

**Minutes of the meeting of Ackworth Parish Council's Village Amenities Committee held at the Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, on Monday 21 February 2022 commencing at 6PM**

**Present:** Cllr: A Garbutt, in the Chair

Cllrs: J Bell, A Cook, T Hames and M Roberts

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr S Balfour and the reasons given as reported in the attendance book were approved

**2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

2.1. To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

2.2. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any)

2.3. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

Cllr J Bell declared an interest in agenda item 5

**3. To receive matters arising**

3.1. The Clerk reported on the following matters

- Brackenhill Sink – ongoing, awaiting installation of the new sink.
- Colliery Tub – Wakefield Council Highways Department has advised that planning permission is needed and the need to check with the utilities company regarding any underground cables \ pipes.
- Boundary signs – ordered but no delivery date as yet.
- Planter and Seats for Low Ackworth – ongoing.
- Youth Club – a meeting has been organised with Youth Services and the lady wishing to setup a youth club in the village. This will be held at the Community Centre on Wednesday 2 March.

**4. To discuss disabled access onto Dando Way from Mill Lane on behalf of disabled residents (Cllr Richmond)**

4.1. As Cllr Richmond was not at the meeting it was agreed to recommend that some photos of the area are taken and the item be brought to the next Village Amenities committee meeting.

**5. To receive correspondence from Ackworth Community Library requesting additional storage from the Parish Council**

Cllr Bell declared an interest in this item.

5.1. Correspondence had previously been circulated to all Councillors.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council to purchase a shed of a similar size to the existing one.

**6. To receive correspondence from a resident regarding Low Ackworth play area gate**

6.1. The Clerk reported that the resident has expressed concerns regarding the ease at which the gate into the play area opens. The Clerk explained that an independent inspection had recently been carried out as well as ROSPA trained staff from Wakefield Council checking it and neither had highlighted this as an issue.

A discussion took place. It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council a set of magnetic closers are installed on the gate, and at a future meeting consideration is given to the installation of a barrier when exiting the play area

**7. To receive feedback from residents regarding additional wildflower planting locations.**

7.1. Suggestions of locations for additional wildflower planting are :

- Top of Station Road
- The entrance to the Courtway, Low Ackworth
- The ginnel leading from Station Road to Langdale Drive, Low Ackworth
- Dando Way adjacent to Bell Lane Car Park

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council all of the above locations along with a section of Low Ackworth play area near to the new book store.

**8. To receive correspondence from Northern Powergrid regarding relocation of an existing electricity substation in High Ackworth**

8.1. Correspondence had previously been circulated to all Councillors.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that a section of the village green is not leased to Northern Powergrid for the relocation of electricity sub-station.

**9. Cemetery**

**9.1. To receive correspondence from the grave digger**

The Clerk reported that the grave digger costs will increase by 10% commencing 1 March 2022.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that this increase is accepted.

**9.2. To review cemetery charges**

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that the current formula remains in place with the exception of a 10% increase to interment fees where the grave digger is engaged.

**10. To receive correspondence from Strata regarding the handover process for the community centre**

10.1. The Clerk reported that the handover will not take place until at least September and we await further information from them. It was agreed this would be brought to the next meeting.

**11. To receive the report from the Tree Survey**

11.1. The Tree Report had previously been circulated by email to all Councillors

The report was noted.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that quotations are obtained for the priority works as listed in the report.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7pm