Mrs J Nolan
Clerk to the Council

Tel: 01977 611583
E-mail: clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council Community Centre
Bell Lane, Ackworth
Pontefract, WF7 7JH

17 August 2026

Sent via email to @btinternet.com

Dear

RE: Freedom of Information Request

I write in response to your Freedom of Information request dated 17 July 2026, received on 20 July 2026 as detailed below in blue along with responses.

1. For LAC agenda items 49, 50, 52 and 54, who requested that these items be added to the agenda?

Please note that a freedom of information request is to receive information held on record only and not a 'question-and-answer' process, therefore under this process the official response is that this information is not held on record.

However, on this occasion as I feel it beneficial, I will provide a Q&A response.
As Clerk to the Council, I am responsible for the administration of Council meeting agendas. The section 'Motions requested by Councillor(s)' is where any proposals from Councillors are added, for the July 2026 Council meeting, agenda items 49, 50, 52 & 54 were at my request to add to the agenda in order for Council to deal with ongoing Council business officially as detailed in the agenda wording.

2. LACA has submitted its financial records to you. How much funding does LACA currently have available for the project, excluding any CIL money?

Held on record by the Parish Council is a figure of £13,887.19 dated 13/05/26.

3. If LACA submitted a project plan to the Parish, were the plans prepared by a professional architect, and what is the proposed square footage of the building?

This information is not held on record.

4. What total cost has LACA submitted for completing the building?

Held on record is a figure of £64,210.00 submitted in July 2026.

5. You stated that you had sent your enquiry to WMDC requesting they gift the Parish the Townsend playing fields can you give me a copy of your letter / email plus a copy of their reply

Information held on record by the Parish Council included under appendix 1 of this letter.

6. Has Ackworth Parish Council drawn up a sub-lease for LACA? If so, please provide a copy.

No – Therefore information not held on record.

7. If a sub-lease has been drafted, has the Finance Committee calculated what charges LACA would be required to pay under it?

N/A as per answer to question 6.

8. Has the Parish had LACA's plans reviewed by a competent financial expert to assess their financial credibility?

No – Therefore information not held on record.

I note this question does not state whether this is a legal requirement and therefore conscious the legal response provided could be mis-interpreted. If you would like to discuss in person about the Council's legal obligations, I am happy to do so.

9. Has the Parish reviewed the decision that allowed LACA councillors to vote, given that the matter was initially voted down? After the initial vote, Cllr Balfour, who was a former secretary of LACA, requested a second vote. This appears to contradict previous statements made in meetings that, once a vote has been taken, the matter cannot be brought back. (This has been quoted by Clr Balfour) Will this be reviewed or has it been reviewed, how will the issue be resolved

The July meeting minutes once issued on our website will be the record held by Council of the decision and action taken during the July meeting on this matter.
These will be available by the 9th September 2026 prior to the next Council meeting on 14th September 2026 and will reflect the meeting you attended on the 13th July 2026.

I again extend the offer to meet with you in person to discuss any concerns you may have relating to this freedom of information you have made.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you have a right to appeal or escalate directly to the Information Commissioner by phone 0303 123 1113 or website https://ico.org.uk/

On this occasion, there is no charge for making this request.

Yours sincerely

Jemma Nolan
Clerk to the Council

Question 5 – Appendix 1

> **137.3:** To receive a proposal from Cllr Parker that Ackworth Parish Council instructs the Clerk together with advice from the Parish Council's Solicitors, to approach Wakefield Metropolitan District Council to request a Community Asset Transfer for the freehold ownership of the property, on Station Road, Ackworth known as the "Low Ackworth/Townend Playing Fields". This transfer by gift or by such sum of money acceptable to the Wakefield Authority, to enable this Parish to develop the Community Centre and sports field for parish use.

137.3: A discussion took place.

An amend was proposed to change the word "request" to "explore". It was **RESOLVED** that the amend was **APPROVED**.

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposal was **APPROVED**. It was **NOTED** that this would be reviewed by the Clerk once the budget and precept process had been completed and resource available.

Action as per the Council's instruction under agenda item 137.1

Clerk | Ackworth Parish Council

From: Clerk | Ackworth Parish Council
Sent: 26 May 2026 14:13
To: communityassettransfer@wakefield.gov.uk
Subject: Townend Playing Field Ackworth

Good Afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of Ackworth Parish Council to explore a Community Asset Transfer for the freehold ownership of the land/property of Station Road in Ackworth known as the "Low Ackworth/Townend Playing Fields".

The exploration would be to receive the land by way of gift or by such sum of money acceptable to the Wakefield Authority. This would then enable the Parish Council to develop the area for the use of the Parish.

This email currently is for exploration only and a request for information on the future viability and/or process.

For transparency, we are nearing the end of a process to secure a 40-year lease on this same land which is the Council's current primary focus.

This email at this stage, is for future exploration so that the Council can consider all options that may be available to them.

Thanks
Jemma

Jemma Nolan | Clerk to the Council
Office:01977 611583

Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre | Bell Lane | Ackworth | Pontefract | WF7 7JH
www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Clerk | Ackworth Parish Council

From: [redacted]@wakefield.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2026 13:29
To: Clerk | Ackworth Parish Council
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Townend Playing Field Ackworth L/00235

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Add to Council Agenda

Hi Jemma

[redacted] in the Communities team has asked me to respond to your enquiry.

We consider the Parish Council to have a continuing legal interest in the property and so that needs resolving / concluding first, before the Council can consider what may or may not be possible in relation to the freehold.

I note your enquiry specifically references the freehold interest in the property. The Council has never community asset transferred the freehold interest in a property before. There is currently a live cabinet approval to CAT the freehold of Lightwaves Leisure Centre in Wakefield, but the circumstances there are quite specific – and as matters stand today, that transfer is still to be concluded.

Once the new 40 year lease is concluded, a no-obligation discussion about the freehold could potentially follow – although probably not immediately.
If the 40-year lease proposal gets aborted for some reason and the Council decides the best way forward is to consider afresh a potential CAT of the site, such a proposal would be thrown widely open to a range of prospective groups / users which would include the Parish Council.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] MRICS
Service Manager – Real Estate
Property, Facilities, Health & Safety
Wakefield Council

*Individual WMDC Officer details redacted who provided response on behalf of WMDC's Communities Team.