

ASHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 19th August 2021 at 7.30pm, at the St John's garden centre in Ashford.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr M.J. Moss.

Councillors present:

Mrs J.Bosley

Mrs S.Sampson

Mr V.Lawson

Mr D.Hall

Mr G.Holder

Clerk – Mrs Katherine Cole

Members of the public were in attendance (number unknown).

Agenda:

1. Representations from the public.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Approval of minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Council on 6th May 2021 and the Extraordinary Finance Meetings on 28th and 29th June 2021.
5. Matters Arising.
6. Reports.
7. Correspondence.
8. Freedom of Information Requests.
9. Financials.
10. Planning.
11. An update on village benches.
12. To discuss the delayed village 'tidy up' in 2021.
13. Matters to be carried forward.
14. Date of next meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and explaining that, due to Covid-19 restrictions this was the first Parish Council meeting since May. He expressed the Council's thanks to the management at St John's garden centre for allowing their facility to be used for this meeting. He explained that the re-location was because the Council considered that the normal venue for council meetings, at Ashford church hall, was not adequately Covid secure under the current pandemic guidelines.

Covid precautions in the garden centre meeting room were explained.

The Chairman then advised the meeting that, unlike recent virtual (zoom) meetings which APC had been holding, it was not intended to record tonight's physical meeting. Cllr Hall had however indicated his intention to record the meeting using his own recording equipment.

This resulted in vigorous objections from several members of the public and a debate ensued regarding the acceptability of Cllr Hall's intended action.

Cllr Holder then addressed the meeting by saying that he was unhappy with this and some other recent issues within the council.

Cllr Holder's sentiments were supported by Cllrs Lawson, Bosley and Sampson and after further short statements by them, all four Councillors left the meeting.

At this point the Chairman indicated that the meeting had now become inquorate, with only two Councillors and the Clerk remaining. He was therefore obliged to end the meeting. After agreeing this action with the Clerk, the meeting was closed at 7.40pm.