

Minutes of Ashford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 17 March 2016 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Chaired by: Councillor G Holder	Clerked by: Sue Squire	
Present: Councillors Mrs J Bosley G Holder V Lawson Mrs S Sampson Mrs B Sandwell J Symankiewicz County Councillor Mrs C Chugg Inspector Roger Bartlett 3 Members of the Public	Agenda: - Items raised by members of the public Apologies Declarations of Interest Approval of the Minutes of 18 February 2016 Reports Matters Arising Planning & Planning Correspondence Finance Correspondence Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk Date of next Meeting	
		Action:
126.	Items raised by members of the public. None.	
127.	Apologies. Councillor Mrs H Bremner, District Councillor Mrs A Davis.	
128.	Declarations of Interest. None.	
129.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2016. Approved and signed as a correct record.	
130.	Reports. 130.1 Police. Inspector Roger Bartlett arrived at 8.30pm and advised as follows: The historical details of the Police budget were given and the current financial situation outlined. In the first wave of cuts, £54 million had to be saved with a further £29 million being cut. This had the effect of reducing staffing of Police Officers by 500 from a total of 3,000 and a reduction of 560 support staff who do valuable work and are essential for the functioning of the Force. A further £20 – 30 million in cuts were expected in the Autumn Statement but this did not materialise largely due it was thought to the Police and Crime Commissioner running a Fairer Funding Campaign. There had been a 2% rise in the Precept to help raise money. There will not be a loss of PCSOs for at least 2 years. There is to be an increase in the number of firearms officers for terrorism and 50 Officers have to be found at a cost of £10 million. Every effort was being made to safeguard PCSOs for the future and the Police are trying to share costs with other agencies such as the Fire Service. There is a current pilot scheme where a PCSO on duty can be trained to respond to fires and the Fire Service will pay the Police. The PCSO needs to stay in close proximity to the Fire Station and are retained fire officers. The Fire Service is having difficulty in recruiting people and are under-spending. PCSOs are not forced to undertake the training. The move is to safeguard the role of PCSOs. Ashford is not close enough to the area to be part of the pilot in Ilfracombe and will now be covered by PCSO Paul Grantham who is covering some of PCSO D Kingdom's area. The priority is to have a visual presence. There had been 10 crimes in the last year in Ashford and Heanton and no	

	<p>burglaries in the last month.</p> <p>Due to the new arrangements, it was anticipated there would be a quarterly visit by PCSO Grantham with regular reports.</p> <p>130.2 County Councillor Mrs C Chugg. There had been a 1.99% rise in Council Tax and a 2% increase ring fenced for vulnerable adults and care in the community. The Fire Service and Police Authority had increased its share of the Council Tax by 1.99%.</p> <p>There had been a briefing meeting with Highways regarding the Link Road where there are plans to provide a design to make some of it dual carriageway. There will be some sections, like the viaduct at Filleigh, that cannot be dualled.</p> <p>A meeting regarding the congestion in Braunton is to take place.</p> <p>Speeding along the top road at Heanton was mentioned and it was thought that when the Chivenor development had been finished, this would stop. As regards the Chivenor development, the lines on the roundabout were thought to be misleading.</p> <p>130.3 District Councillor Mrs A Davis. Not present.</p> <p>130.4 Councillor V Lawson. Defibrillator Check. All in order.</p>	
131.	<p>Matters Arising.</p> <p>131.1 Defibrillator Batteries. A further two communications had been sent to Barnstaple Town Council regarding the whereabouts of the batteries. The batteries were still at the Town Council Offices and could not be sent by post as they were a restricted item. The Clerk had made enquiries for them to be delivered by courier but again, they could not be taken because of their nature. The batteries will have to be collected in person and Councillors to bear this in mind when they are next in Barnstaple.</p> <p>131.2 Conversion of Telephone Kiosk. The Clerk had been in communication with the DCC officer who maintains County Councillor Locality Grant Applications. Councillors had been informed that the £10,000 allocation would continue in 2016/17. As the telephone kiosk project would not be completed in this financial year, the funding would come from the 2016/17 budget. The application to be put on hold for the time being until definite plans for the kiosk had been agreed. County Councillor Mrs Chugg also suggested a bench to be sited near the mini library. A quotation of £650 had been received to re-glaze the panels which were cracked or plastic. A quotation of £750 had been received to repaint the structure.</p> <p>Councillors agreed with Councillor Holder's suggestion to get the glass renewed and then make a decision whether to repaint the telephone kiosk.</p> <p>The Clerk to ask Mr K Payne for a written quotation to fix shelving.</p> <p>An enquiry had been sent to North Devon Council Planning Department enquiring if planning permission is required for the change of use and a reply received which had been circulated to Councillors. The informal opinion given by the Planning Officer was as follows:</p> <p>I am writing to confirm that as this would represent a material change of use of the structure (kiosk), technically this would require planning permission for a change of use to a D1 Use Class (Non residential institution). However, given the use of the mini library for members of the public and the over small nature of the proposal providing a benefit for the local community, the Local Planning Authority would not have any in principle objection to the proposal.</p>	Clerk

	<p>Whilst the Council would not necessarily seek an application for this type of use given the overall scale of the proposal should the use be implemented without planning permission in place, the Parish Council would always have the ability apply for planning permission either on line or through the submission of written application forms.</p> <p>132.3 Blocked drain in Strand Lane. The householder had advised the drain in his meadow was not broken. He thought the problem emanated from further up in another field.</p> <p>133.4 Flooding caused by water running down Strand Lane. There had been correspondence between the householder and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer and remedial work had been done. Councillor Mrs Sandwell advised that the work done would not prevent flooding. The situation will be monitored.</p>																					
134.	<p>Planning & Planning Correspondence.</p> <p>134.1 There were no Planning Applications to consider.</p> <p>134.2 Planning Correspondence.</p> <p>Enforcement – Wyevale Garden Centre. The Enforcement Officer had been advised that the advertisement banners continued to be in place after an official letter had been written and in addition, a further banner had been fixed to the fence. A reply had been received advising that on speaking to the Garden Centre Manager, arrangements had been made for the banners to be taken down by Friday 19 February. The Enforcement Officer had made a further site visit on 22/2/16 and the banners have been removed.</p> <p>Councillors reported that the banners were now on the side fence. The Enforcement Officer to be advised and mention also to be made about the planters on the verges each side of the entrance. Motorists are experiencing difficult when entering or existing the car park because of this. It was noted that one of the planters had blown over in the recent high winds.</p>	Clerk																				
135.	<p>Finance.</p> <p>135.1 Balances. NatWest Current Account as at 19/02/16: £10.00 NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 10/03/16: £1,567.58</p> <p>135.2 The following payments were approved and authorised:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="212 1294 1321 1467"> <tr> <td>Mrs S Squire</td> <td>March Salary net of PAYE</td> <td>£82.71</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>£ 9.35</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Postage</td> <td>£ 7.56</td> <td>£102.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>March PAYE</td> <td></td> <td>£ 20.60</td> </tr> </table> <p>135.3 Correspondence from NatWest Bank:</p> <p>8.3.1 Addition of signatory. Councillor Symankiewicz had not taken the forms to the Bank with his identification to be verified due to being away. This would be done before the April Meeting.</p> <p>135.3.2 Savings Interest being paid gross. A letter had been sent to NatWest asking for details of the correct HMRC Department where gross credit interest should be declared.</p> <p>135.4 Smaller Authorities Transparency Code. The Code comes into effect on 31/3/16. The deadline for authorities who wish to opt out of the SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments) arrangements and appoint their own auditors is also 31/3/16. All smaller authorities are opted in by default. Any authorities who do not wish to be part of the SAAA arrangements must therefore formally opt out by 31/3/16.</p> <p>An authority that wishes to opt out must formally reach and record that decision in a way that meets the requirements of its own governance framework, by convening a</p>	Mrs S Squire	March Salary net of PAYE	£82.71			Contribution towards broadband	£ 3.00			Photocopying	£ 9.35			Postage	£ 7.56	£102.62	HMRC	March PAYE		£ 20.60	Clerk Ch.No.932 Ch.No.933 JS
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	<p>full council meeting or an extraordinary council meeting. Opting out is a significant decision which requires careful consideration and it will have resourcing implications for authorities. The key implications have been forwarded to Councillors. The Clerk suggested that this Council does not opt out.</p> <p>Councillor Holder proposed that this Council does not opt out. Seconded by Councillor Symankiewicz seconded and unanimously agreed.</p> <p>135.5 Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2016/17. It was noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that the appropriate sum for Parish Councils for the purpose of S.137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for 2016/17 is £7.42. This means that the Parish Council can spend £7.42 per elector on Section 137 items which are specifically to improve and enhance the Parish.</p>	
136.	<p>Correspondence. Notices and publications received were put on the table to see and read and were included in the circulation bag..</p> <p>136.1 North Devon and Torridge Local Plan Consultation. A further consultation is running from 11/2/16 to 24/3/16. Councillors had been circulated with the details. It was decided not to reply as a Council. Councillors could respond individually if they wished to.</p> <p>136.2 North Devon Council. Enforcement Consultation. Councillors have been circulated with the details. To reply: 'A speedy response to confirm the action we have asked them to take'.</p> <p>136.3 The Tower Mint. Sample medal to commemorate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Councillors decided not to proceed.</p>	Clerk
137.	<p>Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk.</p> <p>137.1 Councillor Symankiewicz noted that cars continued to be sold near Ashford Fruit Farm.</p> <p>137.2 Councillor Symankiewicz enquired about the voting procedure on Planning Applications when Councillors were not present. The Clerk advised that all votes have to be while the eligible Councillor is present and proxy votes could not be accepted.</p> <p>137.3 Councillor Mrs Bosley spoke about the brown Ring of Bells Tourist Information sign, as the pub was no longer trading. County Councillor Mrs Chugg had previously raised this and would ask again for this to be removed</p>	Clerk to report to NDC Cty Cllr Mrs Chugg
138.	<p>Date of next Meeting: Thursday, 21 April 2016 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. The Meeting ended at 8.04pm.</p>	
<p>Summary of Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minutes of 18 February 2016 ➤ Payments ➤ That this Council does not opt out of the Smaller Authorities Audit Arrangements 		
<p>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</p>		
Signed: Chair of Ashford Parish Council:	Date:	