

**Minutes of the Ashford Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm in the Church Hall,**  
**St Peter's Church, Ashford**

**Present:** Cllrs P Hughes (Chairman), J Bosley, K Furse, G Holder, B Kettle and V Lawson

Mrs V Woodhouse, Locum Parish Clerk  
North Devon Cllr R Knight

5 Members of the public

2311/01

**Apologies**

Cllr M Withey and County Cllr P Maskell.

2311/02

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

2311/03

**Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 as a correct record.

2311/04

**County Councillor Report**

Report attached as Appendix A.

2311/05

**District Councillor Report**

Cllr Knight explained that the Whitecross application is a complicated process, and the MP is critical especially of the route proposed for the cable it will be a complex process and he will provide updates as it progresses. There will be climate and environmental grants available from next April and further details can be provided when available.

2311/06

**Highway Priorities**

It was noted that confirmation of support for a crossing on the A361 had been sent to the County Cllr. An update on the process of joining the Community Speedwatch was provided and it was noted that a Co-ordinator would need to be appointed to take the process forward.

2311/07

**Planning**

Planning Applications: to consider

**77737** Extension to dwelling, Strand Cottage, Braunton Road, Barnstaple  
**Applicant:** Mr and Mrs Shaun & Helen Pope and Pang

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL.

2311/08

**Payment and Receipts**

The following payment and receipts were received and approved:



**Payments**

17.	Clerk's Expenses (mileage)	£21.15
18.	Clerk's Invoice for hours to end of November 23	£260
19.	NDC, Recharge for Parish Council Elections	£682.57

**Payments** **£963.72**

**Receipts**

None.

**Receipts** **£0.00**

2311/09

**Draft Budgets**

The draft budgets for 2024/2025 were circulated ahead of the meeting and it was agreed to place on the next Agenda for further consideration.

2311/10

**Community Email Network**

Cllr Lawson explained that the data had been recovered and was with the Clerk and members were asked if they would like to continue the process to set up the network for Parish Council information. It was agreed to continue and to circulate an introductory letter to those that had provided email addresses so far to confirm that they would still like to be included within the network and to advertise for other residents to join.

2311/11

**Lengthsman Duties**

The Chairman reported that it had been many years since a Lengthsman service had been seen in the village and felt that some works were required to the highways to clear vegetation and mud and proposed that the Parish Council investigate costs to undertake the works. Members were supportive of the proposal but did feel it would be expensive and noted that hedges would need to be cut back by landowners prior to the works and the Parish Council could consider the costs of an extra cut to hedges for highway safety. It was agreed to investigate costs.

2311/12

**Defibrillator**

The Chairman had met with National Grid who had provided a cost of approximately £3,000 to provide an underground electricity supply for the defibrillator cabinet, an electrician would also be required to install the cabinet and the total cost for the purchase and installation of an additional defibrillator would be in the region of £5,000. There had been an indication that the Parish Council could apply to the Fullabrook Community Interest fund for up to £1,000 towards the costs, an expression had been submitted to the British Heart Foundation, but no response received. Members felt that the overall cost might be prohibitive and noted that residents could be canvassed via the network in the future.

2311/13

**Thank you to residents**

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to all those that pick-up litter and help to keep the village a clean and tidy place to live.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed 

Dated 14/12/23

**IMPORTANT NOTE – IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH ANYTHING PLEASE CONTACT THE LOCUM PARISH CLERK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NOT LATER THAN 7 DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO AGREE ANY CHANGES, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN WHO WILL DETERMINE ANY CHANGES AND INFORM THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THEIR FINAL APPROVAL.**