



Mrs J Nolan
Clerk to the Council

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

Tel: 01977 611583

E-mail: clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Ackworth Parish Council held at Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, on Monday 10th March 2025, at 7.15 PM.

Attendance

Cllr Martin Roberts – Chair
Cllr John Bell
Cllr Stephen Parker
Cllr Sarah Balfour
Cllr Carolyn Hall
Cllr Andy Sherratt
Cllr Amanda Cook
Cllr Sharon Maiden
Cllr Suzy Sherratt
Cllr Ian Moore
Cllr Sean Richmond

Clerk: J Nolan

4 Members of the Public in attendance.

Question time was held at 7:15pm, questions asked did not relate to the agenda.

<p>1. Apologies</p>
<p>1.1 To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting. 1.2 To consider the approval of reasons given for absence.</p>
<p>1.1 It was resolved that the apologies were received in respect of Cllr Bland. 1.2 It was resolved that council had considered and approved the reason given by Cllr Bland.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations</p> <p>2.1 To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council's Code of conduct or a member's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on items on the agenda. 2.2 To receive, consider and decide upon any written applications for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interest. 2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.</p>
<p>2.1 Cllr Moore declared that the property stated under agenda item 7.3 borders his property. 2.2 No written dispensations received. 2.3 The Chair consulted with Council, it was resolved that Cllr Moore could remain present for agenda item agenda item 7.3 however voting rights would be suspended for this item.</p>
<p>3. To receive available reports from the following:</p> <p>3.1 WMDC District Councillors.</p>

<p>3.2 APC Council Representatives on outside bodies.</p> <p>3.1 District Councillor Martin Roberts provided a verbal update which covered the below areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dist Cllr Carrington has worked with a resident to clear blocked drain grates around Chapel Garth • Green Lane currently under District Council review of the public right of way to support residents • Next PACT meeting will be held at Upton <p>3.2 Cllr A Sherratt provided an update on behalf of Pontefract & Ackworth Almshouses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current project to turn a small row of terraced houses into apartments <p>3.3 Cllr A Sherratt provided an update on behalf of Ackworth Heritage Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group are looking to hold a history festival on 7th June and seeking craft stalls • Funding exploration for the refurbishment of the village mile posts • The group discussed potential development of land in Low Ackworth however no current live planning applications are in place <p>It was noted that the WMDC Town & Parish Liaison Group meeting had been attended and minutes included within the councillor packs.</p>
<p>4. To consider for approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th February 2025, as a true and correct record.</p>
<p>4.1 The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was resolved that the meeting minutes were approved.</p>
<p>5. To receive Burial Rights.</p>
<p>5.1 It was resolved that the burial rights had been received for plot RB8.</p>
<p>6. Financial Matters</p> <p>6.1 To receive and consider for approval the accounts including bank statements to the end of February 2025.</p> <p>6.2 To receive and consider for approval payments to be made and Petty Cash account to 10th March 2025.</p> <p>Bank Statements, Bank & CCLA Reconciliations, and receipts \ payments for the Current and Deposit Accounts were previously circulated to all Councillors, along with a copy of the receipts and payments for the Petty Cash account. The list of payments to be approved was circulated during the meeting.</p> <p>6.1 It was resolved that the accounts to the end of February 2025 were approved. All in favour.</p> <p>6.2 It was resolved that the list of payments to be made and petty cash account to 10th March 2025 were approved. All in favour.</p>
<p>7. To consider and decide upon the following planning applications.</p> <p>7.1 23/00369/REM - Willsdene Wakefield Road Pontefract WF7 7JL - Residential development of 9no. dwellings (reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline approval ref. 23/00369/OUT) – Deadline 20/03/2025</p> <p>7.2 25/00385/TCA - 4 Station Road Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7NA - Fell 1 Conifer Tree – Deadline 17/03/2025</p> <p>7.3 23/00314/S730 - Mill Lane Garage Mill Lane Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7NW - Removal of condition 7 (Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan) of approved outline application 23/00314/OUT – Deadline 20/03/2025</p> <p>7.4 24/01523/FUL - 25 Townend Avenue Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7HE - Part two storey part single storey extension to rear – Deadline 24/03/2025</p> <p>7.5 25/00266/TCA - St Cuthbert C Of E Church, Cross Hill, Ackworth - 1 Cedar Tree - Crown Lift the canopy over the church footpath to 2metres from ground level. Crown Lift the canopy over the adjacent garden to 3metres from the garden ground level to give clearance of the adjacent structures – Deadline 24/03/2025</p> <p>7.1 It was resolved that the clerk would resubmit the previous objection in relation to this application on the grounds of threat to environment of tree felling, design issues in land drainage concerns, over development of the site with lack of affordable housing and highway safety onto Wakefield Road.</p> <p>7.2 It was resolved that the APC tree policy would be applied.</p> <p>7.3 The application was noted.</p> <p>7.4 The application was noted.</p> <p>7.5 The application was noted.</p>

8. To receive a report on estimated year end 24/25 general reserves and authorise items to be earmarked for the financial years 25/26.
8.1 It was resolved to defer the setting of any new earmarked reserves until June and to carry over the existing unused earmark reserves from 24/25 into 25/26 with the addition of one new earmarked reserve of £10,000 for playground maintenance.
9. To receive for approval the 2025/2026 schedule of meetings of Ackworth Parish Council.
9.1 Council reviewed upcoming dates presents, the following was agreed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the month of December, the council meeting would take place on the 3rd Monday of the month (15th December) • That the April Council meeting would be removed from the schedule • Personnel proposed dates would be deferred back to the committee for resubmission • Village Events & Communications dates would be deferred back to the committee for resubmission
10. To review and approve the Risk Management Assessment for 25/26.
10.1 Council reviewed the new draft layout of the risk assessment. It was resolved that Cllr Moore would support the Clerk with a further review of the risk ratings set using a standardised method and for the document to be re-reviewed at the next meeting.
11. To receive a grant request from Ackworth Drop In for funding for 25/26.
11.1 The grant request was reviewed and approved for £500 to the Ackworth Drop In group.
12. TO CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THAT THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED ON THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETING ACT 1960)
12.1 It was agreed by Council to move to the private section of the meeting on the below items.
13. To receive a draft lease agreement between Wakefield Metropolitan District Council and Ackworth Parish Council relating to Low Ackworth Playing Field Land and decide a course of action.
13.1 It was approved that Cllrs A Sherratt, Bell & Moore were elected by vote to work with the Clerk to form a list of appropriate questions relating to the draft lease for Ackworth Parish Council solicitor to review.
<i>21:00 Cllr Cook left the meeting</i>
14. To receive information and quotes for an investment review.
14.1 It was resolved that the Clerk would contact the internal auditor for advice on how to proceed with the review due to the high charges of the independent financial advisor quotes provided.
15. To receive a renewal quotation for the annual playground inspection.
15.1 It was resolved that RoSPA would continue as the appointed contractor to complete the 25/26 playground inspection. Price £385 + VAT.
16. To receive a renewal quotation for the annual PAT Testing for 25/26.
16.1 It was resolved that Kingsley Child were the appointed contractor to complete the 25/26 PAT testing for all locations. Price £440 + VAT.
17. To receive quotations for the 2025 Grounds Maintenance contract.
17.1 It was resolved that Wakefield District Council would continue as the appointed contractor to complete the 25/26 Grounds Maintenance contract. Price £7,390.45 + VAT.

18. To receive the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2025 and approve the recommendations within them.

18.1 The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was **resolved** that the meeting minutes were **approved**.

Time Closed: 21:20