

**Minutes of the Ashford Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7pm in the Church Hall,
St Peter's Church, Ashford**

Present: Cllrs P Hughes (Chairman), J Bosley, G Holder, V Lawson and M Withey

Mrs V Woodhouse, Locum Parish Clerk
Cllr P Maskell, Devon County Council
Cllr R Knight, North Devon Council

4 Members of the public

2403/01

Apologies

Clls B Kettle and K Furse.

2403/02

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hughes declared a Personal Interest in Item 2403/10 Application 78254.

2403/03

Public Participation

A member of the public asked if the current defibrillator is registered as they could not find it on the national database and the nearest one online shows as Pilton. It was noted that it is registered and if someone was to ring 999 in an emergency they would be directed to the defibrillator (assuming it is their nearest).

2403/04

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 22nd February 2024 as a correct record.

2403/05

County Councillor Report

Cllr Maskell reported that the main road to Ashford from Heanton is a mess, there is an issue with mud and debris from the field and DCC is now working with the EA to find a solution. DCC has been awarded £5million for road safety improvements from Barnstaple to Ilfracombe and the crossing over the A361 has been put forward as a scheme although it is not official yet.

2403/06

District Councillor Report

Cllr Knight reported that a link had been circulated in relation to the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy and he urged Cllrs to read the information. NDC has asked District Cllrs to push to Town & Parish Councils, there is a good synopsis and covers Climate impact up to 2050.

2403/07

Highway Priorities

a) To appoint a new Snow Warden.

It was noted that a volunteer had not been identified. It was agreed to place on the website.


18/4/24

b) Update on the community speed watch.
Members were informed that the Co-ordinator has now completed their training, however, the scheme cannot proceed until two further volunteers have been identified. It was agreed to place on the website.

2403/08

Payment and Receipts

The following payment and receipts were received and approved:

Payments

32.	Clerk's Expenses (mileage)	£21.15
33.	Clerk's Invoice for hours to end of March 24	£200
34.	Ashford Church Council, Hall Hire	£20
35.	A & B Contractors	£3,000
Payments		£3,241.15

Receipts

None.

Receipts	£0.00
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2403/09

Grass Cutting

Members were informed that, although the price had remained unchanged, the frequency of cutting last time was actually 14 cuts instead of 10 and the split of the cost should have actually been £20 for Meadowside and £40 for the rest, an amended quotation from Mr Baker had been received. The owner of the land in Meadowside had agreed to contribute £140. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to increase the cutting to 14 cuts in acceptance of the amended quotation from Mr Baker and accept the contribution from the landowner.

2403/10

Planning

Cllr Hughes declared a Personal Interest in the following item and left the meeting, Cllr Lawson took the Chair.

78254 Retrospective application for the erection of stables and a hay barn together with open storage area at 6 Corn Park Close Ashford Barnstaple
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Nick Sampson

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to comment, there were not any comments and Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

Cllr Hughes returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

2403/11

Defibrillator

Cllr Hughes reported that the defibrillator and cabinet had arrived. An amended quotation has also been received from National Grid which is slightly less than the original quotation, a provider for the electricity is being sought.


18/4/24

2403/12

Highways and Footpaths

The Chairman reported that since Christmas he has reported six separate issues to Devon County Council in relation to highway and footpath issues in the Parish as follows:

- Give way sign.
- Flood water on the top road – although clear at the moment.
- Ashfield Lane collapse – not bad enough for anything to be done.
- Slippery footpath – no action.
- Long Lane collapsing bank – has been done, although it is the bare minimum to open the footpath.
- Second tree up from the Garden Centre – evergreen oak not been updated on the website.

It was agreed to send the list and reference numbers to Cllr Maskell.

2403/13

It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

Members of the public left the meeting.

PART B

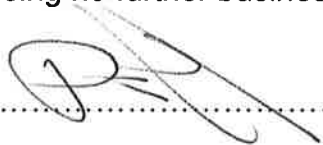
2403/14

Recruitment

Members were informed that the updated advert for the recruitment of a Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer had been sent to DALC and was on the website, it was agreed to put the advert on the website, noticeboard and send to the North Devon Council for circulation. It was agreed to investigate the cost of a PO Box for the Clerk to aid with a business address for Parish Council accounts etc.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed



Dated

J.S./4/24

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.