

draft
Minutes of the meeting of Ashford Parish Council
held on the
9th November 2021 at the Ashford Garden Centre

Present

Cllr V Lawson (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs J Bosley
Cllr D Hall
Cllr G Holder
Cllr P Hughes
Cllr Mrs S Sampson

Also in attendance County Councillor Mrs P Maskell (part meeting) District Councillor A Davis and 13 members of the public

Officer

G Dwyer (Acting Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and advising them that the meeting was being recorded by Cllr D Hall. A short open discussion ensued and it was explained that all public meetings were open to recording.

Nov21/1 Absence of Clerk

The Vice Chairman introduced Geoff Dwyer who was acting as clerk on a temporary basis. The situation regarding the permanent Clerk was due to be discussed as a confidential item after this meeting.

Nov21/2 Apologies for Absence

There were none

Nov21/3 Councillor Vacancy

It was noted that Cllr Moss had resigned as a Councillor and it was **RESOLVED** that a letter thanking him for his years of service be sent from the Council and the Clerk advise North Devon Council of the vacancy to enable the statutory process for filling the vacancy to be started

Nov21/4 Public Question Time

Deferred to later in the meeting.

Nov21/5 Minutes of recent meetings.

Annual Meeting of the Council 16th August 2021. An amendment to the minutes was not seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Council Meeting 19th August 2021. An amendment to the minutes was not seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Financial approvals were dealt with under cheques for payment

Nov21/6 Non-quorate meeting

RESOLVED that notes taken at a non-quorate meeting were deemed to be notes of a meeting and not a council resolution.

Nov21/7 Matters arising from meetings

It was noted that the name of the Member of the Public who made a freedom of information request had been recorded in the official minutes although legislation entitled him to be unidentified. Councillors briefly discussed how to address the removal the name from the formal minutes. **RESOLVED** the matter be dealt with at the next meeting.

Nov21/8 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned and the Swast Defib website updated.

Nov21/9 Cheques for Payment

Payment for Ms J Snooks (auditor £100.00) and M Baker (grass cutting £401.70) were approved and signed at the meeting

Nov21/10 Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Pru Maskell had forwarded her report which had been circulated to Councillors. She highlighted the interim and long term proposals for a crossing from the Tarka holiday park and advised Councillors that she had reported the two potholes at the Ashford Junction.

Nov21/11 Questions to the County Councillor

Councillors highlighted concern at crossing from Ashford to the Tarka trail and it was **RESOLVED** that a memo be sent to Cllr Maskell in advance of the next meeting to allow her to discuss alternatives with her Officers.

Nov21/12 Report of the District Councillor

District Councillor Andrea Davis the problems currently being experienced by the recycling crews and reminded the meeting that Planning enforcement issues must now be reported online.

The contact number for those requiring help whilst self-isolating is 01271 388280

Nov21/13 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated to Councillors

- Avian Influenza – trading standards information
- Covid 19 situation report
- Climate and environment grants

- North Devon Hospital situation report

Nov21/14 Planning Applications

App 74010 Runklins. Strand Lane Ashford Barnstaple Devon EX31 4BW
erection of replacement bungalow **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

App 74085 Heathers 12 Meadowside Ashford Barnstaple Devon EX31 4BS. Demolition of existing garage and erection of larger replacement ancillary accommodation **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Nov21/15 Planning Decisions

There were none

Nov21/16 General Items.

- Captain Slatters bench – refurbished with donated timber and to be returned to its site shortly **RESOLVED** a letter of thanks for the Timber and Grant donation to be made to Princeps Doorsteps
- Safety issues A361/Strand Lane – deferred to next meeting but information to be forwarded to the County Councillor
- Tree Preservation – concern expressed at the possibility of mature trees being felled. **RESOLVED** District Councillor to forward list of trees currently protected by TPO's and Parish Council to highlight other trees considered worth preserving.

Nov21/17 Reports from Councillors

There were none.

Nov21/18 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Nov21/19 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

- A letter from an absent resident was read out detailing concerns at actions by a Councillor **RESOLVED**. the letter be received and dealt with at the next meeting.
- Several members of the Public complained at the behaviour of the same Parish Councillor and sought assurances that the freedom of Information requests would be dealt with. It was stressed in reply from the Council that although not to be taken as an excuse it should be noted that the monitoring Officer considered no threats had been made by the Councillor. **RESOLVED** to defer the item to next month.
- Further comments were made and in particular it was alleged that the community spirit of the area had suffered.

- A free and frank discussion followed with a member of the public apologising for his outburst at a previous meeting and the Councillor who was criticised raising points in his own defence.
- Members of the public united in thanking Cllr Moss for his work for the community and hoped his health improved
It was **RESOLVED** that the Ashford email system and its relationship to the Ashford Newsletter be placed on the agenda for next month

Nov21/20 Urgent Business

There was none.

Nov21/21 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13th December at 7.30

The meeting closed at 8.55

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....