



Mrs J Nolan
Clerk to the Council

The Parish Council Community Centre
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Minutes of the Meeting of Ackworth Parish Council held at Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, on Monday 12th January 2026, at 7.15 PM.

Attendance

Cllr John Bell – Chair
Cllr Carolyn Hall
Cllr Andy Sherratt
Cllr Suzy Sherratt
Cllr Stephen Parker
Cllr Sean Richmond
Cllr Amanda Cook
Cllr Sharon Maiden
Cllr Sarah Balfour
Cllr Nathan Bland

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 items.

138 Apologies

138.1: To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

138.2: To consider the approval of reasons given for absence.

138.1: It was **RESOLVED** that the apologies were **RECEIVED** in respect of Cllrs Moore & Roberts.

138.2: It was **RESOLVED** that council had considered and **APPROVED** the reason given by Cllrs Moore & Roberts.

139 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

139.1: 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.

139.2: To receive, consider and decide upon any written applications for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interest.

139.3: To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

139.1/ 139.2/ 139.3: NONE to receive, consider or grant.

140 To receive available reports from the following:

140.1: WMDC District Councillors.

140.2: APC Council Representatives on outside bodies.

140.1: WMDC District Councillors Reports – **NONE** to Receive.

140.2: APC Council Representatives on outside bodies reports

Cllr S Sherratt – Ackworth Heritage Group

- Decline in membership
- Focus on gaining younger members
- Book release – Temperance Movement
- Speakers arranged for 2026
- Working with Bell Lane School to support history education

141 To consider for approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th December 2025, as a true and correct record.

141.1: The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting minutes were **APPROVED**.

142 To receive applications for the Exclusive Rights of Burial.

142.1: NONE to Receive.

143 Financial Matters

143.1: To receive and consider for approval the accounts including bank statements to the end of December 2025.

143.2: To receive and consider for approval payments to be made and Petty Cash account to 12th January 2026.

Bank Statements, Bank 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.

143.1: It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts to the end of December 2025 were **APPROVED**.

143.2: It was **RESOLVED** that the list of payments to be made up until 12th January 2026 and petty cash account were **APPROVED**.

144 To consider a response to the planning authority on the following planning applications.

144.1: 25/02319/FUL - 13 Mount Pleasant, Ackworth, Pontefract, WF7 7HS - Front porch extension and first floor rear extension – Deadline Date 02/01/2026 (*Reviewed via email by the Council and noted*)

144.2: 25/02357/FUL - Orchard Lodge Pontefract Road Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7EE - Demolition of existing porch structure, new porch and canopy from house to garage – Deadline 12/02/2026

144.1: It was **RESOLVED** that application 25/02319/FUL was **NOTED**.

144.2: It was **RESOLVED** that application 25/02357/FUL was **NOTED**.

145 To receive an update regarding John Gully's grave from a trustee.

145.1: The Clerk provided a verbal update to confirm that the transfer process had resumed and that the transfer from the landowner to the appointed trustees was in progress with the solicitors.

It was **RESOLVED** that the update had been **RECEIVED**.

146 To receive correspondence relating to the closure of Harpins Garden Centre.

146.1: A discussion took place.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to Co-op Group noting the below points;

- Express concerns over termination of lease to Harpins and closure of a village amenity
- Loss of a community asset
- Recognition of Co-ops strong community commitment
- Hope that any future proposals or decisions would be made by Co-op reflecting their community values
- Request for future open communication with the Parish Council

It was **NOTED** that the proposing Cllr Bland and Seconding Cllr Richmond would review the draft letter on behalf of the Council.

147 To receive a proposal for an offer of a Wakefield District Council culture grant of £1,620 and decide a course of action.

147.1: It was **RESOLVED** that the proposed WMDC Culture grant of £1.620 was **APPROVED**.

148 Motions requested by Councillor(s)

148.1: To receive a proposal from Cllr Balfour that the Parish Council agrees in principle to provide a hearing amplification system in the council room subject to approval of the cost. A report on viability will initially be presented to the F&GP committee.

148.2: To receive a proposal from Cllr Balfour that the Parish Council agrees that all employees to whom it is relevant will be paid the Real Living Wage.

148.3: To receive a proposal from Cllr Balfour that the Parish Council agrees that advice should be sought about the best locations and methods for the planting of any purchased or donated trees and that the clerk investigates the most cost effective way of ensuring regular watering during the two years after planting, including the purchase of a portable water tank or bowser, to ensure the survival of the trees. The locations considered should include all Parish Council land including the cemetery.

148.1: It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Balfour's proposal was **APPROVED** in principle.

148.2: It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Balfour's proposal was **APPROVED** and that the 1 member of the staff team not meeting the current real living wage rate would be uplifted with immediate effect as of the next pay run in line with the relevant NJC Scale Point (6).

148.3: It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Balfour's proposal was **APPROVED**.

Time Closed: 20:06