

Pursuant to notice a virtual meeting of Ackworth Parish Assembly was held on Monday 12 April 2021 commencing at 6:30 pm

Present: Cllr S Balfour, Chair of the Parish Council

The Clerk

Members of the Public:

- 11 members of the public who were eligible to take part in the meeting
- 3 members of the public who observed

The Chairman said “We wish to express our sadness at the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. We send our condolences to the Queen and her family and all those who were close to him.” A minutes silence was held.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the status of the meeting. That it is not a Parish Council meeting and that the Parish Council meeting will follow after this meeting. She read out the following statement:

Under Section 9 of the Local Government Act 1972, the purpose of a parish meeting is to discuss 'parish affairs'. The parish meeting is a body that is completely separate to the parish council and that it is only by a requirement of law that the chairman of the parish council must preside over the parish meeting if present.

Given that this is a body separate to the parish council, it is not the appropriate place for complaints about the Parish Council to be raised or complaints about individual parish councillors. Anyone wishing to raise such complaints should go through the Parish Council formal complaints process. There is a process defined in law under the Localism Act 2011 for the Monitoring Officer of Wakefield Council to deal with complaints about the behaviour/actions of parish councillors.

The Chairman read out a list of members of the public who are eligible to take part in the meeting.

1. To receive the Minutes of the Parish Assembly meeting held on 1 April 2019

A copy of the minutes had previously been circulated to all residents who had registered and were eligible to attend.

2. To approve the minutes as a true record

It was proposed by Cllr Hames and seconded by Cllr Cook that the minutes of the meeting are approved.

Voting took place:

6 people voted in favour

1 person voted against

3 people abstained

It was therefore RESOLVED that the minutes are approve.

3. To receive the Chairman's Report for 2019/2020

A copy of the report had previously been circulated to all residents who had registered and were eligible to attend.

It was agreed to accept the report as read.

4. To receive the Chairman's Report for 2020/2021

A copy of the report had previously been circulated to all residents who had registered and were eligible to attend.

The Chairman read out her report. (Attached as appendix 1) It was agreed by everyone present to receive and note the report.

5. To receive the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6 March 2020 (called by Cllr G Marshall and Cllr S Richmond)

A copy of the minutes had previously been circulated to all residents who had registered and were eligible to attend.

Cllr Marshall said that she stood by the minutes and won't be signing any amendments.

The Chairman, Cllr Balfour pointed out that it was her duty as Chairman of this meeting to sign the minutes that are approved.

Cllr Hames, who attended the meeting on 6 March 2020 as a resident, had provided the Clerk with a copy of the minutes which included amendments that he wishes to propose. A copy of these had been previously circulated to all residents eligible to attend the meeting.

Voting took place on each amendment. Note that a list of residents eligible to take part in the meeting was used by the Chairman, who read out each name and recorded their vote, either for, against or abstained. These will be kept on file.

Amendment 1 - item 1. Add at end "In the absence of the Parish Clerk no-one was appointed to take minutes of the meeting, no minutes were taken during the meeting."

Cllr Marshall and Cllr Richmond disputed this. Cllr Hames said that nobody was appointed to record the minutes of the meeting, Cllr Richmond shared the top table with the appointed Chair but did not take minutes.

Voting took place:
8 Votes in favour
2 Votes against
1 person abstained

The amendment was therefore carried.

Amendment 2 - item 1. Add at end "All attendees were required to sign in. Those present should be recorded in the minutes."

Cllr Richmond said that names of individuals should not appear in minutes. Cllr Hames said that - Members of the public were asked to sign in as they entered but the appointed chair did not inform them that their names would be checked against the electoral register and only electors from Ackworth could contribute to the meeting and had the right to vote.

Voting took place:
8 Votes in favour
3 Votes against
1 person abstained

The amendment was therefore carried.

Amendment 3 – Item 1. Add “An apology for absence was recorded out of context under item 6.”

This is a correction. Cllr Marshall and Cllr Richmond were asked if this was acceptable. Neither responded.
No voting took place.

Amendment 4 - item 4. The meeting referred to was with Senior Wakefield Planning Officers and not Wakefield District Councillors.

This is a correction. Cllr Marshall and Cllr Richmond were asked if it was acceptable. Neither responded.
No voting took place.

The Chairman said we would come back to 3 and 4.

Amendment 5 - item 5. Delete “Member of the public” and insert “a pre-prepared presentation was given by a gentleman known to the organisers and introduced by the acting chair”.

Voting took place:
9 Votes in favour
0 Votes against
1 person abstained

Amendment 6 - item 5. Add “ Mr A. Hames interrupted the presentation to inform that land referred to in Brackenhill had been sold. A Councillor member at the meeting stated this was untrue and still belonged to Strata.”

A heated discussion took place.

Voting took place:
7 Votes in favour
3 Vote against
1 person abstained

The Chairman proposed that the meeting is extended for a further 20 minutes to complete the agenda. The majority of people in attendance agreed.

Amendment 7 - item 6. Mr A. Hames stated that he was a councillor and he wasn't in the labour party but couldn't see the relevance.

Cllr Hames withdrew this amendment.

Amendment 8 - item 9. Add "Mr A. Hames informed the member of the public that the Senior Planning Officers had informed the Parish Council that NO HOUSING ALLOCATIONS had been made for Ackworth Moor Top in the Local Plan and stated that the Parish Council had placed a statement to this effect on their website."

Voting took place:

8 Votes in favour

0 Votes against

1 person abstained

Amendment 9 - item 17. Add the names and addresses of each individual who proposed question 1, question 2 and question 3.

It's a requirement of the 1972 Act, Schedule 12 part 111 demands that the name and address of the person raising a question to be voted on at a village poll must be recorded in the minutes and only that person will be admitted to the count of the poll.

Voting took place:

9 Votes in favour

0 Votes against

1 person abstained

6. To approve the minutes as a true record

The Chairman said that voting should now take place on accepting the minutes as amended above:

Voting took place:

9 Votes in favour

0 Votes against

1 person abstained

7. To receive Ackworth United Charities Report

7.1 There was no report to receive.

8. To receive any issues that members of the public wish to raise

5.1 There were no issues raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7:35

DRAFT