

**Minutes of Ashford Parish Council Meeting Meeting held on Thursday, 19
January 2017 at 7.30pm.**

Chaired by: Councillor G Holder		Clerked by: Sue Squire
Present: Councillors J Bleach Mrs J Bosley G Holder V Lawson Mrs S Sampson from Minute No. 105 Mrs B Sandwell J Szymankiewicz District Councillor Mrs A Davis 12 Members of the public		Agenda: - Apologies Approval of the Meeting held on 8 December 2016 Matters Arising Correspondence Finance Maintenance Matters raised by the Chairman Matters raised by Board Members / Clerk Date of next meeting
		Action:
102.	<p>Items raised by members of the public. The Chairman advised that planning representations would be taken ahead of the Application being considered and parishioners were requested to keep representations to 3 minutes and not duplicate what others had already said.</p> <p>102.1 Blocked Drains. A member of the public was concerned about a drain in Strand Lane which had been blocked, reported to DCC Highways and subsequently cleared. This drain becomes blocked on a regular basis and there was concern it would become blocked again. The Clerk to email District Councillor Mrs A Davis for her to make representations.</p>	Clerk
103.	Apologies. County Councillor Mrs C Chugg, PCSO D Kingdon.	
104.	Declarations of Interest. Councillor Holder and Mrs S Sampson declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 108.1 – Planning. 62296 – Erection of 2 open market dwellings at land off Meadowside, Ashford.	
105.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 December 2016. Approved and signed as a correct record.	
106.	<p>Reports:</p> <p>106.1 Police. When sending his apologies, PCSO Kingdon advised there were no crimes to report.</p> <p>106.2 County Councillor Mrs C Chugg. Apologies given.</p> <p>106.3 District Councillor Mrs A Davis suggested that Councillors discuss the Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation and this to be an Agenda item for the February meeting.</p> <p>Two other consultations were spoken about, namely: the new foot and cycle bridge for Barnstaple town centre at the Anchor Wood development and call for traveler sites.</p> <p>The Planning Application for 25 houses at Strand Lane has been given an extension to end of month and to date the Planning Officer has not received any correspondence.</p> <p>106.4 Councillor V Lawson. Defibrillator Check. In order.</p>	Feb Agenda
107.	<p>Matters Arising.</p> <p>107.1 In-house Training. This had taken place on Monday, 16/1/17 in The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple at 7pm, delivered by Lesley Smith, County Secretary, Devon Association of Local</p>	

	<p>Councils. A total of 15 Councillors attended. Invoices have / are being sent to the other Parishes who have Councillors attending: Bishops Tawton, Chittlehamholt, Warkleigh & Satterleigh, Georgeham; East Worlington; Horwood Lovacott and Newton Tracey; Kentisbury & Trentishoe, Parkham; Templeton, West Down. There had been good feedback as a result of the training.</p> <p>107.2 Code of Conduct Training. The Monitoring Officer had agreed to deliver this on either 13 or 20 March. There is the possibility that other training will be offered during the same session and this may include Data Protection.</p> <p>107.3 Planning Training. The Devon Association of Local Councils had listened to the representations from Ashford Parish Council and are delivering training in South Molton on Thursday, 9/3/17. Councillors Bleach and Szymankiewicz had been booked in at a total cost of £72.00 (inclusive of VAT).</p> <p>107.4 Parish Council Website. Various items have been / are being sent for inclusion.</p> <p>107.6 Data Protection. The Clerk had made some progress by speaking to an officer who could assist with Freedom of Information Act requests. The Data Protection Officer had contacted the Clerk and given some very useful information. He was willing to attend a Parish Council meeting, the most likely date being 16 February. Because of this, Councillors felt that the meeting should start at 7pm.</p> <p>107.7 Brown Tourist Sign on the A361. It was noted that the sign had been obscured relating to the Ring O' Bells at Prieford.</p> <p>107.8 Public Rights of Way Queries regarding responsibility for picking up twigs and debris after hedge trimming and copyright permission for Ashford Public Rights of Way map on the website. Despite a number of emails asking for clarification, a reply had not been received. The Clerk will continue to persevere in getting an answer.</p> <p>107.9 Road Warden Scheme. Councillors decided to shelve this project for the time being until further clarification had been received from DCC.</p> <p>107.10 Community Councillor Grant for work on the Parish Council notice board and bus shelters. This had been submitted to North Devon Council.</p>	Clerk
108.	<p>Planning & Planning Correspondence.</p> <p>108.1 The following Applications were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 62296 – Erection of 2 open market dwellings at land off Meadowside, Ashford. <p>It was understood that the developer is to address member of the Planning Committee on 9 February on the rules and policies associated with local needs. Councillors Bleach and Szymankiewicz have requested to be present and the Clerk is waiting for confirmation of this. District Councillor R Bonds, the developer and present at the meeting advised this was incorrect.</p> <p>Councillors Holder and Mrs Sampson declared a Prejudicial Interest, left the room and did not take part in the discussion decision or voting thereon.</p> <p>This item was chaired by Councillor Lawson, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Members were advised that this Application had to go to the Planning Committee as the applicant is a District Councillor.</p> <p>The Chairman allowed members of the public to speak at this part of the meeting and the following representations made:</p>	

- There was disappointment there was no provision for local needs housing. It was advised that the criteria had been met.
- A parishioner living opposite the site reluctantly supported the revised plan as it reduces the density of the number of buildings on the site to what is in keeping with Meadowside. It would have less impact on lives as there would be less vehicle movements and more parking for the houses meaning there would be no parking in the narrow cul de sac. With just two houses, it would be hoped that the building process would be shorter and less disruptive.

The applicant was asked questions for clarification purposes.

The properties were on 3 levels and there was concern they would over look other properties.

Answer: The properties would be well in excess of the minimum meterage between buildings and the ridge height was the same. The room in the roof is a reading room and not a bedroom.

Councillor Mrs Bosley proposed to recommend refusal on the grounds of the fact that it is an exception site and there is no provision for local needs housing which meets the criteria required for an exception site.

In effect it is two 3 storey buildings which would encroach on the privacy of the properties below and the height and density of the proposed properties constitute overdevelopment in Meadowside. Seconded by Councillor Szymankiewicz.

Vote: To refuse. 3. Carried.

To approve. 0

Abstentions. 2

Councillors Holder and Mrs Sampson returned to the meeting.

Councillor Holder took the chair.

- **62341 – Variation of Condition 8 (Display/Storage) 14 (Parking & Access) & 17 (Display/storage) attached to Planning Permission 29663 to allow amended layout at Wyevale Garden Centre, Strand Lane, Ashford.**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to speak. There were concerns about access and 40' articulated lorries being able to turn.

Councillor Szymankiewicz proposed the following response:

Ashford Parish Council welcome the application to deal with the breach of the Conditions by moving the stock to the lower part of the site.

However, it was disappointing to note that despite the application heading including the words 'parking and access' no attempt has been made to improve the main access to the Garden Centre which is too narrow at present, making it extremely difficult for 40' articulated lorries experiencing access problems and causing obstruction on the approach road which in turn has an effect on motorists using Strand Lane. This problem still needs to be addressed and it is suggested that a Highways Engineer visits the site.

Seconded by Councillor Lawson. Unanimously agreed.

Any Planning Applications received after the Agenda was published. None.

108.2 Planning Correspondence:

108.2.1 Planning Application 59288 (Long Lane) and in a Conservation Area. Following a site visit by North Devon Council Planning Committee on 10/1/17 and the Application being considered by the Planning Committee on 11/1/17, it was understood that the applicant had withdrawn the Application and would be submitting a new Application in due course.

A member of the public was allowed to speak and they thanked all residents who attended the site meeting, feeling it was important to show a high level of interest to the Planning Committee.

Clerk

	<p>At the Planning Committee meeting, the Chairman made a point of thanking the people of Ashford for a friendly and warm welcome.</p> <p>Mr M Kelly, Planning Manager, had said that a new Application would need to be a full Application, not an outline one as this one was.</p> <p>108.2.2 Enforcement 10063 – Wyevale Garden Centre. Application 62341 refers in part.</p> <p>108.2.3 The following North Devon Council Decision Notice was noted: APPROVAL for 62165 – First floor extension to dwelling (over garage) at Crofton, 13 Meadowside, Ashford.</p>																	
109.	<p>Finance.</p> <p>109.1 Balances. NatWest Current Account as at 20/12/16: £10.00 NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 9/12/16: £1,531.48 NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 10/1/17: £1,455.95</p> <p>109.2 The following payments were approved and authorised:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Mrs S Squire</td> <td>January 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>£10.70</td> <td>£96.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>December PAYE</td> <td></td> <td>£20.60</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</i> £158.33 (4th payment)</p> <p>Barnstaple Town Council Hire of The Castle Centre, Barnstaple on 16/1/17 £ 45.00</p> <p>Mr S Wightman Grass Cutting Invoice for the month of October 2016 £180.89 <i>On the morning of the meeting, an email was received from Mr S Wightman asking if the Council would like him to continue as last year's cost and specification for the new season.</i> Proposed by Councillor Mrs Sandwell that Mr Wightman is asked to continue as he had suggested. Seconded by Councillor Szymankiewicz. Unanimously agreed. Diary note to be made to go out to Tender in October 2017.</p> <p>109.3 Grass Cutting Contract Agreement. The paperwork had been received for signature. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Sampson that the Chairman should sign this. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Sandwell. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>109.4 Six monthly accounts to audit. The duplicate Bank Statement had been received and the Clerk advised she was now in a position to deliver the accounts to Councillors Mrs Bosley and Lawson to check.</p>	Mrs S Squire	January Salary net of PAYE	£82.71			Contribution towards broadband	£3.00			Photocopying	£10.70	£96.41	HMRC	December PAYE		£20.60	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Ch.No.971 Ch.No.972</p> <p>Ch.No.973 Ch.No.974 Ch.No.975</p> <p>Clerk to advise Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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110.	<p>Correspondence. Notices and publications received were put on the table to see, read and go in the circulation bag.</p> <p>110.1 DCC Highways. The Clerk reported flooding and blocked drains in Strand Lane following representations received and given the reference number W17966876.</p> <p>110.2 Kier. Notification of road closure to complete South West Water utility works on Strand Lane from 24/4/17 – 26/4/17. Opposite the cottage to opposite Brambleside.</p> <p>110.3 Highway Community Enhancement Fund. Details had been circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>110.3 Braunton Parish Council. <i>Received after the Agenda had been published.</i> Reply from the Defence Infrastructure Organisations in response to representations made about the closure of the Chivenor Base.</p>																	
111.	Matters raised by Councillors /Clerk.																	

	<p>111.1 Cyber Security Training. Councillor Bleach and the Clerk are booked to attend on 25/1/17 in Exeter. The course was free to attend and the Clerk will share the mileage costs between her Parishes.</p> <p>111.2 Clerk's Leave. 9 – 15 February 2017 inclusive.</p> <p>111.3 Councillor Szymankiewicz spoke about the proposed cuts to services at North Devon District Hospital. Maximum contributions from the public were sought as the fight will only be won if there is an upsurge from the population. Leaflets were available for distribution. Councillor Szymankiewicz had noted from Mr Peter Heaton-Jones MP website that his 10 priorities for 2017 does not include the Hospital.</p> <p>District Councillor Mrs Davis advised that there were a number of rumours going around.</p> <p>111.4 Councillor Mrs Sandwell advised that the blocked drain in Strand Lane had caused flooding again to her property. She was advised that the matter had been discussed before she arrived at the meeting. Minute No. 102.1 refers. Councillor Mrs Sandwell advised that the hump at the top of their drive, promised by the Neighbourhood Highway Manager a year ago to help alleviate flooding, had still not been done.</p> <p>It was advised the best way of reporting issues to DCC (potholes, blocked drains, fallen trees, faulty street lights) was via the interactive website and the details to be included on the website. Members of the public could follow this and report issues themselves instead of waiting for the next Parish Council Meeting.</p> <p>111.5 Councillor Mrs Bosley felt the Parish Council was not working as a team and this was supported by Councillor Mrs Sampson. They felt it would be helpful to be copied into emails so that all Councillors are aware of issues being discussed.</p> <p>A member of the public pointed out there is no forum for communication between the residents and the Parish Council and it has been a residents group that has been in communication. Another member of the public felt there is not often the opportunity for dialogue.</p> <p>Councillor Lawson replied that Parish Councillors have a duty to understand the concerns of the Parish and have to consider in a fair way any Planning Application that comes before the Parish Council.</p>	JB / Clerk
112.	<p>Date of next Meeting: Thursday, 16 February 2017 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. The Meeting ended at 9.16pm.</p>	
<p>Summary of Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minutes of 15 December 2016 ➤ Planning ➤ Payments ➤ Mr S Wightman to continue grass cutting at various locations ➤ To proceed with a Grass Cutting Agreement with DCC 		
<p>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</p>		
Signed: Chair of Ashford Parish Council:	Date:	