



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 Village Amenities Committee held on Monday 27th July 2026 at 6PM

Attendance

Cllr Martin Roberts (Chair)
Cllr Sharon Maiden
Cllr Suzy Sherratt
Cllr Nathan Bland

Deputy Clerk K Batty

0 Members of the public in attendance

It was agreed that Cllr Sharon Maiden would chair the meeting as Cllr M Roberts was delayed.

1. Apologies

- 1.1 To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting
- 1.2 To consider the approval of reasons given for absence

- 1.1 Apologies were **RECEIVED** in respect of Cllr J Bell and Cllr S Balfour.
- 1.2 The committee considered and **APPROVED** the reasons given by Cllr J Bell and Cllr S Balfour.

2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

- 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

2.1/2.2/2.3 NONE to RECEIVE.

3. To note the minutes for the Village Amenities Committee meeting held on 27th April 2026.

- 3.1 The minutes had previously been circulated to all Councillors. The committee **NOTED** the meeting minutes. The deputy clerk **NOTED** a numbering correction required to the minutes, item 9.1 had been typed as 10.

4. Allotments

- 4.1 To receive any updates from Brackenhill Allotment Association.
- 4.2 To receive an update on the waiting list and new lets.
- 4.3 To receive a report following the monthly plot inspections and number of letters.
- 4.4 To discuss the current allotment tap planning system to understand the maximum number of taps the current system could hold in order for new requests to be considered and recommend any action required.

4.1 NONE to RECEIVE.

4.2 An update was **RECEIVED**. There are 7 residents and 10 non-residents on the waiting list. There is 1 vacant plot.

4.3 It was **NOTED** that the last inspection was completed on 22 July 2026 and 9 plots are being monitored. Concern has been raised regarding fires during dry spells.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that a review of the fire rules is carried out prior to the next meeting of this committee. Current rules and regulations to be circulated to the committee.

4.4 A current tap plan had been received prior to the meeting by all Councillors. The matter was discussed.

It was established that a maximum number of taps the current system could hold was unknown. It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** that Yorkshire Water are contacted before the consideration of installing any further taps to complete an assessment. It was further **NOTED** that this committee were not in support of the installation of new taps and promote the use of rainwater collection and hosepipes over additional taps.

18:10 Cllr M Roberts arrived

18:15 Cllr M Roberts continued as Chair

5. Community Centres

5.1 To review an ongoing bindweed issue to the shrubbed areas at Ackworth Quarries and make recommendation.

5.2 To receive an update on the review of a lockable pram shelter requirement at Bell Lane Community Centre and make any further recommendation if required.

5.1 It was **RECOMMENDED** to contact the landowner to deal with removal of the bindweed. A request was made for the staff team to take more recent photos of the bindweed. It was further **RECOMMENDED** to confirm who is the owner of the boundary fence to the neighbouring land.

5.2 It was **NOTED** that following a reorganisation of the corridor, the pram shelter was no longer needed. It was **RECOMMENDED** to continue to review the dedicated pram area should a shelter be required in the future.

6. Public Open Spaces

6.1 To consider a deferred Council item (agenda item 184 - March 2026) regarding the feasibility and associated costs of improving security at Carr Bridge Playing Fields and make recommendation.

6.2 To re-select a location for the placement of a new village bench donation due to the refurbishment of the bench in the original selected location and make recommendation.

6.3 To make further recommendation on the replacement of the metal playground sign at Carr Bridge.

6.4 To note damage to the boot scraper at Carr Bridge Playing Field and make recommendation.

6.5 To note missing bird mouth fencing in Low Ackworth play area car park and make recommendation.

6.1 It was **RECOMMENDED** that the following measures are put in place, subject to permission from Ackworth School.

- The installation of 1 x telescopic and 2 x fixed posts are installed by Access Paving at a cost of £674.00
- The installation of 1 x 6m height barrier from DC Fabrication at a cost of £3400 + VAT

It was also **RECOMMENDED** to include an item on a future Parish Council agenda regarding bunding around the car park.

6.2 This item is **DEFERRED** to a future meeting, pending current bench location map.

6.3 It was **RECOMMENDED** that the metal "sponsorship" and "official opening" signs in the playground are not replaced. The "usage" and "naming" signs are still in place.

6.4 This item is **DEFERRED** to the next full council meeting to agree what replacement should be purchased.

6.5 The missing fence was **NOTED**. It was **RECOMMENDED** to leave the fence as is for now.

7. To receive draft terms of reference for the Council approved Racket Sports Land Development working group at its meeting on Monday 13th July 2026 and make recommendation for approval.

7.1 The draft terms of reference had previously been circulated to councillors. It was **RECOMMENDED** that these are **APPROVED**.

8. To receive a draft bench policy for adoption and consider for recommendation to Council.

8.1 The draft bench policy had previously been circulated to all councillors. It was RECOMMENDED that this is APPROVED.
9. To receive a report from a meeting of Ackworth Sports Clubs and make any recommendations required to Council.
9.1 The report had previously been circulated to all councillors – included in appendix 1 of these minutes. It was RECOMMENDED that items included in the report were explored further by the Clerk.
10. 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)
10.1 It was AGREED to move to the private section of the meeting.
11. To receive quotations for an approved replacement front door on Ackworth Quarries Community Centre as delegated from Full Council at its meeting on Monday 13th July 2026 and decide a course of action on supplier appointment.
11.1 The quotes were not available in time for this meeting and therefore the item was DEFERRED back to the September Council meeting.
12. To receive further quotations relating to the installation of a Solar Privacy Filming within the main function room at the new community centre and make recommendation.
12.1 A discussion took place. It was RECOMMENDED to accept the quotation from Window Film Company at a cost of £1904 + VAT with a view to obtaining quotes for air conditioning should this be required if the room is still too warm once the shutters are up.
13. To receive a legal update on the handover of 'Phase Two' front public open space and wooded area of Ackworth Quarries Community centre between Strata Homes Ltd and Ackworth Parish Council.
13.1 An update was RECEIVED. The TP1 for transfer has been issued for signature and the target for handover is by the end of September 2026. It was NOTED that the delay had been due to a requirement for Strata Homes Ltd to confirm the geographical boundary of the wooded area.
14. To receive an update on alternative options or external lighting to the rear car park at Bell Lane Community centre and make a final recommendation.
14.1 It was RECOMMENDED that an override switch is installed, to work in conjunction with the dusk til dawn sensor and timer, that could be switched off when the centre is not in use. This will be installed by Acorn Electrical and Security at a cost of £310 + VAT
15. To receive a quotation for the supply and installation of a slave assistance alarm detector for the toilet assistance alarm at Bell Lane Community Centre and make recommendation.
15.1 It was RECOMMENDED that the quotation from Acorn Electrical and Security for £215 +VAT is accepted.
16. To receive a report on a vacant allotment plot and make recommendation.
16.1 It was RECOMMENDED that the exiting tenant is further written to with photographs included requesting the plot is cleared and that failure to do so may result in charges being passed on for the plot clearance.

Meeting closed 19:30

Appendix 1 – Community Sports Meeting Notes

Ackworth Sports Meeting Report - 02/06/2026

APC attendees: Cllr Maiden, Cllr Bland, Clerk

It was noted that Cllr Bell was asked to join as the Chair of Amenities by Cllrs Maiden and Bland. Cllr Bell had been in attendance to the Personnel meeting scheduled before the sports meeting and accepted the invitation.

APC Apologies: Cllr Moore

Club Representatives: Ackworth Jaguars, Ackworth Juniors, Ackworth Tennis Club.

Club Apologies: Ackworth Cricket Club, Ackworth Runners.

An overview of club challenges was provided:

- Ackworth Tennis shared news on termination of current facility
- Ackworth Jaguars shared challenges with lack of winter facilities within the village and after match venue facilities and having to use facilities outside of the village
- Ackworth Juniors shared lack of winter facilities within the village

Meeting Discussion Points:

- Requirement of floodlights for winter use at Carr Bridge – all agreed portable would be suitable and that the Clerk would explore funding – Rugby /Football
- Winter pitch conditions were discussed overall
- Brackenhill was discussed as an unused open space – Potential for Tennis
- The Pavilion building was discussed and feedback shared that the building does not currently meet the needs of the sports users. A suggestion would be to convert the field facing window in the community room to a serving hatch. Clerk to explore funding – Rugby/Football
- Lack of winter facilities – a discussion took place regarding Ackworth schools plans for 4G pitch development
- Ackworth Quarries was discussed for holding sports social events – parking was highlighted and discussion of future exploration of increased parking using grass matting – Rugby/Football
- All agreed a land map across the village may be helpful to best understand future sports area opportunities

All agreed the meeting had been useful to network and that a longer-term focus is needed to improve sports facilities within Ackworth.

Clerk advised a report would be issued to the next Village Amenities meeting on the 27th July for consideration of recommendations for Council review in September 2026.