This has also caused further issues with the pavement surrounding the area. Cllr Davidson will contact Viv Cartmell, head of North Area Planning to discuss further.
- Potholes – unhappy with the way potholes have been resolved, semi-permanent fixes that don't last.
- Cllr Davidson will be on planned leave for 6 Weeks, but councillors can contact Amble County Councillor Artie Hume if issues arise prior to her return.

PLANNING

26/00419/VARYCO - Guyzance Hall, Guyzance.

Variation of Condition 1 (approved plans), 4 (foul water) and 7 (materials) on approved application 25/01798/VARYCO to change internal window, door between Hall and Leisure Wing from a single door plus small window into a single wider opening, reinstall oil storage tank to its original position, provide 2no Air Sourced Heat Pumps in the same location as oil storage tank, changes to steps are to be made within the courtyard, changes to garages floor, elevations, revised surface water drain is installed parallel, close proximity with foul, treated water drain, the route of surface water drainage scheme has been amended and confirmation the stone used on the new build part of the Hall will be as specified in material samples and specification.

No Opposition from the PC.

KEY PROJECTS

Bus stops, Bins and Road Safety – this project is still ongoing, further updates will be given at the next meeting.

GENERAL ITEMS

Civility and Respect Pledge

This has been fully explained and discussed, all Councillors are happy to sign the pledge – clerk to complete this following the meeting.

Policies and Procedures Update

List of Policies discussed that are required – Clerk to send out list to all councillors then update/create policies to bring to the next meeting to be discussed and signed off.

Tree survey

The need for a professional tree survey was discussed, clerk to contact NCC and external business to see price for trees on St Omer Road.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Discussed impact of the Acklington Neighbourhood plan on planning applications, a previously refused planning application in Guyzance had its appeal dismissed in part due to ANP policies, particularly the Local Green Space Policy. Subsequently a similar application in the same area was refused on the same grounds. The policy has been tested and strengthened by these decisions.

Annual Meeting – 5th May 2026

Signed

Date:

The annual meeting has been fully discussed and suggested that this is to be restarted again after many years of not taking place. This will be advertised on the noticeboards, Facebook, word of mouth etc. and will take place at the start of the May 2026 meeting with an offer of refreshments and biscuits and a chance to chat about the village in a relaxed setting with a parish council chairs report being read out then moving on to the main meeting.

Joint Town and Parish Council Meeting Update

Small update given by chair from previous meeting at Amble town council. Clerk to contact Warkworth parish clerk for the use of their planning template. The next meeting is on 23rd April 2026 – attendance will be given from APC.

New Website Update

Meeting with Hugo from Hugo fox with regards to training for this – will be up and running within the next week prior to the cutoff point of the end of the month.

Update on Planning and Highways Emails.

Planning email sent to Rob Murfin – Director of Housing and Planning last year with no reply received so will be chased up. Highways email not sent. NFA.

Windfarm Grant

This was submitted last year for the playground. This was initially rejected due to high numbers of submissions but has now reopened. Contact to be made to see if this can be changed from the playground to the Flail Mower due to land ownership dispute.

Community Police Update

Update sent out from Neighbourhood police with regards to their updated figures and facts relating to Acklington Village. No items stand out to be discussed further.

FOOTPATH WORKING PARTY UPDATE

Update given via separate document – Funding for the flail mower to be sourced from the previously requested funding from the Wind Farms. This application will be changed due to it originally being for the play park.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Land ownership/lease terms to be confirmed as this ran out in 2021 therefore no park can be updated on this land without this being updated. Once confirmed funding for this can be sourced. Maintenance will continue to be carried out while we await confirmation of ownership status.

CO-OPTION POLICY

Co-option policy has been created, discussed and accepted as of today's meeting.

ITEMS FOR THE MAY MEETING

Items proposed for the March meeting include updates on the tree survey, policies and procedures, playground landownership, and bus shelter uplift.

CLOSED SESSION

Discussion with relation to cooption application. It was determined that cooption would not take place at this time.

Signed

Date:

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 5th May 2026

Meeting closed at 21:05

Signed

Date: