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## Minutes of the Meeting of Ackworth Parish Council held at Ackworth Parish Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, commencing at 7:15pm

### Attendance

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

Clerk: K Batty

12 members of the public

*Question time was held at 7:15pm, two members of the audience spoke in relation to meeting agenda items.*

*A Trustee of Low Ackworth Community Centre Association spoke in relation to agenda item 183.1*

*A representative from Yorkshire Country Women Association spoke in relation to agenda items 183.1 and 183.2*

*Both made statements of support to the agenda items but did not ask questions to the Chair.*

### 168 Apologies

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

**168.2:** To consider the approval of reasons given for absence.

**168.1** It was **RESOLVED** that the apologies were **RECEIVED** in respect of Cllr Bland and Cllr Moore.

**168.2** It was **RESOLVED** that council had considered and **APPROVED** the reasons given by Cllrs Bland and Moore.

### 169 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

**169.1:** 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.

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

**169.3:** To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

**169.1** NONE to receive.

**169.2** Two written applications for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interest were **RECEIVED** in respect of Cllr S Maiden and Cllr J Bell prior to the meeting. The requests relating to Low Ackworth Community Centre Association. For this meeting the agenda items being 183.1 and 183.2. The Chair requested a vote be taken for approval by a show of hands by council members. With the Chair's casting vote (3q), it was **RESOLVED** the requests were **APPROVED**.

**169.3** It was **RESOLVED** that the written requests for dispensation for Cllr Maiden and Cllr Bell were **GRANTED**.

**170 To receive available reports from the following:**

**170.1:** WMDC District Councillors.

**170.2:** APC Council Representatives on outside bodies.

**170.1** District Martin Roberts provided a verbal update which covered the below areas;

- Budget meeting at WMDC had taken place.
- Ongoing case work regarding roads.
- No further update on the planning application relating to Rosslyn Grove estate.

**170.2** Cllr A Sherratt provided a verbal update on Ackworth United Charities

- On-going repair work on the properties progressing
- Draft year-end accounts are ready to go the accountants
- Currently looking at investments to maximise return.

Cllr A Sherratt provided a verbal update on Ackworth Heritage Group.

- The group has concerns about the sale of Brown's Farm as it encompasses John Gully's graveyard
- Speakers lined up for the year.
- Trying to make sure the wider community know about their talks.

**171 To consider for approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026, as a true and correct record.**

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

*The Chair asked Council if they were happy to bring agenda item 183.2 forward, followed by item 183.1 (1a), Council agreed.*

**183.2 To receive a proposal from Cllr S Sherratt that Ackworth Parish Council consider whether Low Ackworth Community Association are eligible to manage and run a viable Community Centre in Low Ackworth and that we conduct a full risk assessment before committing any time or finance to a sublease of Townend Playing Fields.**

**183.2** An at length discussion took place. The Chair progressed the debate to a vote. It was **RESOLVED** that the proposal **FELL**.

**183.1 To receive a proposal from Cllr Roberts that Ackworth Parish Council show and give full support to the Low Ackworth Community Association, to a community building situated in Low Ackworth on the former site and produce a sub-lease to this effect.**

**183.1** Under Standing Order (1p) Cllr Parker called a Point of Order, these were stated as

- 1)Local Government Act 1972 – Lack of Statutory Notice
- 2)Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Unlawful Secrecy
- 3)Ackworth Parish Council – Financial Regulations Breach 2.3 – Risk Assessment
- 4)Pre-determination was also stated however this was not reference by Cllr Parker to a Standing Order or Act.

Cllr Parker requested a procedural motion under standing order 10aiii to defer consideration of a motion and 10axvi to adjourn the meeting.

Cllr Parker made a further request under standing order 3r for a recorded vote without debate.

The Chair began to address Cllr Parker's points of order and was interrupted by Cllr Richmond who also called for a recorded vote under standing order 3r requesting without debate.

It was **NOTED** that the Chair took time to review the points of order raised before he could deal with the procedural motions and request for a recorded vote.

The Chair addressed the points of order raised by Cllr Parker before Council, under standing order 1q and determined that:

The agenda had been published in line with legislation and the motion had been published in the public section of the meeting. The Chair confirmed that requirements under financial regulations would be brought back to full Council for further decision and therefore no breach found. It was confirmed by the Chair that the points of order raised would not be upheld on this basis.

The procedural motion requested by Cllr Parker to defer the agenda item (10aiii) or adjourn the meeting (10 xvi) were not accepted under his ruling of standing order 1d applied to the raised points of order.

The Chair confirmed that the request by Cllr Parker for a recorded vote, which had already been seconded would be upheld on the agenda item.

Cllr Balfour requested that the Chair confirmed what Council were being asked to vote on.

The Chair read the agenda item as worded, the motioned was seconded and the Chair progressed to a recorded vote.

It was **RESOLVED** that the motion was **APPROVED**.

Recorded Vote Outcome:

Cllrs Roberts, Balfour, Hall, Cook, Maiden and Bell voted FOR

Cllrs Parker, Richmond, S Sherratt and A Sherratt voted AGAINST

#### **172 To receive applications for the Exclusive Rights of Burial.**

**172.1** It was **RESOLVED** that the burial rights had been **RECEIVED** for plot K29

#### **173 Financial Matters**

**173.1:** To receive and consider for approval the accounts including bank statements to the end of February 2026.

**173.2:** To receive and consider for approval payments to be made and Petty Cash account to 9<sup>th</sup> March 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.

**173.1** It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts to the end of February 2026 were **APPROVED**

**173.2** It was **RESOLVED** that the list of payments to be made and petty cash account were **APPROVED**

#### **174 Committee Meeting Minutes**

**174.1** To receive the minutes of the Village Amenities Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 and approve the recommendations within them.

**174.2** To receive the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 and approve the recommendations within them.

**174.3** To receive the minutes of the Environment, Road Safety & Planning Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 and approve the recommendations within them.

**174.4** To receive the minutes of the extra ordinary Village Amenities Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 and approve the recommendations within them.

**174.1** The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was **RESOLVED** that the Village Amenities Committee meeting minutes were **APPROVED**.

**174.2** The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting minutes were **APPROVED**.

**174.3** The minutes had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was **RESOLVED** that the Environment, Road Safety & Planning Committee meeting minutes were **APPROVED**.

**174.4** The minutes had previously been circulated electronically to all Cllrs with a hard copy presented at the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the extra ordinary Village Amenities Committee minutes were **APPROVED**.

#### **175 To consider a response to the planning authority on the following planning applications.**

**175.1:** 25/02084/FUL - Ashs Balti Wakefield Road Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7AZ - Installation of new shopfront in existing modifeid opening including external roller shutter (retrospective) - 27/02/2026

**175.2:** 26/00192/FUL - 4 Woodland Grove Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7EP - Two storey rear extension with juliet balcony - 12/03/2026

**175.3:** 26/00183/FUL - Mill Dam Junior And Infant School Millgate Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7PH - Installation of Four Ground Mounted Air Source Heat Pumps and 10 Panel Roof Mounted Solar PV Array – Deadline Date 09/03/2026

**175.4:** 26/00206/FUL - Boot And Shoe Wakefield Road Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7DF - Erection of conservatory and boiler room – Deadline Date 11/03/2026

**175.5:** 25/00591/NMC - 96 Station Road Ackworth Pontefract WF7 7HL - Non-material change to approved application ref: 25/00591/FUL dated 19/05/2025 (Proposed two-storey extension to the side and single storey extension to the rear of the property. Hip to gable conversion to the existing dwelling under permitted development – No Deadline Date

**175.6:** 26/00169/TPO - The Gate House, Ackworth Park Farm, Pontefract Road - Tree A - Crown Reduce by 2.5 metres in height and draw back from the property to suitable growth points; Crown Lift to 5 metres above ground level; Removal of deadwood; Removal of limbs overhanging property (this will be reached with the crown reduction); Clear any BT cables that could cause further problems. Tree B - Crown Reduce by 2 metres to gain full clearance from the property; Crown Lift to 4 metres above ground level by removing 1 large limb growing towards the road at on the east side of the tree; Removal of deadwood; Removal of lower limbs overhanging property (this will be reached with the overall crown reduction). – Deadline Date 23/03/2026

**175.1/.2/.3/.4/.5 NOTED**

**175.6** It was **RESOLVED** that for application 26/00169/TPO the APC Tree Policy would be applied.

**176 To complete the annual review of the insurance policy renewal and fidelity cover for 26/27, noting any amendments required and consider for approval.**

**176.1** The insurance policy renewal and fidelity cover for 26/27 had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was **RESOLVED** that the quotation from Arthur J Gallagher of £7607.38 was **APPROVED**.

**177 To complete the annual review of the Parish Council Risk Management Assessment and consider for approval.**

**177.1** The Risk Management Assessment had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. It was **RESOLVED** that the annual review of Risk Management Assessment was completed, with no amends.

**178 To note that the annual review of the Parish Council Asset Register will be included on the agenda of the May Annual Council meeting.**

**178.1** It was **NOTED** that the Asset Register review would be included on the agenda of the May Annual Council meeting.

**179 To receive a copy of AGAR assertion 10, points 1.47 to 1.54 from the practitioners guide 2025 for consideration of compliance and decide a course of action.**

**179.1** The AGAR assertion 10, points 1.47 to 1.54 from the practitioners guide 2025 had previously been circulated to all Cllrs.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council's compliance was **APPROVED**. In relation to 1.49 (Web Content Accessibility), delegated power was given to the Clerk to further review with the web provider, implementing any further compliance requirements in line with the AGAR assertion 10.

**180 To receive further information from Wakefield District Council relating to the setting up and responsibilities of implementing a Neighbourhood Plan for Ackworth and decide a course of action.**

**180.1** It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk accepts the invitation from Wakefield Council to attend a meeting with all Cllrs

**181 To receive correspondence from a resident regarding manor farm (land sale) and decide a course of action.**

**181.1** It was **RESOLVED** that the correspondence is deferred to the next Environment, Road Safety and Planning committee meeting and an invitation is sent to the resident to discuss their proposal in more detail.

<p><b>182</b> To receive a report from a meeting held between Ackworth Parish Council representatives and Co-operative Group held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</p>
<p><b>182.1</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report was <b>RECEIVED</b></p>
<p><b>183</b> Motions requested by Councillor(s)</p> <p><b>183.1</b> To receive a proposal from Cllr Roberts that Ackworth Parish Council show and give full support to the Low Ackworth Community Association, to a community building situated in Low Ackworth on the former site and produce a sub-lease to this effect.</p> <p><b>183.2</b> To receive a proposal from Cllr S Sherratt that Ackworth Parish Council consider whether Low Ackworth Community Association are eligible to manage and run a viable Community Centre in Low Ackworth and that we conduct a full risk assessment before committing any time or finance to a sublease of Townend Playing Fields.</p> <p><b>183.3</b> To receive a proposal from Cllr S Sherratt that Ackworth Parish Council explore the feasibility of setting up community Padel courts with a community café on Parish Council owned land at either Brackenhill or Quarries, in order to provide a community hub for all ages that facilitates health and wellbeing and also raises funds for further benefit for the residents of the village.</p> <p><b>183.4</b> To receive a proposal from Cllr A Sherratt that that an agenda item be included for all full parish council meetings which provides an update on previously agreed, and outstanding, actions and to decide a course of further action as required.</p>
<p><b>183.1</b> This item was taken after agenda item 171.</p> <p><b>183.2</b> This item was taken after agenda item 171, following on from agenda item 183.1</p> <p><b>183.3</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the motion is supported in principle, and that it is deferred to a meeting of the Village Amenities Committee for the detail of the process to be discussed and the resident(s) be invited to speak at the meeting. Cllr S Sherratt to share with the office details of the resident(s) so an invitation could be sent.</p> <p><b>183.4</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the proposal is deferred to the Personnel Committee</p>
<p><b>184 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)</b></p>
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to move to the private section of the meeting.</p>
<p><i>The Chair requested extension of the meeting under Standing Order 3W which was <b>APPROVED</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>184 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.</b></p>
<p>184.1 It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to defer this item to Village Amenities Committee to obtain further information regarding the width of the gate off Mill Lane, and the feasibility of additional measures at the gate off Barnsley Road</p>
<p><b>185 To receive a renewal quotation for the annual playground inspection.</b></p>
<p>185.1 The annual renew quotation was <b>RECEIVED</b> and <b>APPROVED</b> to go ahead in April 2026. It was <b>NOTED</b> that council would like to review the option of moving to a September schedule, budget dependant, to benefit from reduced rates from the supplier.</p>
<p><b>186 To receive energy tariff quotes for Quarries Community Centre and decide a course of action.</b></p>
<p>186.1 It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the energy tariff would be delegated to the Clerk to accept the most cost effective quote possible.</p>

Next Council Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Annual Council Meeting