

Minutes of the Ashford Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 14th December 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
County Cllr P Maskell

5 Members of the public

2312/01

Apologies

Cllr M Withey and North Devon Cllr R Knight.

2312/02

Declarations of Interest

None.

2312/03

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2023 as a correct record.

2312/04

County Councillor Report

Cllr Maskell reported that Braunton is losing its only NHS dentist. The night bus between Bideford and Barnstaple runs until 4am and they are looking at options for Ilfracombe and Cllr Maskell was hopeful that there might be funding for the crossing on the A361 in the near future.

2312/05

District Councillor Report

There was nothing to report at this time.

2312/06

Highway Priorities

Members discussed the appointment of a Co-Ordinator for the Community Speedwatch, it was noted that Cllrs did not wish to be a Co-Ordinator, volunteer support for the scheme had been indicated by a number of residents and the Chairman would speak to them to pursue a suitable Co-Ordinator.

2312/07

Payment and Receipts

The following payment and receipts were received and approved:

Payments

20.	Clerk's Expenses (mileage)	£21.15
21.	Clerk's Invoice for hours to end of November 23	£260
22.	Ashford Church Council, Hall Hire	£60

Payments

£341.15



Receipts

2. NDC, Precept April 2023 £2,500

Receipts

£2,500

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to move the draft budgets to the end of the meeting.

2312/08

Review of Governance

The draft documents were circulated prior to the meeting, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the following:

- Co-option Policy
- Unreasonably Persistent and Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy

2312/09

Risk Assessment

The Parish Council's Risk Assessment was reviewed and agreed.

2312/10

Lengthsman Duties

The Chairman reported that he had received an estimated cost of around £2,500 from A & B Contractors to do all of the roads from the garden centre to the top of Strand Lane, Adder Lane and Long Lane, other quotations had been sought but not received. Members discussed the proposal and the cost and it was agreed to seek a price to clear the vegetation and mud at the side of the roads in the village and a second quotation to include the half of Gratton Lane which is in the village if DCC Highways will not undertake works to the road, as Gratton Lane floods regularly it was agreed that the County Cllr would ask Highways to undertake clearance works and felt that keeping it open is a safety issue. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to delegate a decision to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and to undertake works up to the value of £2,500 + VAT.

2312/11

Defibrillator

The Chairman confirmed that a resident has agreed that an electricity pole on their land could be used for the defibrillator cabinet, this would mean that the total cost would be around £3,000 for an additional defibrillator and cabinet. The Council could apply to the Fullabrook Community Interest Fund for up to £1,000 towards the cost. It was noted that in the six or seven years the defibrillator has been in-situ it has been taken out around 3 times in an emergency but not used. It was felt that the cost was high for a second unit but if the total cost could be off set with funding it should be pursued. It was agreed to submit a funding application to the Fullabrook Community Interest Fund and investigate other funding opportunities.

2312/12

Land in Meadowside

The Chairman reported that he had met with the owner who has confirmed that they do not have any firm plans for the land and happy for it to remain as it is, they might like to sort out the boundary for the piece of land and his garden.

2312/13

Lorries in the Village

It was noted that a lorry got stuck in the village when the road was closed following a collision on the A361, this has happened previously, and it was suggested that a sign is erected warning HGV drivers. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to purchase a sign, up to £100 to be erected on a pole at the Junction of Meadowside warning HGV drivers to turn around.

2312/14

Draft Budgets & Precept

The draft budgets for 2024/2025 were circulated ahead of the meeting after consideration of the funds available and plans for the forthcoming year and it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to set the precept at the same level of £5,000.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.28pm.

Signed 

Dated 25/1/24

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.