



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 9th February 2026, at 7.15 PM.

Attendance

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

Clerk: J Nolan

2 Members of the Public in attendance.

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

149 Apologies

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

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

149.1 It was **RESOLVED** that the apologies were **RECEIVED** in respect of Cllr Cook.

149.2 It was **RESOLVED** that council had considered and **APPROVED** the reason given by Cllr Cook.

150 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

150.1: 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.

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

150.3: To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

150.1 / 150.2 / 150.3 NONE to receive, consider or grant.

151 To receive available reports from the following:

151.1: WMDC District Councillors.

151.2: APC Council Representatives on outside bodies.

151.1: WMDC District Councillors Reports – Dist. Cllr Martin Roberts

- Advised of a current internal review of the re-development of Wakefield City Centre

- Highlighted the work that Dist. Cllr Jessica Carrington had been completing in progressing the work on the Low Ackworth flooding issues - Confirmed that 2026 was an 'all out' election year for Wakefield Council. - Advised on high volume of roadworks/repairs currently in progress around the district
151.2: APC Council Representatives on outside bodies reports – NONE to Receive.
152 To consider for approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th January 2026, as a true and correct record.
152.1 The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was RESOLVED that the meeting minutes were APPROVED .
153 To receive applications for the Exclusive Rights of Burial.
153.1 It was RESOLVED that the burial rights had been RECEIVED for plots R/C/2 and R/C/3.
154 Financial Matters 154.1: To receive and consider for approval the accounts including bank statements to the end of January 2026. 154.2: To receive and consider for approval payments to be made and Petty Cash account to 9th February 2026. 154.3: To receive and consider for approval payments to be made relating to the initial set up of Ackworth Quarries Community Centre, to bring online.
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. 154.1 It was RESOLVED that the accounts to the end of January 2026 were APPROVED. 154.2 It was RESOLVED that the list of payments to be made and petty cash account were APPROVED. 154.2 It was RESOLVED that the list of payments to be made relating to the initial set up of Ackworth Quarries Community Centre, to bring online were APPROVED.
155 To consider a response to the planning authority on the following planning applications. 155.1: 26/00023/TPO - Co-Operative Retail Services Barnsley Road Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7BS - Felling x3 Trees – No Deadline 155.2: 25/02361/CPL - 45 Chapel Garth Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7NQ - Part conversion of existing garage to bedroom, internal alterations and changes to window and doors – No Deadline 155.3: 26/00015/FUL - Christevelyn 12 West View Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7AJ - Proposed extension to rear and side of garage with roof lift, proposed boundary fence and gates to front – Deadline 03/02/2026 155.4: 25/02086/ADV – Ash's Balti Wakefield Road Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7AZ - Illuminated box sign – No Deadline Date
155.1: It was RESOLVED that for application 26/00023/TPO the APC Tree Policy would be applied. 155.2: It was RESOLVED that application 25/02361/CPL was NOTED. 155.3: It was RESOLVED that application 26/00015/FUL was NOTED. 155.4: It was RESOLVED that for application 25/02086/ADV the Clerk was instructed to write to Wakefield Council planning department to raise the fact the sign is in place and therefore the application is retrospective, to request that lights are illuminated when facility is open and not outside of opening hours. It was NOTED that the name of the application and name of the business differ and this was to be include in the correspondence to Wakefield Council.
156 To receive the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Village Amenities Committee meeting held on 15th January 2026.
156.1: The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was RESOLVED that the meeting minutes were APPROVED .
157 To receive a report from the Clerk/RFO regarding core budget preparation for the 2026/27 financial year.
157.1 The report had previously been circulated to all Cllrs, the report included budget preparation, two options for budget proposals and precept impact information to support Cllrs in their review and decision making. It was NOTED that the Clerk had also held a pre-budget review meeting for all Cllrs to offer further support and information as part of this process the week prior to the February Council meeting.

A detailed discussion took place. The Clerk advised the report would be made available for public review via the website <https://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/> post meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report was received.

158 To consider for approval the proposed budget for financial year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

158.1 The Clerk present the budget for 26/27 and provided two budget proposals for the Council's consideration. The difference between the proposals can be found in the report provided under agenda item 157.1, available for public review via the website <https://www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/> post meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** by Council that the proposed budget with a £13,000 Parish Council general reserves support (Option 2) prepared by the Clerk/RFO for the financial year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 was proposed, seconded and **APPROVED**.

Total Income set at £379,912.83

Total Expenditure set at £420,717.94

General Reserves APC Support set at £13,000.00

Variance -£27,805.11

Proposed Budget included under Appendix 1.

It was **NOTED** that this budget outlined a 5-month 'contingency' fund of £175,299.14 to be kept within general reserves as a precautionary measure.

159 To decide upon the precept to be levied upon Wakefield Council for financial year 2026/27.

159.1 It was **AGREED** by Council that the budget variance for the financial year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 of -£27,805.11, would be included as part of the precept to be levied upon Wakefield Council.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the total precept demand to be levied totalled £299,460.88.

This would be an annual increase of £9.87 (10.43%) calculated on a tax band D household, which is an increase of approximately £0.82 per month per eligible household in Ackworth.

160 To receive a copy of the Internal Auditor's interim report for the financial year 25/26.

160.1 It was **RESOLVED** that the report had been **RECEIVED** with steps in place to action the three recommendations made.

161 To note receipt as per the Internal Auditor's report recommendation of a quarterly budget monitoring report.

161.1 It was **NOTED** that Council had **RECEIVED** a copy of the Council quarterly budget monitoring report and that this had been considered as part of the budget setting process under agenda item 157.

162 To receive a request from Co-operative Group and consider action.

162.1 The Council **RECEIVED** a request from Co-operative Group to meet with the Council Chair and Vice Chair to discuss future plans of the Ackworth Co-op site.

163 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)

163.1 It was **RESOLVED** to move to the private section of the meeting on the below agenda items.

164 To note the Council's approval for the Clerk, Chair & Vice Chair to act on behalf of Ackworth Parish Council to execute the Townend Playing Field lease with Wakefield District Council following on from the Council's December resolution to approve the lease (agenda item 137.2).

164.1 It was **NOTED** that the Clerk, Chair & Vice Chair had been granted **APPROVAL** to **EXECUTE** the Townend Playing Field lease with Wakefield District Council by Council resolution in **APPROVING** the lease by resolution on the December 2025 meeting.

165 To receive a quotation from Wellers Hedley in relation to the administration and execution of a sublease between Ackworth Parish Council and Low Ackworth Community Centre Association in relation to Townend Playing Field.

165.1 Cllr Parker called a point of order (1p) in relation to a breach of Financial Regulation 2.3, 5.1 & 19.2. Cllr Parker requested a procedural motion under standing order 10aiii to defer the motion and requested a recorded vote (3r).

After reviewing the Financial Regulations in question of breach, the Clerk gave counsel to the Chair that to receive the quote was not a breach of financial regulations.

A discussion took place.

It was **RESOLVED** that the quote was **RECEIVED** at this stage with a planned meeting of the community centres working group to review further.

There was no vote to record as per Cllr Parker's request to the Chair.

166 To receive the minutes of the Review Panel Committee meeting held on 15th January 2026 and approve the recommendations within them.

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

167 To receive a financial overview in line with quotations to consider the feasibility and associated costs of improving security at Carr Bridge Playing Fields and decide a course of action.

167.1 It was **RESOLVED** that the item was **DEFERRED** to the next meeting.

Time Closed: 20:23