

DRAFT MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION AT NEXT MEETING

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ASHFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 4th APRIL 2023 AT 7.00 pm

Present: - Councillors Davis, Maskell and Roome
M Isaac (Acting Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 25

23. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were raised by Parishioners:

- a) A Parishioner apologised for his for behaviour at the last Parish Council meeting. He stated that although the legislation allowed for public meetings to be recorded, he considered that it was wrong. He also made reference to comments made in the village newsletter about people who did not wish to be recorded.
- b) A Parishioner raised concerns for the new Parish Council following the forthcoming elections regarding the outstanding legal challenge and difficulty in getting future legal indemnity insurance cover and the effect of Council business.
He asked the following questions:
 - Can the person who has made the legal challenge against the Council be made to withdraw it?
 - If the Council is liable for any costs incurred will the precept need to be raised for each Council Tax payer in the Parish?The Acting Clerk stated that to his knowledge the Parish Council currently had no legal indemnity insurance cover and it would be a matter for the new Council when any future policy was renewed. If there was no insurance cover the Council would be liable for any legal claims and the precept would need to be increased to cover any costs incurred.
- c) A Parishioner raised concerns regarding the current A361 road works and traffic being diverted through Ashford and asked what could be done in future to mitigate the problem of speeding?
Councillor Maskell stated that the road works would be suspended over the Easter weekend and would hopefully be completed in the following week. In order to help mitigate the speeding issue the new Parish Council could apply for a 20-mph speed order or look to purchase speed ‘flashing’ warning signs. It was also stated that the Devon and Cornwall Police could also be requested to undertake a speed check.
- d) A Parishioner stated that she had contacted Devon County Council regarding the siting of the new Coronation Bench and had been advised that the suggested location was not

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appropriate as it was on a visibility splay. She sought other suggested locations from the Parish Council.

The Chair stated that it would be more appropriate for the new Parish Council to decide.

26. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

The Chair stated that this would be the last Parish Council meeting that she would be attending as the District Councillor. She thanked the residents and past Parish Councillors for their support over the last 20 years.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

28. CURRENT POSITION: UPDATE

The Clerk reported that problems were being encountered with the Bank regarding the addition of the new Councillors' signatures to the bank account. Consequently, bank statements had not been able to be obtained to prepare the bank reconciliation and accounts for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and budget for 2023/24.

29. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported

30. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that if the Bank mandate had been amended to add the new Councillors by the end of April an extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting be held later in April 2023 to agree the bank reconciliation and accounts for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and budget for 2023/24.

Chair the meeting ended at 7.18 p.m.