

**Minutes of Ashford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 19 April 2018 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.**

<b>Chaired by: Councillor G Holder</b>		<b>Clerked by: Sue Squire</b>
<b>Present: Councillors</b>  <b>J Bleach</b> <b>Mrs J Bosley</b> <b>G Holder</b> <b>V Lawson</b> <b>Mrs S Sampson</b> <b>Mrs B Sandwell</b> <b>J Szymankiewicz</b>  <b>County Councillor Mrs C Chugg</b> <b>District Councillor Mrs A Davis</b> <b>27 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 15 March 2018 Urgent items raised by the discretion of the Chairman Reports Matters Arising Planning & Planning Correspondence Finance Correspondence Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk Items for the next Agenda Date of next meeting
		<b>Action:</b>
<b>147.</b>	<b>Items raised by members of the public.</b> The Chairman advised Standing Orders would be cancelled for Planning and representations would be heard at the time of consideration.	
<b>148.</b>	<b>Apologies.</b> None.	
<b>149.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b> The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to declare an interest. Representations had been received that it was felt a Councillor should have declared an interest at the last meeting.  <b>Councillor Szymankiewicz declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 153.1. Village Green outside the Church Hall.</b>  <b>Councillor Bleach declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 155.2 Finance. Reimbursement for data registration fee (Information Commissioners Office).</b>	
<b>150.</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2018.</b> <b>Approved and signed as a correct record.</b>	
<b>151.</b>	<b>Urgent items raised at the discretion of the Chairman.</b> None.	
<b>152.</b>	<b>Reports:</b> <b>152.1 Police.</b> The April Newsletter had been circulated / sent for inclusion on the website.  <b>152.2 County Councillor Mrs C Chugg spoke on the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Broadband connectivity. 24,000 premises in Devon were awaiting connection</li> <li>o Gambling in North Devon is not considered a public health issue</li> <li>o Task group looking at the performance of Skanska who won the highways contract from South West Highways</li> <li>o It is hoped to have 20mph areas despite it is not government policy</li> <li>o Potholes being reported, filled and refilled. A new type of machine is hoped to be used</li> </ul>	

- shortly. Cyclists are experiencing problems slipping on the smooth road.
- Speed sign at the end of the dual carriageway is on the Agenda to be repaired
  - There is a new piece of play equipment at Mowstead Play Park, Braunton of a pirate ship

**152.3 District Councillor Mrs A Davis spoke about the following:**

- A plastic free North Devon Consortium has been formed
- Local Plan. The Inspector had confirmed the document shows there is a 5 year land supply
- Positive feedback had been given in a survey on the 3 weekly rubbish collection trial
- Tarka Tram Link. A meeting has been arranged to give more information.

**152.4 Councillor V Lawson.** Defibrillator Check. A warning notice had been seen which could mean the batteries require replacing. Further enquiries to be made.

VL

**152.5 Neighbourhood Plan.** Councillor Szymankiewicz spoke about the three Drop In Sessions. The responses form a crucial part of the evidence base of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- The turnout was good and exceeded expectations.
- 68 residents attended and 6 young people aged 9 – 14.
- 43 Ashford households were represented. The 4 non residents views would not be included in the Report.
- 92 comment labels were collected giving details of what parishioners would or would not like to see.
- 25 people were interviewed including 3 young people.
- After the sessions, 6 emails had been submitted and included in the Report.
- Members of the Working Party did not submit any of their comments until after the final session and before the analysis was started.

The comments received are important and reflect a wide diversity of views which made recording the data and writing the Report a more complex exercise than anticipated which had taken longer than the Working Party would have liked.

The Working Party want to ensure it is right and hope that the Report will be available shortly.

It has been temporarily decided not to progress with the landowner and householder questionnaire.

One member has resigned from the Working Party and on behalf of Members, thanked the ex-Member for all the hard work they had done and the commitment shown in developing the Plan. The time given and the quality and quantity of the work is appreciated.

Finance. A spreadsheet was circulated detailing the income and expenditure. VAT is recoverable. Unspent grant money is to be returned.

The Working Party is now in a position to apply for a Locality Grant from Groundwork UK for 2018/19 of up to £7,861. A maximum of £9,000 is entitled for a Neighbourhood Plan and the difference of £1,139 has been spent to date.

The Chairman expressed his surprise and disappointment that a Member of the Working Party had resigned, who had brought a lot to the table.

The Chairman cancelled Standing Orders and asked the Working Party Member about the Report which he had been working on.

He explained this was his line of business and his intention was to produce a full and frank Report. The Working Party had advised it was not acceptable.

The Chairman, conscious that the Report is ultimately for the Parish Council asked the ex-Working Party Member to finish the Report, of which 75% had been completed.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that letters had not been sent to landowners, some of whom had informed him they had not been approached.

	<p>Councillor Bleach stated that the ex Working Party Member had worked in isolation which caused various concerns to the Working Party.</p> <p>The ex Working Party Member responded by saying he was made to sound unreasonable and stubborn and gave the reason for his resignation.</p> <p>Standing Orders were reinstated.</p>	
<p><b>153.</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p><b>153.1 Village Green Clarification outside the Church Hall.</b>  <b>Councillor Szymankiewicz declared a Prejudicial Interest, left the room and did not take part in the discussion.</b>  Councillor Holder advised he had looked at the details in the Church Council's possession which confirmed there was no ownership of the land where disabled parking had been suggested. In these circumstances, the issue would not proceed.</p> <p><b>153.2 Grit Bin by Meadowside.</b> It was noted that the Clerk had requested this is re-filled.</p> <p><b>153.3 Verge at the entrance to Meadowside.</b> Councillor Holder confirmed that the gas company had reinstated the area.  Councillor Mrs Bosley gave details of a gas leak which would be attended to.</p> <p>Two or 3 kerbstones have been broken. To be an item on the May Agenda.</p> <p><b>153.4 Section 106 Funding for open space.</b> District Councillor Mrs Davis advised that a specific project would need to be identified for the details to go before North Devon Council Executive Committee.</p> <p>A Working Group to be agreed at the May meeting. Councillors Holder and Mrs Bosley, County Councillor Mrs Chugg and the Parish Clerk expressed interest in comprising the Group. Other parishioners were also willing to be on it and the Group would welcome input from children.</p> <p><b>153.5 North Devon Biosphere Map.</b> It was noted that the map had been returned to North Devon Biosphere.</p> <p><b>153.6 P3 Survey Forms.</b> These had again been sent to Councillor Lawson who had completed the Report which the Clerk would submit.</p> <p><b>153.7 Community Governance Review.</b> It was noted that this Council's response has been submitted, advising that the number of Councillors and boundary of the Parish should be unchanged.</p> <p><b>153.8 Points raised by members of the public during Public Participation.</b> This item had been raised at a GDPR course the Clerk and Councillor Bleach attended on the day of the meeting where it had been confirmed by the trainer that all communications from parishioners must remain anonymous.</p>	<p>May Agenda</p> <p>May Agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>154.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning &amp; Planning Correspondence.</b></p> <p><b>154.1 Application 63345 – Demolition of existing buildings / structures &amp; use of land for the stationing of up to 116 static holiday caravans with recreation area; construction of new clubhouse (D2) incorporating reception, swimming pool, entertainments room, amusement arcade, shop (A1), store (B8) &amp; associated facilities including children's play area &amp; equipment; realignment of site access &amp; associated highways works; landscaping.</b>  <b>The status of this application is re-publicise / consult period.</b></p> <p>The Chairman cancelled Standing Orders for members of the public to make representations which focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The number of caravans</li> </ul>	

- Three major areas of non compliance – traffic, flood risk, policies
- 90 objections had been raised by members of the public which had not been properly addressed such as noise and light pollution and impact on the village
- The proposal would cause damage to the landscape
- The Local Plan seeks to protect the valley and the open character of the estuary

District Councillor Mrs Davis spoke about pedestrian safety and felt the Parish Council's previous response would hold. Furthermore the applicants do not have sufficient land for a roundabout to be constructed.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Councillor Szymankiewicz understood that the landowner had not been approached in connection with the proposal for a pedestrian path cycle path from the caravan site along the bottom of a field.

**Proposed by Councillor Szymankiewicz to recommend refusal on the following grounds:**

**Ashford Parish Council stand by its original recommendation with additional wording on bullet point 7.**

**Ashford Parish Council wish to recommend refusal on the following grounds:**

§ **The impact that this development proposal would have on Ashford cannot be underestimated. There is already a caravan park on the southern edge of Ashford boundary and this Planning Application triples the number of caravans, compared to what are currently there, from roughly 100 to 300.**

§ **Not only that, it more than doubles the area of land that the caravans will be sitting on, creating an unacceptable visual impact of closely packed caravans drifting up the hillside, visible from the village, from the A361, from the Tarka Trail and from the surrounding countryside on both sides of the River Taw, which is a protected estuarine area.**

§ **The development plan also introduces a recreational area right on the boundary with some properties in the village.**

§ **It proposes development of footpaths into and through the village.**

§ **There will be a new larger clubhouse with a swimming pool, an entertainments area, an amusement arcade, a shop, a store. This illustrates not just an expansion of numbers in the existing caravan park. This is the introduction of a holiday entertainments park with all of the noise, traffic and disturbance which accompanies it.**

§ **The huge Entertainment Centre will be adjacent to the A361 and will dominate the site. It will be highly visible from both sides of the estuary and be a substantial intrusion into the countryside.**

§ **The Entertainment centre and many of the caravans will be adjacent to the Care Home and create considerable noise and light pollution to the vulnerable residents. In the new plan the clubhouse machinery has been moved closer.**

§ **They quote 27 new job positions which is not substantiated and is most likely highly overstated.**

§ **A holiday park such as is being proposed should not be situated right on top of a small rural settlement. Mixing holiday noise and fun with a quiet residential neighbourhood is not only an unintelligent idea, but actually contravenes planning policies in both the currently adopted**

Clerk

## Local Plan and the merging Local Plan.

§ Village residents have already complained about the noise of outdoor events over the summer which resulted in an unacceptable level of loud music over a prolonged period

§ Furthermore, the whole proposal would appear to contravene a number of planning policies – DSV3, ENV1, TRA6, ECN3 and ECN 10.

In the emerging plan, Policies ST01, ST09, ST11, ST13, DM01, DM04, DM05, DM14 and DM17.

§ The view point photos in the Environmental Impact Report give a highly distorted impression of the visual impact of the proposed development. They were taken on a dull day in very poor light that disguises the blot on the landscape that already exists.

§ The proposed access creates a substantial danger to traffic entering the site from the direction of Barnstaple. There is no safe place for vehicles, turning right into the site, to queue in the fast lane of the dual carriageway. Similarly, vehicles leaving the site, to turn right towards Braunton, will have to wait in the central reservation and join the fast lane of the dual carriageway. This is highly dangerous to site traffic and traffic on the A361.

§ Despite the comments of the developer, the proposed road markings will not deter vehicles doing a dangerous U-turn, particularly those visiting the Sunday car boot sale.

§ An open meeting for residents was held in Ashford Church Hall on 7 June 2017 following drop in sessions organised by the consultancy company. After 2 hours of discussion, around 20 different items were identified which were of concern to residents. All of these concerns were reported back to the consultancy company, none of which appear to have been addressed, or even reported, in the Planning Application now submitted.

These concerns included:

- The inappropriate and unnecessary nature of the development
- Its harm to the village, the environment and the quality of life for local residents
- Its detrimental effect to the beautiful surrounding countryside and the estuary, which is a SSSI, not only for residents but for the wider public and visitors
- The fact the Ashford is a Conservation Area and should be protected because of this
- The noise from entertainments, dogs and so many people (around 1200 to peak times)
- Extra disturbance from developing footpaths into and through the village
- Increased light pollution causing a nuisance for residents and impacting the dark rural skies
- The fact that the development would dwarf the local community
- The unacceptable visual impact of massed caravans
- The fact that any planting to improve the visual aspect will take many years to reach maturity, especially trees
- The disturbance caused to the supported living units close to the caravan park
- Increased traffic through the village – in particular Strand Lane to access Braunton and Ilfracombe
- Increased traffic through Braunton, which already has air pollution problems
- The dangerous road layout into and out of the caravan park.

At the end of the village meeting, a show of hands to assess support of the proposal was taken.

Of the 41 residents who attended the meeting, 38 were totally opposed – 93%.

At Ashford Parish Council meeting when the Application was considered, Councillors voiced serious safety concerns about the exit and entry to the caravan park which is via a dual carriageway.

	<p><b>Ashford Parish Council question the traffic survey undertaken, especially the time of year this was done and request that an independent survey is undertaken by Devon County Council.</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by Councillor Mrs Sampson. Unanimously agreed.</b></p> <p><b>154.2 Planning Correspondence.</b>  <b>The following North Devon Council Decision Notice was noted:</b>  <b>APPROVAL for Application 64560 – Extension to dwelling at Ceetaw, 9 Ashfield Close, Ashford.</b></p> <p><b>A letter from North Devon Council was noted regarding notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area in respect of reducing fir tree to ground level at Old Croft Farm, Ashfield Lane, Ashford, giving permission for the work to proceed.</b></p> <p><b>Copy correspondence was noted in respect of Application 64085 – Reserved matters application for erection of dwelling to include appearance, landscaping, layout &amp; scale (outline planning permission 59288 for erection of one open market dwelling) – land off Long Lane, Ashford.</b>          District Councillor Mrs Davis read the response to the meeting.</p> <p><b><i>Received after the Agenda had been published:</i></b>  <b>Application 64687 – Approval of details in respect of discharge of Condition 4 (landscape proposals) attached to Planning Permission 62848 at land adjacent to 12 Meadowside, Ashford.</b>          It was noted that North Devon Council have determined that the details are acceptable.</p>																																								
<p><b>155.</b></p>	<p><b>Finance.</b></p> <p><b>155.1 Balances. NatWest Current Account as at 20/3/18: £10.00</b>  <b>NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 10/4/18: £6,287.58</b>          This showed that the £20,000 overpayment from Groundwork UK had been taken from the account.</p> <p>Budgetary figures for March 2018 would be circulated to Councillors.</p> <p><b>155.2 The following payments were approved and authorised:</b></p> <p><b>Mrs S Squire</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>April Salary net of PAYE &amp; Expenses (Councillors were given the details)</td> <td><b>Redacted under DPA</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>HMRC</b></td> <td>April PAYE</td> <td><b>£ 20.60</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Devon Association of Local Councils</b></td> <td>2018/19 Subscription</td> <td><b>£ 70.96</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b><u>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PAYMENTS</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Ashford PCC</b></td> <td>Hire of Hall for drop in sessions on 14, 18, and 24 March at £15 per session</td> <td><b>£ 45.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Jenson R+ Limited</b></td> <td>Printing colour flyer; printing for drop-in events</td> <td><b>£ 26.40</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Opinion Research Services</b></td> <td>Household Survey (VAT of £150 reclaimable)</td> <td><b>£900.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Geo</b></td> <td>Planning Consultant Fees and mileage (VAT of £46.84 reclaimable)</td> <td><b>£281.04</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Mr M Moss</b></td> <td>Banner</td> <td><b>£ 48.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Mr M Moss</b></td> <td>Reimbursement for plywood (£14.99) &amp; card/paper (£5.50)</td> <td><b>£ 20.49</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>CCTV Tek</b></td> <td>Data collection cameras (VAT of £55.73 reclaimable)</td> <td><b>£334.36*</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Councillor Bleach</b></td> <td>Reimbursement of Data Registration Fee in respect of cameras above</td> <td><b>£ 35.00*</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Groundwork UK</b></td> <td>Underspend for Grant NPG-03741 (£1,698 received initially)</td> <td><b>£792.91</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Groundwork UK</b></td> <td>Underspend for Grant NPG 03948 (£1,100 received initially)</td> <td><b>£865.80</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>* This amount, less the reclaimable VAT, has been allocated from County Councillor Mrs C Chugg's Locality Grant and will not have an impact on Parish Council funds, or the grants received from Groundwork UK.</b></p> <p><b>The first six payments under Neighbourhood Plan Payments are being taken from the grant from Groundwork UK.</b></p>	April Salary net of PAYE & Expenses (Councillors were given the details)	<b>Redacted under DPA</b>		<b>HMRC</b>	April PAYE	<b>£ 20.60</b>	<b>Devon Association of Local Councils</b>	2018/19 Subscription	<b>£ 70.96</b>	<b>Ashford PCC</b>	Hire of Hall for drop in sessions on 14, 18, and 24 March at £15 per session	<b>£ 45.00</b>	<b>Jenson R+ Limited</b>	Printing colour flyer; printing for drop-in events	<b>£ 26.40</b>	<b>Opinion Research Services</b>	Household Survey (VAT of £150 reclaimable)	<b>£900.00</b>	<b>Geo</b>	Planning Consultant Fees and mileage (VAT of £46.84 reclaimable)	<b>£281.04</b>	<b>Mr M Moss</b>	Banner	<b>£ 48.00</b>	<b>Mr M Moss</b>	Reimbursement for plywood (£14.99) & card/paper (£5.50)	<b>£ 20.49</b>	<b>CCTV Tek</b>	Data collection cameras (VAT of £55.73 reclaimable)	<b>£334.36*</b>	<b>Councillor Bleach</b>	Reimbursement of Data Registration Fee in respect of cameras above	<b>£ 35.00*</b>	<b>Groundwork UK</b>	Underspend for Grant NPG-03741 (£1,698 received initially)	<b>£792.91</b>	<b>Groundwork UK</b>	Underspend for Grant NPG 03948 (£1,100 received initially)	<b>£865.80</b>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Ch.No. Ch.No.</p> <p>Ch.No.</p> <p>Ch.No. Ch.No. Ch.No.</p> <p>Ch.No. Ch.No. Ch.No.</p> <p>Ch.No. Ch.No. Ch.No.</p>
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	<b>155.3 Parish Council Accounts with NatWest.</b> It was noted that the Bank had been requested to amalgamate the Business Reserve Account with the Current Account.	
<b>156.</b>	<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>156.1 North Devon Council.</b> Email regarding plastic free North Devon. Councillors had been circulated with the email.</p> <p>An annual litter pick on Saturday, 26 May. District Councillor Mrs Davis to be requested to arrange black refuse bags, gloves, high viz jackets and litter pickers.</p> <p><b>1556.2 DCC Highways. Road Closures:</b>  <b>- Thursday 26 April to Saturday 28 April and Friday 27 April to Saturday 28 April.</b> (One of these could be a duplication)  Roads affected: Braunton Road, Barnstaple between the hours of 6.30pm and 7am for patching for surface dressing 2018/19.</p>	Clerk
<b>157.</b>	<p><b>Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk.</b></p> <p><b>157.1 Councillor Mrs Bosley.</b> Water pouring from fields into Strand Lane.</p> <p><b>157.2 Councillor Mrs Bosley.</b> Complimentary comments regarding the green waste collection service</p> <p><b>157.3 Councillor Mrs Bosley.</b> Consideration of a note on grit bins requesting this is not taken by residents for their own use as the grit salt is provided for pavements and the highway.</p>	<p>GH to speak to landowner</p> <p>Clerk to send letter of thanks</p> <p>Clerk to prepare 4 posters</p>
<b>158.</b>	<b>Items for the next Agenda.</b> Those identified from these Minutes.	
<b>159.</b>	<p><b>Date of next Meeting:</b> Thursday, 17 May 2018 in the Church Hall.</p> <p>The Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 7pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) on the rising of the earlier meeting.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.04pm.</p>	
<p><b>Summary of Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Minutes of 15 March 2018</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Planning</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Payments</b></li> </ul>		
<b>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</b>		
Signed: Chair of Ashford Parish Council:		Date: