

The minutes of the Meeting of Acklington Parish Council held on 7.00pm on 5 September 2023 at Acklington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs D Barras, L Craig, S George, S Ingleby, S Malone, T Mezza, J Newton (Chairman), S Thorpe.

2023/37 Apologies for Absence

None

2023/38 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2023/39 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 July 2023 were agreed as a true record.

2023/40 Report from County Councillor

- a. Some of the potholes in Guyzance have been filled in.
- b. County Cllr Watson is working with Cllr Malone and the Footpaths Group to progress some of the ongoing issues.
- c. The new school development in Amble is progressing on track.
- d. Cllr Barras asked whether NCC has any plans to improve the infrastructure around the Guyzance A1 junction given the high number of accidents. The Parish Council noted that there have been three serious incidents recently. County Cllr Watson will contact Highways England to raise these concerns.

2023/41 Planning

- a. 23/01387/FUL and 23/01388/LBC – Land South of Magnolia Cottage, Guyzance Village. The Parish Council noted that a previous application for two cottages instead of the current proposed polytunnels was refused.
- b. 23/00903/VARYCO – Land West of Barnhill Farm Cottages. The Parish Council noted that this application proposes to enlarge the barns for which the applicant has previously received planning permission by some 30-50%. This is not well described in the application but can be seen in the plans.
- c. 23/02524/FUL and 23/02525/LBC – Guyzance Hall. The Parish Council noted that event consent is still in place and would remind the applicant of the existing planning conditions around noise.
- d. 22/02845/FUL – Land North of 18-14 Acklington Village and Former Acklington School. The Parish Council noted that this application has still not come before the Local Area Council (Planning). Highways have withdrawn their comments as long as the applicant meets certain conditions. The Parish Council noted its comments already submitted and agreed that nothing further should be submitted.
- e. 23/03095/HEGRMN – Land South of Guyzance Lea. The Parish Council does not have any comments to submit.

2023/42 Village Gateways

County Cllr Watson has agreed to support the purchase of new village gateways from his Members Small Schemes Budget, at a total cost of between £2,000 and £4,000. Cllr Shanks will look at suitable options.

2023/43 Footpaths Working Group Update

- a. The Footpaths Working Group would like to purchase a new ride on mower. The logistics and practical issues arising such as maintenance and storage, associated costs, insurance costs and value for money were discussed in detail. County Cllr Watson will provide a grant of £4,475 from his Members Small

Schemes Budget towards the purchase cost. It is estimated that maintenance will cost around £200 per year and parts/fuel will cost around £200 per year also.

RESOLVED to purchase a new Husquvarna 216 AWD ride on mower at a cost of £4,700.

- b. The Parish Council noted that HMP Acklington may be able to support efforts and Cllr Craig will invite the director to speak at the next Parish Council meeting.
- c. 57% of the parish footpaths were obstructed and impossible to walk in 2018 and obstructions have now been reduced to 6%. In the same period, the footpath network in the parish has increased in distance from 14 km to 17.5 km with the opening of several permissive paths. The Footpaths Group has won a Love Northumberland Award, has an active facebook group of just under 150 members, and an active project group of more than 15 volunteers. Many landowners are now supporters of the project.
- d. Regular mowing encourages the grass to grow more quickly, blocking weeds and making the surface more hard wearing.
- e. Station Wood has finally been reopened after nearly two years, and the Parish Council is grateful to Northumberland Estates, Scottish Woodland and the Footpaths volunteers for their hard work in clearing the damage left by Storm Arwen.

2023/44 Finance

- a. The financial summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 27 August 2023 was received.
- b. The Parish Council noted that the cost of the bins was higher than estimated due to the bin housing required and the style.

RESOLVED to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Reason	Amount	Payment Ref
Zurich	Insurance	£754.73	23/24.15
For Outdoors Ltd	Zip Wire Cable	£179.99	23/24.18
Glasdon	Wheelie Bin Housing and 2xGeneral Waste Bins	£2,056.38	23/24.20
S Malone – reimbursement	Footpaths Working Group	£225.34	23/24.19
Robson & Cowan	Footpaths Working Group	£18.62	23/24.31
Acklington Village Hall	Donation	£700.00	23/24.17
C Boulby – reimbursement	Plants	£28.01	23/24.16

c. **RESOLVED** to instruct NCC to carry out additional grass cuts at a cost of £462.61.

d. The following receipts were noted.

Date	Payee	Reason	Amount
10/7/23	Lloyds	Interest	£8.23
9/8/23	Lloyds	Interest	£8.97

2023/45 Neighbourhood Plan

A further Locality Grant has been applied for successfully. However, despite this, the Neighbourhood Plan is not much further forward due to delays in obtaining the required maps and holiday homes information from NCC.

2023/46 Play Area

Two quotes have been obtained for new equipment. A third quote will need to be sought and then a small public consultation will need to take place.

2023/47 Streetlights

No action required until construction completed – carry forward to the next Meeting.

2023/48 Car Parking Issues

The Parish Council noted that there is an ongoing issue caused by parked cars blocking pavements, particularly in the vicinity of the Village Hall when there is an event. This is causing pedestrians to walk in the road especially when the hedge is overgrown. This has been raised by Cllr Ingleby with the Village Hall Committee, who can do little to prevent it from happening.

2023/49 Items for the Next Agenda

- Visit from Director, HMP Acklington
- Possible donation for the refurbishment of the Church Bells
- Follow up on the verge in front of Southfields
- Noise from the campsite at the Railway
- Airfields Memorial

2023/50 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7:00pm, Acklington Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:29pm.