

**Minutes of Ashford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 19 December 2019 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.**

<b>Chaired by: Councillor P Hughes</b>		<b>Clerked by: Sue Squire</b>
<b>Present: Councillors</b>  <b>Mrs J Bosley</b> <b>D Hall</b> <b>G Holder</b> <b>P Hughes</b> <b>V Lawson</b> <b>M Moss</b> <b>Mrs S Sampson</b>  <b>District Councillor Mrs A Davis</b>  <b>No Members of the public</b>		<b>Agenda: -</b> Items raised by members of the public Apologies Declarations of Interest Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2019 Reports Matters Arising Planning & Planning Correspondence Finance Correspondence Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk Matters raised by the Chairman Items for the next Agenda Date of next meeting
		<b>Action:</b>
92.	<b>Items raised by members of the public.</b> <b>92.1 Dog Waste.</b> An item circulated on the Ashford Update by a member of the public suggested that a dog bin may be appropriate. The Clerk to acknowledge and include this item on the January Agenda.	Clerk January Agenda
93.	<b>Apologies.</b> County Councillor Mrs C Chugg.	
94.	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b> Councillor Hall declared a Prejudicial Interest in items relating to the company ORS as the founder and Chairman.	
95.	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2019.</b> <b>Approved and signed as a correct record after it was noted under Minute No. 83.7 – Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum, details relating to the former Yelland Power Station may not result in a new Planning Application, and Under Minute 84.4 - Climate Emergency Network, the plan to be carbon neutral is 2050.</b>	
96.	<b>Reports:</b> <b>96.1 Police.</b> The December 2019 Newsletter had been received and circulated. PCSO Kingdon had advised that he has been transferred to the Barnstaple Neighbourhood Beat Area for the time being.  <b>96.2 County Councillor Mrs C Chugg.</b> Apologies given. A written Report had been circulated focusing on: Land at Meadowside, Highways, Recycling, Railways strike, New employer support service, Grants, Libraries, Knife crime in Devon Schools, Children’s Services.  <b>96.3 District Councillor Mrs A Davis.</b> Due to the General Election resulting in purdah for Councillors, there was nothing to report.  <b>96.4 Councillor V Lawson.</b> Defibrillator Check. In order. The Clerk had submitted the monthly report to South Western Ambulance Service.  <b>96.5 Councillor M Moss, Wildlife Warden.</b> Nothing to report.  <b>96.6 Communications Committee.</b> No formal meetings had taken place. Councillor Hall advised that with regard to the Website, a meeting with the Webmaster had been held to progress this being administered by the Parish Council. A letter of thanks to be sent to the Webmaster for his help, interest and generosity in the past.	Clerk



	<p><b>96.9 Councillor Moss</b> suggested as a result of an article in North Devon Council Weekly Information Sheet that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of following up obtaining free landmark trees (maximum of two). A suitable site would need to be found and the preferred area was the Village Green near the telephone box.</p> <p>Councillors were in agreement for Councillor Moss to register the Parish Council's interest for one tree.</p>	MM
97.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p><b>97.1 School Transport for children living in Ashford.</b> It was noted that a letter of representation to DCC was drafted by Councillor Hughes and forwarded by the Clerk to DCC and a reply received where the stance of DCC had not changed.</p> <p><b>97.2 Three emails of representation read at the last meeting.</b> It was noted that these had been responded to.</p> <p><b>97.3 Land at Meadowside proposed for a wildflower area.</b> It was noted that co-ordinates had been sent to County Councillor Mrs Chugg which she has followed up and a reply received that DCC would not just give up land which is highway maintained at public expense. It would need to go through a Stopping Up Order which is legal, lengthy and costly process.</p> <p>If the project is in connection with Life on the Verge ecology project, it would need to be directed to another officer.</p> <p>Information on the initiative and what DCC are asking communities to do can be found on the DCC website –  <a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/managing-verges-for-wildlife">https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/managing-verges-for-wildlife</a></p> <p><b>97.4 Ashford Welcome Leaflet.</b> Councillor Mrs Bosley to confirm that she had updated the document.</p> <p><b>97.5 North Devon Council Community Governance Review.</b> It was noted that the Clerk had conveyed the feeling of Councillors to North Devon Council for the present arrangements to stay the same.</p> <p><b>97.5 Tree Planting / Free Trees.</b> It was noted that Councillor Mrs Sampson had advised the type of trees required which the Clerk will order on 6/1/20 when the Woodland Trust are accepting orders again.</p> <p><b>97.6 Grit Bin at Strand Lane.</b> A reply from the Neighbourhood Highways Technician was noted which advised that the preferred location was not permissible.</p> <p>Councillor Hughes to liaise with the Neighbourhood Highways Technician and agree a suitable site.</p>	Clerk  PH to email DD
98.	<p><b>Planning &amp; Planning Correspondence.</b></p> <p><b>98.1 Planning Applications.</b> There were no Planning Applications to consider.</p> <p><b>98.2 Planning Correspondence.</b> The following North Devon Council Decision Notice was noted: <b>APPROVAL</b> for Application 70589 – alterations and extension to dwelling – Solway, Ashfield Lane, Ashford.</p> <p><b>98.3 Visit of Mr M Tichford, Head of Place, North Devon Council.</b> No reply had yet been received in connection with items raised at the October meeting.</p> <p><b>98.4 Reporting of alleged unauthorized planning issues to the Enforcement Department.</b> The Clerk advised that in future, when reports of alleged unauthorized planning issues are advised to the Parish Council, precise details will be required as it is no longer acceptable for an email to be sent giving scant details.</p> <p>It had been necessary for the Clerk to register with North Devon Council in order to gain access to the relevant form to be completed which requires the actual location of the property, the name of the householder and full details of the alleged breach.</p>	Clerk to send emails to AD for following up
99.	<p><b>Finance.</b></p> <p><b>99.1 Balances. NatWest Current Account as at 20 November 2019: £8,337.96</b></p>	

	<p>Budgetary figures up to the end of November 2019 were circulated to Councillors.</p> <p><b>99.2 The following payments were approved and authorised:</b></p> <p><b>Mrs S Squire</b> December Salary (Councillors were given the details) <b>Redacted under DPA</b></p> <p><b>HMRC</b> December PAYE <b>£40.40</b></p> <p><b>North Devon Council</b> Recharge for Parish Election on 2 May 2019 <b>£607.05</b></p> <p><b>99.3 Grass Cutting Contract.</b> It was noted that the successful and unsuccessful contractors had been advised.</p> <p><b>99.4 Lengthsman Type Duties.</b> It was noted that the successful and unsuccessful contractors had been advised.</p> <p><b>99.5 2020/21 Budget Precept.</b> It was noted that the paperwork had been completed and submitted to North Devon Council.</p> <p><b>99.6 Amendment of Bank Mandate to include additional cheque signatories.</b> The Clerk is waiting for a paper copy of the Mandate to be received from the Business Banking Department.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Ch.No. 103</p> <p>Ch.No. 107</p> <p>Ch.No. 108</p>
100.	<p><b>Correspondence.</b> Notices and publications received were put on the table to see, read and go in the circulation bag.</p> <p><b>100.1 DCC.</b> Grass cutting 2020/21 Agreement paperwork received. The allocation towards the cost will be £121.</p> <p><b>Proposed by Councillor Mrs Bosley that the Clerk completes and returns the paperwork. Seconded by Councillor Lawson. Unanimously agreed.</b></p> <p><b>100.2 BT.</b> Proposal to remove the public telephone kiosk at Strand Lane due to little use. The number of calls in the last 12 months total 8.</p> <p><b>Councillor Holder proposed that the Parish Council adopt the kiosk from BT Payphones for £1, similar to the one in Adder Lane, specifically for a Tarka Trail Information Point. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Bosley. Unanimously agreed.</b></p> <p><b>100.3 DCC Highways.</b> Road closure.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>January Agenda</p>
101.	<p><b>Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk.</b></p> <p><b>101.1 Councillor Mrs Bosley.</b> To consider the suggestion of approaching Pilton PCC regarding a joint Cemetery as it is understood that Pilton Churchyard is, like Ashford's, almost full.</p> <p>Councillors were in agreement for Councillors Hughes and Mrs Bosley to meet with churchwardens and vicar to discuss the proposal.</p>	<p>PH</p>
102.	<b>Matters raised by the Chairman.</b> None.	
103.	<b>Items for the next Agenda.</b> Dog fouling.	
104.	<p><b>Date of next Meeting:</b> Thursday, 16 January 2020 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.34pm.</p> <p>District Councillor Mrs Davis gave her apologies in advance.</p>	
<p><b>Summary of Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Minutes of 21 November 2019</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Payments</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Completion and signature of DCC Grass Cutting Contribution for 2020/21</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Adoption of the Strand Lane telephone box for it to be used as a Tarka Trail Information Point</b></li> </ul>		
<p><b>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</b></p>		

Signed:

Chair of Ashford Parish Council:

Date: