

**ASHFORD PARISH COUNCIL.**

**Minutes of Ashford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm.**

**The meeting was conducted remotely, via Zoom.**

<p><b>Meeting Chaired by Councillor P Hughes</b></p> <p><b><u>Councillors Present:</u></b>                  Mrs. J. Bosley                  Mr. D. Hall                  Mr. P. Hughes                  Mr. G. Holder                  Mr. M. Moss                  Mrs. S. Sampson.</p> <p>District Councillor Mrs. A. Davies.</p> <p>13 Members of the public were in attendance.</p>	<p><b>Temporary Clerk – Katherine Cole.</b></p> <p><b><u>Agenda</u></b>                  Chairman’s welcome.                  Representations from the public.                  Apologies.                  Declarations of interest.                  Approval of minutes held.                  Triennial Clean.                  Financials/Payments due.                  Section 106 Funds.                  Planning.                  Proposed email network.                  Telephone box (Strand Lane).                  Vacancy of Clerk.                  Dogs and public health.                  Items to be carried forward.</p>
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		<b>Action</b>
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Chairman’s welcome:</b> The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting, and acknowledged the strong turnout. The Chairman advised that Standing Orders would be suspended later in the meeting to allow residents views relating to the planning application	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Representations of the public:</b> The Chairman invited comments from members of the public. Three parishioners spoke to express their continuing concerns regarding the emerging email network and their dismay at the Councils responses. The Council resolved to respond in writing to two of the speakers and the views of the third were noted.	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Apologies were received from Mr. Lawson.	
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> Councillor Hall declared an interest, owing to his association with ORS and ORS Genesis.	
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes:</b> Minutes of 3 meetings had been circulated. (The Agenda listed two sets of minutes. (Unfortunately the Clerk had overlooked adding the minutes relating to 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2020). Meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2020.   ) Proposed by Cllr Bosley Meeting held on 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2020.   ) Seconded by Cllr Sampson Meeting held 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2020   ) All in favour that all 3 sets of	

	minutes should be approved	
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Triennial Clean:</b> The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the DCC Highways Neighbourhood Officer regarding the triennial clean of highway drains, which has not been carried out. The Neighbourhood Officer reported that the delay is due to the backlog of work resulting from the recent floods in Barnstaple.	
<b>Item 7</b>	<p><b>Financials:</b> When the Agenda was compiled there were no payments due.</p> <p>7.1. In the meantime, an invoice has been received from Ms. J. Snooks for auditing the accounts for year 2019/20. The invoice totalled £100 and Councillors agreed that payment should be made.</p> <p>7.2. Councillors Bosley and Lawson have contacted Natwest Bank regarding amending the signatories on the Parish Council account and changing the Clerks details. The process is in hand.</p> <p>7.3. S106 Funds: The prospective S106 funds were briefly discussed – back ground information is included in the minutes of the meeting held on 31/07/20. It was suggested that a list should be collated of projects that could be supported by S106 funds. This was proposed by Councillors Moss, and seconded by Councillor Hughes. All were in favour.</p> <p>Councillor Moss requested at this point that the second item on the agenda (to further propose an item to be added to the list) be withdrawn, as no longer appropriate.</p> <p>7.4. Amenity land. Attention was drawn to the Expression of Interest form relating to any S106 funds. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk contact the appropriate person at NDC to confirm that the relevant paperwork has been submitted, and is accurate. All Councillors were in favour.</p>	<p><b>Chairman/Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to follow up.</b></p>
<b>Item 8</b>	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p>8.1. Chivenor Cross: District Councillor Davis reported that planning has been granted at Chivenor Cross. DC Davis expressed her great disappointment at the decision. The majority of the members of the Planning Committee had refused to accept advice from the Highways Department and planning has been granted. This application is not in Ashford but the neighbouring parish of Heanton.</p> <p>8.2. Application: Reference 71972. Byways, Ashford. Conversion of former Coach House and double garage to a holiday let. The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow free discussion on the application.</p> <p>The Applicant was present and confirmed that there has been no alteration to the footprint of the property, and all works have, and will, be completed to a high standard. The property will accommodate four people. The property cannot be sold out of</p>	<p><b>Clerk to respond.</b></p>

	<p>curtilage, and as the owner, he will be watchful of the impact of holiday makers.</p> <p>The Chairman read a letter from a resident who lives adjacent to the proposed development. This expressed concerns regarding the safety of the access, increased waste and an invasion of privacy with increased noise. It was also questioned if an increase of holiday cottages would be of benefit to the Community.</p> <p>Councillor Hall referred to a letter from a resident who didn't wish to be named. The writer felt the application was retrospective as much of the work had been done, permission had been previously refused, the property would be of greater value to the community as a permanent home and that access was an issue, and did solar panels require planning permission?</p> <p>The Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and the Council then discussed the matter.</p> <p>Councillor Moss expressed his concern on the potential impact of a year-round holiday let and he also pointed out that he considered that it was for the Planning Officer to decide that as Ashford is defined as a rural settlement and if appropriately scaled this property should meet local needs.</p> <p>The Chairman pointed out that the application is specifically for a holiday let.</p> <p>Councillor Sampson asked if it will be used as a 12-month let. The applicant confirmed he is anticipating a letting period of 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>The Chairman invited Councillors to vote on the application.</p> <p>Councillor Bosley proposed approving the application on the basis of the 6-8 week letting period, and Councillor Hall seconded this.</p> <p>Councillors were unanimous in supporting the application on these conditions.</p>	
<p><b>9</b> <b>Item</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Email Network:</b></p> <p>9.1. The complex issue of GDPR and the safe handling of personal data was discussed. Councillor Lawson has researched a detailed privacy document which has been circulated to Councillors for their perusal. This document was felt to be far more complex than was necessary. Councillors all agreed that owing to the nature of the subject it is advisable to seek advice from other sources, including DALC.</p>	
<p><b>Item</b> <b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Telephone Box – Strand Lane:</b></p> <p>10.1. It was agreed that leaving the recently purchased telephone box unused is not an option.</p> <p>Options were put forward as to how the telephone box could best be used to benefit the community.</p> <p>The possibility of purchasing another defibrillator and housing it in the second kiosk was discussed, as well as the possibility of creating a second library for the use of the Parish.</p> <p>Moving the kiosk to the corner at Meadowside was suggested as</p>	

	<p>an option, and the question of planning permission was raised as well as forming an appropriate base for it to be fixed to.</p> <p>The telephone box will need to be decommissioned from its current location prior to being moved. This matter to be discussed at subsequent meetings.</p>	
<b>Item 11</b>	<p><b>Vacancy of Clerk;</b></p> <p>11.1. An advert has been prepared, and Councillors were asked for their opinions as to where best to advertise. It was agreed that DALC would be an ideal option, as well as SLCC. Councillors pointed out that in order to target a professional response it is important to advertise appropriately.</p>	
<b>Item 12</b>	<p><b>Dogs Fouling</b></p> <p>12.1. Councillor Hall reported that there is a continuing problem in Ashfield Lane. All notices are clearly visible, and the vast majority of dog owners are very responsible, although poo bags are sometimes deposited at properties. A resident has contacted the Chairman, who inspected the problem and took photographs. The incident was reported via the NDC website, which prompted the area to be cleansed. The dog warden can and will take action with persistent offenders. Council will wait to see if problem continues.</p>	
<b>Item 13</b>	<p><b>Items to be carried forward:</b></p> <p><b>The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> October, via Zoom</b></p> <p><b>The Meeting was declared closed at 8.25pm.</b></p>	
<p><b>These minutes are agreed by those present as a true and accurate record of events.</b></p>		
<p><b>Signed:</b></p> <p><b>Chair of Ashford Parish Council.</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p>		