



Question:

I'm just asking as is a lot of Ackworth people. Why is the parish not helping and supporting the masons that has overwhelming support of the Ackworth community?

Answer:

This subject was brought to Council during Monday's meeting (11/03/2024) in the form of a motion from a serving Councillor.

16.1 Councillor A Sherratt proposes that Ackworth Parish Council contact Wakefield Council Environmental Health department to support the Masons Arms in their attempts to retain the ability to offer their long-standing live music performances which are under threat due to a recent noise abatement notice. This is to further support the Masons Arms in addition to the nearly 3000 people who have signed a petition of support for them.

As Clerk, I was in attendance at the meeting and can confirm that a discussion took place. Some Councillors felt that for the Parish Council (as a corporate body) to act could be a conflict of its duty to all residents. Members of the Parish Council were sympathetic of the situation and during Monday's meeting, most Councillors vocalised that as individuals they had signed the petition currently in circulation in support.

More information about the role of the Council, its Councillors and its Clerk can be found on our website under https://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/Your_Council_28590.aspx. Here you will also find the Councils adopted Code of Conduct which includes a section on use of position.

To try to put the discussion and decision into context, a Parish Council is defined as a corporate body which is a legal entity separate from that of its individual members. Its decisions are the responsibility of the whole body and are decided via a democratic voting system. After voting was completed on Monday, the motion fell and therefore resolved that as a corporate body the Parish Council would not be contacting Wakefield Council Environmental Health Department.