

Minutes of Ashford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 15 December 2016 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.

<p>Chaired by: Councillor G Holder</p>	<p>Clerked by: Sue Squire</p>	
<p>Present: Councillors</p> <p>J Bleach Mrs J Bosley G Holder V Lawson Mrs S Sampson J Szymankiewicz</p> <p>County Councillor Mrs C Chugg District Councillor Mrs A Davis 8 Members of the public</p>	<p>Agenda: -</p> <p>Talk on the Parish Paths Partnership Items raised by members of the public Apologies Declarations of Interest Approval of the Minutes of 17 November 2016 Reports Matters Arising Planning & Planning Correspondence Finance Correspondence Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk Date of next meeting</p>	
		<p>Action:</p>
<p>90.</p>	<p>Talk by Mrs R Davies, Liaison Officer of Devon County Council Public Rights of Way Department on the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3).</p> <p>Mrs Davis explained that the Public Rights of Way sits in the Highways Department of DCC at County Hall.</p> <p>Ashford Parish Council had been a member of the P3 Scheme for a great many years.</p> <p>The Parish Paths Partnership is a community approach to improving access in the countryside.</p> <p>The Public Rights of Way Department look after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5,000 km of Public Rights of Way of which 300 km comprise the South West Coast Path ▪ 563 km unsurfaced roads ▪ 224 km multi use trails, e.g. Exe Estuary trail cycle routes ▪ 2 country parks <p>If the Rights of Way were put together, end on end, they would span the Atlantic to New Year.</p> <p>Rights of Way law is a mixture of common law and statute law.</p> <p>The 1949 Act was spoken about when all Parish and Town councils were asked to list what they thought were local Rights of Way.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way. There are four types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foopaths ▪ Bridleways ▪ Restricted Byways ▪ Byways open to all traffic <p>These are recorded on the definitive map and statement</p> <p>Highway Authority powers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To erect signpost and waymarks ▪ To bridge natural water courses ▪ Undertake works to drain PROWs ▪ To improve a PROW. This is where P3 comes in, not about the map but making it available and enjoyable for all. ▪ PROW have to provide 25% of the cost of looking after PROW, in form of gate or stile. ▪ Can make grants to farmers and landowners of at least 25% of the cost of maintaining approved stiles and gates. ▪ Controlling the growth of surface vegetation 	

- To protect the public's use and enjoyment of a PROW

Other responsibilities:

- They have to review the Definitive Map and keep under continuous review
- Make path diversion orders
- Make temporary diversion and closure orders.

Ashford Definitive Map has been reviewed and will not change.

Responsibilities of landowners.

- To know where PROWs cross their land and ensure gates and stiles are kept in good order
- Refrain from obstructing paths
- Cut back overhanging vegetation
- Refrain from ploughing a path that forms the headland of a field
- Ensure that paths across fields are reinstated two weeks after ploughing

Role of Footpath Wardens.

- Each Warden's area was shown
- Talk to contractors
- Ensure obstructions are moved by talking to landowners
- Talk to P3 co-ordinators

Parish Paths Partnership

- The history of P3 was given
- The advantages of being a P3 Parish were advised
- The overall aims and objectives were given
- The number of Parishes involved in the scheme was shown
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P3 Grants

- The budget is £56,000 per annum
- Grants are allocated based on the needs of the community
- Grants are allocated between mid February and the end of March

How does P3 work.

- Through the role of the P3 co-ordinator
- The annual survey
- Projects are considered by the Parish and DCC
- Grants are issued on a mileage basis. There are only 2 miles of PROWs in Ashford. £30 a mile was available and extra for other projects
- Parishes are able to organise improvements through talking to landowners and liaising with local contractors

Typical Parish Projects

- Replacing stiles and gates to give greater access to the countryside.
- Liaising with landowners to improve the surface of rural paths
- Adding dog gates with landowner's permission
- Signing and waymarking routes
- Organising cutting programmes.

Other areas of the Department, such as a training programme for strimming use; P3 volunteers working with contractors and P3 projects involving working partnerships and grant applications were spoken about.

There was a question and answer opportunity.

A question was asked that had been brought to the Parish Council's attention regarding vegetation growing from the side of a PROW.

	<p>This would be the landowner's responsibility. If there is growth up from the ground, it is DCC PROW responsibility.</p> <p>Watery Lanes. Water cannot be discharged onto a highway to get rid of it nor can it be diverted to a drain.</p>	
91.	<p>Items raised by members of the public.</p> <p>91.1 Hedges being cut at Strand Lane. Is there an obligation to clear up the cut material as there was concern it would block the drains. County Councillor Mrs Chugg replied that if the tractor cutting mechanism is set right, all the debris should go back into the hedge. This enquiry to be checked with PROW. County Councillor Mrs Chugg had, in the past, organised the DCC road sweeper to deal with it but due to budgetary cuts, this was no longer possible. The Road Warden Scheme was spoken about. To be an item on the next Agenda.</p> <p>91.2 Public Footpath Map for the Website. The Clerk to check with PROW regarding copyright.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Jan Agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>
92.	<p>Apologies. Councillor Mrs B Sandwell, PCSO Kingdon.</p>	
93.	<p>Declarations of Interest. None.</p>	
94.	<p>Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 November 2016. Approved and signed as a correct record.</p>	
95.	<p>Reports:</p> <p>95.1 Police. When sending his apologies, PCSO Kingdon advised there were no crimes to report. He wished all at Ashford Parish Council a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p> <p>95.2 County Councillor Mrs C Chugg. Written Report received: Jacobs are the contractors to replace the drains and put in the pump, along with DCC they had an open day at the Vivian Moon Community Centre which was well attended. It was a difficult day as feelings were running very high as many of the traders were fearful of the disruption. The road will not be closed for the 12 weeks and as far as we are concerned we will be getting the contractors to keep it open as long as possible even if it allows single file traffic and access for deliveries with the use of traffic lights although no doubt there will be hold ups and delays. At the present time a 4 week closure is looking more likely, but getting the job done is essential. They will be starting at the Caen River end to allow the traffic from Georgeham/Croyde to come through when they have the work and road closure by Western Power, They will not have the road closure and restrictions at the same time. If there is a time when there is no way that work can be done without a road closure of a short duration we will be informed and the traders will be pre-warned.</p> <p>I am working with Highways to draw up road schemes to help alleviate congestion through Braunton and have a meeting this month in relation to the plans.</p> <p>Social Care. At this year's Social Worker of the Year awards, DCC was among the highest achieving authorities in the sector. There were 15 different categories for both adult and children's social works and 8 DCC social workers or social worker teams were selected by an expert panel of judges as finalists. 3 were announced as category winners. In the Team of the Year category for adult social care, the Daytime Adult Mental Health Practitioner Service won the Gold Award. Exeter based Maria Kneller took the Silver Award in the Adult Social Worker of the Year Category. Joanna Armstrong took the Silver Award in the Practice Educator of the Year Category. The prestigious ceremony celebrate the success of the professions most innovative and dedicated social workers. Something the County can be proud of.</p> <p>The number of children in care at the moment is 708. Work is continuing to improve how we interact with children and families as early as possible so we can avoid children coming into care. Professional work in a co-ordinated way across the partnerships of DCC, Health, Police, etc.</p>	

Broadband. We are awarding Phase 2 of the Broadband Contract to a couple of different suppliers (not BT). At the present time we cannot reveal the details. Coverage maps will be available from day one.

Schools. I have had letters from Braunton Academy and Georgeham School contacting me in relation to cuts in funding. I have written to them explaining the reasons why we are still looking into the budget so we hope to be able to reduce the cut that we are looking at. The main reasons to the loss of funding for main stream schools is that the number of children with complex needs is rising with a consequent need for more specialist centres and expertise and more support in schools.

Our schools are still funded at £270 per pupil less than the national average. This is why it is so critical that the government introduces a national funding formula for schools and why we continue to campaign in partnership with our schools for Devon to get a fair deal.

We have written to the Secretary of Education to look at fairer funding for this area. This under funding has a continuing impact on every area of education in Devon which leads to this specific issue.

The cost of addressing the mental health of young people is increasing.

The switch from statement of special educational needs to combined education, health and care plans or EHCPs has increased the average cost from £2,908 to £4,383 per child because of the extra help that is required.

The historic funding for statements was led by the cost of the teacher's assistant required whereas the EHCPs is needs-led, the breadth of intervention outlined is wider and the associated costs are often higher.

The number of requests for EHCPs in Devon has increased by 51%.

New legislation means young people can choose to stay in education until 25 rather than 19.

The age range for SEND support has been extended from 5-16 to 0-25, meaning a big increase in the number of clients.

The budget as yet has not been set in stone so with the representations I and many other County Councillors and schools have sent in, we hope to be able to reduce the cuts.

Highways. Skanska has been awarded the new contract to take on from South West Highways next year. They have many contracts throughout the Country and work with many Councils with good report.

NHS Cuts, North Devon District Hospital. Sustainable Transformation Plan Motions.

At the full DCC meeting, the Motions as put forward to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny were amended there. They were put to the full Council meeting, a recorded vote was taken and it was a unanimous vote taken.

The Motions as amended: -

Cllr Biederman. This Council is deeply concerned about the impact the proposed cuts to Devon health services will have on patients – especially the loss of whole departments including maternity services at NDDH – and massive reduction in acute and community hospital beds across Devon, as set out in the STP.

This Council also recognizes that governments have not provided the NHS with a fair level of funding and now calls on local MPs to lobby government ministers to urgently and significantly increase the level of funding to the NHS, in order to protect our precious health service for current and future generations.

Cllr. Greenslade. County Council believes that the NHS Success Regime project for Devon is now flawed and accordingly asks the Secretary of State for Health and NHS England to put the process on hold, until issues relating to the independence of the Success Regime are investigated and for fair funding to be considered. County Council further calls on government and NHS England to firstly address the issue of fair funding for our area and to ensure the general election promise of an extra £8 billion of funding for the NHS is taken into account when assessing the claimed deficit for Devon NHS services. Until funding issues are addressed it is not possible to decide whether or not there is a local NHS budget deficit to be addressed. Unnecessary cuts to the local NHS budget must be avoided. Devon MPs to be asked to support this approach to protecting Devon NHS services.

95.3 District Councillor Mrs A Davis spoke about a letter from the NHS discussed in the Health and Well Being Committee.

There is to be a meeting on 13 January in connection with Save our Hospital Services.

The Committee has requested that they are advised with engagement and consultation plans and advise with some clarity what is going on.

We need to keep the pressure on what is going on locally.

Waste and Recycling. The areas for the 3 weekly refuse collection had been announced. It does not include Ashford.

	<p>Planning. In respect of the Long Lane Application, the Planning Committee decided at the Planning Meeting on 14 December to have a site visit which is likely to be on 10 January and heard again by the Committee on 11 January.</p> <p>95.4 Councillor V Lawson. Defibrillator Check. In order.</p>	
96.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>96.1 In-house Training. Confirmation had been received that The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple had been booked for this event. At the time of the December meeting, 12 Councillors had been booked in from the Clerk and her husband's Parishes. It was known a further 3 Councillors were interested. The Clerk had contacted her counterparts at Heanton, Marwood and West Down Parish Councils to enquire if any of their new Councillors would like a place. A maximum of 18 places were available and it was the aim to fill these.</p> <p>96.2 Code of Conduct Training. This was continuing to be progressed.</p> <p>96.3 Planning Training. Strong representations had been made to the Devon Association of Local Councils, requesting that a session is held in north Devon. As a result, a reply had been received advising that the trainer has worked outside the East Devon and Exeter area recently and may be able to provide a session in the North Devon area in February or March. The question was asked on what basis should the training be provided – for DALC to organise a course in North Devon, say at South Molton, or was a bespoke course wanted for Ashford. If the latter, the cost would be £200 plus VAT plus mileage, plus £2 for USB stick provided. This would cater for up to 18 to 20 people. Ashford to supply the venue and refreshments. Councillors felt that a local course at South Molton would be the best option.</p> <p>96.4 Parish Council Website. Mr G Williams had been provided with Parish Council details to proceed. A new website name is to be created as it will no longer be just the Parish Council but other organisations in Ashford. It is online. Would like suggestions www.ashfordparishnorthdevon.com for improvements or suggestions. Marion Saunders had agreed to have a link with Pilton Church. By the February Parish Council meeting all the groups in Ashford will have been spoken to and trained. To be an item on the January Agenda</p> <p>96.5 Tarka Holiday Park. The Park Manager was present and advised that waste high lighting had replaced the tall lamp posts and this would be rolled through the Park. The planting scheme would commence as it is rolled through.</p> <p>96.6 Data Protection. The Clerk is waiting for a reply from the Data Protection Unit at North Devon Council.</p> <p>96.7 Brown Tourist Sign on the A361. It had not been possible for the signs to be masked.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Jan Agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>
97.	<p>Planning & Planning Correspondence.</p> <p>97.1 The following Planning Application was considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62165 – First floor extension to dwelling (over garage) at Crofton, 13 Meadowside, Ashford. It was resolved to recommend approval. <p>Planning Applications received after the Agenda was published. None.</p> <p>97.2. Planning Correspondence.</p> <p>97.2.1 Correspondence in relation Planning Application 59288 (Long Lane) and in a</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

	<p>Conservation Area. A reply was noted from the Planning Manager on 24/11/16 and circulated to Councillors. It was known that a resident of Ashford has sent a reply in response. It was further noted that the Application was considered by the Planning Committee on Wednesday, 14/12/16. Due to another commitment, the Parish Clerk had not, as had originally been planned, been present to make representations on behalf of Ashford Parish Council. These had been sent to North Devon Council for inclusion with the planning paperwork for the Committee. The Committee had decided to have a site visit.</p> <p>97.2.2 Enforcement 10063 – Wyevale Garden Centre. It was noted that the Clerk had contacted the Enforcement Officer enquiring the position. The 21 days given to remedy the breach of planning control expired on 8/12/16. A reply was awaited.</p> <p>97.2.3 The following North Devon Council Decision Notice was noted: APPROVAL for 61871 – Demolition of carport, extension to dwelling & conversion of outbuilding to form additional living accommodation at Springside, Ashfield Lane, Ashford.</p> <p>Planning Correspondence received after the Agenda was published. None.</p>																					
98.	<p>Finance.</p> <p>98.1 Balances: The Business Reserve Statement had still not been received and a duplicate had been ordered from NatWest, it being assumed that the original had been lost. NatWest Current Account as at 18/11/16: £10.00 NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 15/12/16: £1,531.48 as advised by NatWest over the telephone.</p> <p>98.3 The following payments were approved and authorised:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mrs S Squire</td> <td>December Salary net of PAYE including overtime</td> <td>£112.51</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Contribution towards broadband</td> <td>£ 3.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Photocopying</td> <td>£ 10.70</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Reimbursement for flipchart paper and crayons for New Councillor Training (flipchart is supplied)</td> <td>£ 12.80</td> <td>£139.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>December PAYE</td> <td></td> <td>£ 28.20</td> </tr> </table> <p>North Devon Council Recharge for election held on 8/9/16 £949.98 <i>The Clerk has negotiated with North Devon Council that this amount can be paid in instalments over the next 6 months at a monthly amount of £158.33</i> (3rd payment)</p> <p>98.3 Six monthly accounts to audit. Due to the Business Reserve Statement still not being received, a duplicate had been ordered from NatWest as it was assumed the original had been lost in the post. On receipt, the Clerk will take the accounts to 31/10/16 to Councillor Mrs Bosley for her and Councillor Lawson to inspect.</p> <p>98.4 Community Councillor Grant. With the completion of the telephone box conversion and the Invoice paid, it has been possible to submit the paperwork to claim the £250.00 grant towards this from District Councillor Mrs A Davis which had been processed and will reach the bank account in the next few days.</p> <p>District Councillor Mrs Davis advised she had been in contact with the Clerk regarding other work required in the Parish and had been advised that the back of the notice board required attention, and the two bus shelters required treating. The work had been given to Mr T Squire at the beginning of 2016 but due to financial restraints, had not taken place. It was estimated that the total cost would be in the region of £300 and District Councillor Mrs Davis agreed to fund this.</p>	Mrs S Squire	December Salary net of PAYE including overtime	£112.51			Contribution towards broadband	£ 3.00			Photocopying	£ 10.70			Reimbursement for flipchart paper and crayons for New Councillor Training (flipchart is supplied)	£ 12.80	£139.01	HMRC	December PAYE		£ 28.20	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Ch.No.968 Ch.No.969</p> <p>Ch.No.970</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	Councillor Szymankiewicz pointed out that the Parish Council had received representations from the public regarding the importance of obtaining three quotations for any work to be done and this was acknowledged, it also being noted that the work had been given before the Parish Council had adopted a three quotation system for reasons of openness and transparency.	
99.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>99.1 Highway Grass Cutting. The Clerk had been in correspondence with DCC Highways who are prepared to award the sum of £292 towards grass cutting for the 2017/18 season. Proposed by Councillor Holder to proceed on this basis. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Sampson. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>99.2 Braunton Parish Council. Copy correspondence. Letter to The Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence making representations regarding the closure of RMB Chivenor. <i>Noted.</i></p> <p>99.3 DCC Highways. Road closure at Limekiln Lane, North Lane, Waterlake Lane, Ashford between 6 February and 17 March for various drainage works and secondary patching. The details to be sent to Councillors and for inclusion on the website.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
100.	<p>Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk.</p> <p>100.1 Councillor Bleach. Role of Snow Warden which he was prepared to consider. This to be an item on the Annual Parish Council Meeting Agenda.</p> <p>100.2 Councillor Szymankiewicz. There had been further congestion outside Wyevale Garden Centre due to an articulated lorry trying to make a delivery. A member of staff had mentioned that the entrance was to be made wider and that planning permission had been obtained. Councillors were not aware of this and the item to be included on the January Agenda.</p> <p>100.3 Councillor Mrs Bosley. It had been noted that there was a tent on the Tarka Trail and it appeared that someone had been living there for the last 2 weeks.</p> <p>100.4 Councillor Mrs Bosley. Dr Bosley had offered to chip any Christmas trees.</p> <p>100.5 Councillor Mrs Sampson. On the dual carriageway, three lights were continuously on. This could be reported via the DCC interactive website.</p> <p>100.6 Councillor Holder. Ditches at the edge of the road in Ashfield Lane were considered to be a bad trip hazard which he would report via the DCC interactive website.</p>	<p>APCM Agenda</p> <p>Jan Agenda</p> <p>GH</p>
101.	<p>Date of next Meeting: Thursday, 19 January 2017 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The Meeting ended at 9.32pm.</p>	
<p>Summary of Decisions:</p> <p>➤</p>		
<p>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</p>		
Signed: Chair of Ashford Parish Council:		Date: