Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Aslackby, Laughton & Graby Parish Council held on Monday, 18th May 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Aslackby

Present: Cllr A Carr-Bilas (Chair)
Cllr M Leighton
Cllr R Miller
Cllr G Atkinson
Cllr M Dodds
Cllr S Roberts

LCC Cllr M Hill

Parish Clerk: Mr I Sismey

The outgoing Chair, Cllr S Roberts, gave a end of term report and which I insert in full :

This year, Aslackby & Laughton Parish Council met regularly, working together to represent residents and tackle both ongoing and new issues in our community.
Thank you to the former Parish Clerk, my fellow Councilor's, and everyone who gave their time and effort this year, whether by attending meetings, sharing feedback and suggestions, or helping out in the Parish.

A big thank you goes to the Parish Clerk for agreeing to work for us, for their guidance in ensuring we maintained compliance with governance, audit, and regulatory obligations, and for their due diligence.

Planning

We have remained committed to acting in the best interests of parish residents at all times by
considering and responding to planning applications affecting the Parish: taking residents' views into account regarding their impact on the environment, infrastructure, and the protection of the village's and surrounding area's characteristics.

Manage council finances responsibly.

We have kept our finances stable throughout the year by carefully monitoring expenditure against the budget. There has been a continued effort to ensure value for money in all services
and the setting of the precept at a level that balances

financial sustainability with residents' needs. It goes without saying that our accounts will undergo the annual audit.

Highways have remained a major focus this year.

We have reported and followed up on potholes, surface deterioration, empty salt bins, and drainage issues.

We've raised concerns regarding speeding and road safety within the parish, liaising with Lincolnshire County Council to seek advice and resolutions where required.

And I know that some issues are still ongoing, but ongoing discussions are helping us make progress.

Parish Assets and Maintenance

We have carried out regular grounds maintenance to keep the Cemetery working well, and a scheme of remedial works is planned for the coming year.

Partnership Working has been so important.

I'd just like to say a massive thank you to the current and previous councilors from local government who have worked alongside us. Their wealth of knowledge, insights, and advice has been invaluable.

Honestly, working together has helped us raise issues effectively and make sure the parish is represented at higher levels of government.

However, like many parish councils, we have faced ongoing challenges, such as

- Limited resources versus increasing demands
- Delays in external responses (e.g., highways, Anglian water re-instatement failure and repairs to drains contributing to the flooding issues.
- Managing community expectations within statutory constraints is always a hot topic within the community, and despite these challenges, we have remained proactive and committed

Volunteers and community groups who help make our parish a better place, whether that be litter picking, salt spreading, or even telephone box organizing.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Councillor’s for their dedication and teamwork, and the Parish Clerk for his professionalism and support.

0056.030.26 Appointment of Chairman and the Chairman to sign their declaration of office.

The clerk explained to the members that this was their annual statutory meeting and at such a meeting the Chairman from the past year retired and a new chairman elected.

The clerk called for nominations and the following was nominated:

Cllr M Fairhead

Proposed Cllr S Roberts, Seconded Cllr A Carr-Bilas

RESOLVED: Being unopposed Cllr M Fairhead was elected Chairman for the year 2026/27.

0057.030.26 Appointment of Vice Chairman and the Vice Chairman to sign their declaration of office

The clerk called for nominations and the following was nominated:

Cllr A Carr-Bilas

Proposed Cllr M Leighton, Seconded Cllr S Roberts

RESOLVED: Being unopposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas was elected Vice Chairman for the year 2026/27.

As the newly elected Chair was not available for the meeting the Vice Chair took control of the meeting.

0058.030.26 Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons given

Apologies were received from SKDC Cllr k Able

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas Seconded Cllr G Atkinson

RESOLVED: To approve apologies for absence from Cllr Able and the reasons given.

0059.031.26 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

0060.031.26 To ask if members of the public, resident or employed within this Parish, have any intention to speak under any agenda items of this meeting.

There were Three members of the public present, and one wished to speak.

The resident's concern was the lack of street lighting in the vicinity of her home. The resident did say that there was a streetlight outside of her residence but that it did not work. The members advised the resident to note the number on the lamp standard and report it to the relevant authority via fix my street.

The same resident also wanted to thank the Parish Council for the improved standard of grass cutting.

0061.031.26 To adopt the notes of the meetings held on the 13th April 2026 as a true record and to resolve for the chair to sign them.

Proposed Cllr R Miller Seconded Cllr M Leighton

RESOLVED: For the chair to sign the notes of the meeting held on the 13th April 2026 as a true record.

Cllr M Hill had to leave the meeting at this point due to other commitments but gave a short update for members.

CORRESPONDENCE

0062.031.26 The produced a list of correspondence for the members to review and receive.

The clerk informed the members that if they wished to inspect any item of correspondence then they should contact him direct.

A) For Information only - to be received en bloc

a) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 12.03.2026**
b) **SKDC Planning Lists 09.03.2026**
c) **RSN – Newsletters 18.03.2026**
d) **LALC – Enews 20.03.2026**
e) **SKDC Planning Lists 16.03.2026**
f) **RSN – Newsletters 25.03.2026**
g) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 19.03.2026**
h) **SKDC Planning Lists 23.03.2026**
i) **RSN Weekly Newsletter**
j) **NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 19.03.2026**

k) LALC – Enews 20.03.2026
l) SKDC Planning Lists 24.04.2026
m) National Allotment Survey
n) LCC – Town & Parish Newsletter April 2026
o) SKDC Planning Lists 01.05.2026
B) Items for discussion

a) Community Resilience Newsletter
https://www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org/resilient-communities-programme/#news

This was a regular newsletter aimed at making Parishes more aware of emergency protocols, however this edition also included information on the crisis resilience fund being administered by Lincolnshire County Council. The fund was to help households with heating oil payments.

It was agreed that this should be a priority for local residents and Cllr Leighton agreed to promote this via the village facebook page.

b) Looking to make a difference in your Community?

This piece of correspondence was looking for volunteers to join a Custody Visiting Scheme.

c) Lincs Reservoir Project – Update

The clerk had included in the reports pack communication from the Lincs Reservoir team giving an update on the project so far. The team are envisaging further consultations in the Autumn of this year and the Parish Council will be advised accordingly. The clerk continued that if the process was to go to plan the construction of the reservoir would start in 2029 with the reservoir coming online in 2039.

.

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas Seconded Cllr S Roberts

Resolved: To receive the above correspondence en bloc

FINANCIAL REPORT

0063.032.26 To Complete the annual governance statement

The clerk had provided copy of the governance statement and went through it line by line.

Proposed Cllr S Roberts, Seconded Cllr G Atkinson
RESOLVED: To approve the annual governance statement

0064.033.26 To approve returns for external audit for the year ended 31.3.26

The clerk presented the returns to the members.

Proposed Cllr R Miller, Seconded Cllr A Carr-Bilas
RESOLVED: To receive and approve the returns for the external auditor

0065.033.26 Approval of Payments since last meeting

The Clerk presented a schedule of payments to the members that totalled £ 889.03.

13/04/2026	Payroll	552.53
13/04/2026	LALC	107.50
13/04/2026	Aslackby Village Hall	229.00

Proposed Cllr R Miller, Seconded Cllr A Carr-Bilas
RESOLVED: To Approve the payments as listed

0066.033.26 Approval of Treasurers Report for the period to 31st March 2026

The clerk presented the accounts for the period to the end of the financial year 31st March 2026.

The clerk had prepared an Income & Expenditure account statement and backed it with the usual spreadsheet that had previously been provided.

Also in the pack was a balance sheet which would aid the preparation of the necessary audit schedules.

Income & Expenditure showed a surplus of Income of £ 4,107.32 with the bank account showing a positive balance of £ 12,096.24.

The clerk informed the members that once the online banking was set up by Lloyds this would allow the Parish Council to use the banks free accounting software.

It was agreed by all members that the Parish such seek a full external audit for the current financial year.

Proposed Cllr S Roberts, Seconded Cllr R Miller.
RESOLVED: To approve the Treasurers report and accounts for the period to 31st March 2026.

0067.034.26 Highways – Update

- **Area adjacent to SL Engineering requiring tidying up but concerns due to overhead cables – Still being monitored.**

  Cllr Roberts pointed out that the area being discussed with National Grid was infact not the correct area and that it was an area going down towards the church that was of concern.

  The clerk said that he would readdress this with the authority concerned and also to make further contact with SL Engineering to seek their support.

  At this point conversation turned to a change of ownership at SL Engineering and a possible invitation to them to the next Parish Council Meeting.

- **Potholes -** Continue to be an ongoing issue with LCC and this situation to be monitored.

  The failed reinstatement by Anglian Water on the road near the church is still under investigation by LCC.

- **Drainage Issues –** Still of major concern but expected works from LCC this year.

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas, Seconded Cllr G Atkinson
RESOLVED: To receive the above information

0068.034.26 Planning

The clerk reported to the members that the only item of interest relating to planning was as previously reported the unconfirmed situation with the extension of the Parish Conservation Area. The clerk had included the map taken from the Conservation Appraisal held by SKDC.

Cllr R Miler commented that as far as he was aware this had been passed by SKDC, the clerk stated that this matter was still outstanding on SKDC's website and that he would enquire as to its current status.

Cllr M Leighton enquired as to whether this may be something that may warrant an article on the village website so that residents could understand the concept.

This matter fuelled some discussion amongst members as to the helpfulness of Conservation areas.

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas, Seconded Cllr M Leighton
RESOLVED: To receive the above information.

0069.035.26 Cemetery

The clerk confirmed that he had met up with Brian Wilkinson and obtained all of the Cemetery files and paperwork. The clerk confirmed that he was verifying the records and ensuring that purchased plots were clearly identified, had been paid for, were used or unused etc.

Cllr A Carr-Bilas asked if purchased plots expired if unused after a certain period of time. The clerk explained that this depended on the Parish terms and conditions for the Cemetery but that most Cemetery's contained a clause that a fee would need to be paid to extend the grant after a certain number of years.

It was agreed that this would possibly need a rewrite of the Council's terms and conditions relating to the use of the Cemetery.

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas, Seconded Cllr R Miller
RESOLVED: To receive the above information.

0070.035.26 Update on Emergency Planning

This item was primarily concerned with the flood devices being installed in association with LCC under project 'Groundwater'.

Cllr G Atkinson had kindly provided the possible location of such a device and this was being taken up with the project team.

Cllr M Dodds was also of the opinion that the location suggested by Cllr Atkinson was the right one.

Cllr R Miller queried with Cllr Atkinson whether Black Sluice IDB were using the same flood device, but Cllr Atkinson was not aware of the actual device being used by Black Sluice.

Cllr Dodds queried who is alerted by the device, the clerk responded that it would be anyone who had signed up for the alerts and that could be individual Councillors, IDB's, Local Authorities, emergency services and residents.

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas, Seconded Cllr R Miller
RESOLVED: To receive the above information.

0071.036.26 Neighbourhood Watch

The clerk had included the Nation Associations newsletter in the members packs.

0072.036.26 To discuss any such information which the chair may legally bring to the Councils attention.

Cllr S Roberts raised the question of the Community skip that is normally organised by the Parish Council. Their was various discussion on the subject and it was agreed to add it as an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

At this point Vice Chair Cllr A Carr-Bilas gave a huge vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair Cllr S Roberts. Cllr A Carr-Bilas stated that Cllr Roberts had taken on the role during the worst period of time for the Parish Council and had seen it through with grit and determination.

0073.036.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It had been agreed at the previous Parish Council Meeting that it would be appropriate at the Annual Meeting that a schedule of meeting dates for the year 2026/2027 should be discussed and agreed.

The following dates were agreed through to December 2026:

Monday 22nd June 2026

Monday 27th July 2026

Monday 7th September 2026

Monday 5th October 2026

Monday 16th October 2026

Monday 14th December 2026

The meeting closed at 19.40Hrs

Signed ……. Chair

Date ……