

Minutes of Ashford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 21 March 2019 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Chaired by: Councillor G Holder	Clerked by: Sue Squire	
<p>Present: Councillors</p> <p>Mrs J Bosley G Holder V Lawson Mrs S Sampson Mrs B Sandwell J Szymankiewicz</p> <p>District Councillor Mrs A Davis 9 Members of the public</p>	<p>Agenda: - Items raised by members of the public Apologies Declarations of Interest Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 and 21 February 2019 Reports Matters Arising Planning & Planning Correspondence Finance Correspondence Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk Items for the next Agenda Date of next meeting</p>	
		Action:
116.	<p>Items raised by members of the public.</p> <p>116.1 Minute No. 104.1 of the February 2019 Minutes. Regarding the development of the dwelling at Long Lane, this should read Higher Newclose Lane. The Clerk advised this had been pointed out by a Councillor and another member of the public. As a consequence, the Minutes to be signed had been corrected.</p> <p>116.2 Items 6.8 and 6.9 on the Agenda – Possible commemoration of ash die back on the verge at Meadowside. When this had been discussed at the February 2019 meeting, a tree planted in the proposed play area was mentioned. It was suggested that the verge at Meadowside may be appropriate as an alternative to the play area.</p> <p>116.3 The former Ashford Fruit Farm was looking an eyesore. District Councillor Mrs Davis would check details on the Land Registry to ascertain the current owner.</p> <p>116.4 A letter was not read in full at the last meeting and it was felt the first sentence should have been read.</p> <p>Councillor Szymankiewicz responded by advising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter had been addressed to Ashford Parish Council and was circulated • The letter claimed that Working Party Members were never investigated • The government provided funding for Neighbourhood Plans. • Working Party Members were correctly instigated by the Parish Council • Councillor Holder, as Chairman of the Parish Council, attended many Working Party meetings. • Reports were provided to the Parish Council ahead of the meeting • Nothing was done without the Parish Council’s knowledge and it was felt the good name of the Working Party had been called into question and complaints not investigated were the failure of the Parish Council. • A member of the public (1) advised that the Chairman had replied to an email sent by them, which applauded the democratic view but he did not apply this to the letter given to the Parish Council as the sender had been invited to publish their Report against the democratic view of the Working Party. 	AD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Holder responded by confirming circulation of the Report had been voted on by the Parish Council and the official complaint which had been submitted should be allowed to run its course. • A member of the public (2) pointed out that the official complaint referred to at the February 2019 meeting was about the Parish Council. This parishioner is considering an official complaint about the Working Party in connection with the use of CCTV, and recounted the details. • Member of the public (1) advised they would withdraw their complaint. They hoped nothing similar would happen again. It was the principle of the way things had been handled that they felt strongly about. • Various members of the public spoke about their differing views on the subject recalling past events which had previously been covered in the Minutes, on the one hand saying there had never been an investigation, another commented on forthcoming elections, the Monitoring Officer had seen all the paperwork and agreed with the Parish Council that the line of action that was taken was in order. One member of the public hoped that peace and reconciliation could be achieved. • Member of the public (3) had circulated details about the use of CCTV on private property which covered what the Information Commissioners Office had confirmed on the telephone. This parishioner took full responsibility about the CCTV issue, exonerating Councillor Bleach for any blame. • Councillor Holder concluded this section of the meeting by advising that the Monitoring Officer was uncomfortable about the situation regarding the CCTV. 	
117.	Apologies. Councillor J Bleach, County Councillor Mrs C Chugg.	
118.	Declarations of Interest. None.	
119.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2019 and 21 February 2019. Approved and signed as a correct record.	
120.	<p>Reports:</p> <p>120.1 Police. The February 2019 Newsletter had been received, circulated to Councillors and sent for inclusion on the Ashford website. No crimes had been recorded for Ashford.</p> <p>120.2 County Councillor Mrs C Chugg. Apologies given.</p> <p>120.3 District Councillor Mrs A Davis. Written Report circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting, which focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful prosecution for development without planning permission • Proposed new leisure centre • BMX track in Braunton • Annual Link Road litter pack • The final business case regarding the Link Road to go to the government in October. Contractors are yet to be appointed and in the coming Winter, trees will be removed in preparation for the work to start. Some other areas will be planted. <p>120.4 Councillor V Lawson. Defibrillator Check. In order.</p> <p>The Clerk had submitted the monthly report to South Western Ambulance Service.</p> <p>The revised Certificate in the correct name had been received. To be kept in the Correspondence</p>	

	<p>File.</p> <p>120.5 Play Area Steering Group. Notes of the first meeting held on 11 March 2019 had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting to read.</p> <p>120.6 Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Szymankiewicz had requested that this item is included on the Agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Holder had noticed that the Neighbourhood Plan details had been removed from the website. No one present had given permission for it to be deleted. Councillor Szymankiewicz will make further enquiries with the webmaster.</p> <p>The website layout to be an Agenda item for the April meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that letters of reply had been sent as a result of the representations made at the February Meeting.</p>	<p>JS April Agenda</p>
<p>121.</p>	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>121.1 Proposed Play Area. As a result of search details carried out by the Parish Council's solicitor, it had been discovered that the land is registered as a public highway.</p> <p>The Clerk had contacted Devon County Council's Land and Estates Department who had replied giving the following options:</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Highway Officer has confirmed that the land is recorded as highway maintainable at public expense. Before the land could be used as a play area it would have to be stopped up to remove the highway rights. There are two ways in which this can be done: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You apply to the County Council to make an application on your behalf to the Magistrates Court under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980. The cost of this would be approximately £3000.00. 2. An application under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as part of a planning application. I believe the cost is substantially lower. <p>We can't guarantee the outcome of any application since it depends very much on member approval, consultation responses and the Magistrates.</p> <p>I would advise that you contact the Neighbourhood Highway Officer who may be able to advise you further.</p> <p>The details to be sent to the solicitor for him to ask the question of the company from whom the Parish Council was negotiating the sale as to whether they wished to dispute the details.</p> <p>A leaflet incorporating a play area survey to all households would be put on hold, as would Steering Group meetings until the situation had been clarified.</p> <p>121.2 Cemetery for Ashford with car park. Letters to landowners had been emailed / posted.</p> <p>The landowner contacted in the first instance had requested a reply which was drafted for the Clerk to send.</p> <p>121.3 Development at Long Lane. Following representations from a member of the public, an email had been sent to the landowner for a</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>response. The details had been sent by the landowner to the architect for a full reply to be given at the meeting and the details were read. As this was not a Parish Council matter, the details were handed to the parishioner for information.</p> <p>121.4 Taw Torridge Estuary Forum. Councillor Holder confirmed that details have been forwarded to Councillor Szymankiewicz.</p> <p>121.5 Tarka Holiday Park. It was noted that confirmation had been requested that the site closed down for the two weeks in question. A reminder to be sent.</p> <p>121.6 Ashford Conservation Area. To follow up representations made at the February Meeting regarding a character appraisal.</p> <p>The Conservation Officer to be invited to a meeting to give details of the progress so far. District Councillor Mrs Davis reminded the meeting this was a District Council matter who would carry out any consultations as necessary.</p> <p>121.7 Possible Parish Plan for Ashford. It was noted that Mr Martin Rich of Devon Communities Together would give a presentation to the village on Tuesday, 11 June in the restaurant at St John's Garden Centre commencing at 7.30pm. All parishioners were invited to attend. The Clerk had checked with St John's who had generously agreed to allow their premises to be used free of charge.</p> <p>121.8 Tarka Country Trust – Ash Dieback Commemoration Project. A reply had been received over concerns of possible ash die back being brought into the village which suggested that other types of tree were planted. District Councillor Mrs Davis informed that ash dieback cannot be stopped and it will kill 99% of Ash trees. As mentioned in her Report, trees on the Link Road will be removed for the improvements, many of these being Ash. This item no longer to be an Agenda item.</p> <p>121.9 Verge at Meadowside. It was noted that County Councillor Mrs Chugg had been requested to organize a site meeting with the Neighbourhood Highway Technician to discuss planting of Spring bulbs. A parishioner had suggested that instead of bulbs, wild flowers were planted. Nothing could be arranged until the site meeting had taken place.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>122.</p>	<p>Planning & Planning Correspondence. 122.1 The following Planning Application had been received after the Agenda was published.</p> <p>It was resolved to recommend approval.</p> <p>122.2 Planning Correspondence. There was no Planning Correspondence to consider.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>123.</p>	<p>Finance. 123.1 Balances. NatWest</p> <p>Budgetary figures for February 2019 were tabled.</p> <p>123.2 The following payments were approved and authorised:</p> <p>Mrs S Squire March Salary (Councillors were given the details) Redacted under DPA This include overtime for October - November and January – February There would also be overtime in respect of February – March to be claimed at the April meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Ch.No. 068</p>

