

**Minutes of the Ashford Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 18th July 2024 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall,
St Peter's Church, Ashford**

Present: Cllrs P Hughes (Chairman), J Bosley, G Holder, B Kettle and V Lawson and M Withey

Mrs J Mills, Parish Clerk
Cllr R Knight, NDC
10 Members of the public

2407/23

Apologies

Cllr K Furse and County Cllr P Maskell

2407/24

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hughes declared personal interests as follows

- Planning application 78883
- Request for funding for Churchyard Maintenance
- Payment (reimbursement of sign purchase)

2407/25

Public Participation

Members of the public wished to speak at the planning item

2407/26

Minutes

It was **resolved**, to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 as a correct record after amending Public Participation to read "although the legal matter is still outstanding there has been no further contact between the solicitors. The financial consequences of the claim caused an increase in insurance premiums".

Proposed: Cllr Kettle, seconded: Cllr Withey, (all in favour)

2407/27

County Councillor Report

Cllr Maskell had sent her apologies and a report which is attached to the minutes was read out.

2407/28

District Councillor Report

Cllr Knight advised that NDC is working with TDC on the joint local plan and both councils are working well together. He attended Full Council the previous evening and will circulate relevant reports. Prior to the General Election he had walked around the Parish. He thought an annual surgery at the garden centre to meet residents was a good idea.

2407/29 **Highways Issues**

- a) Give way signs Springfield Cross
These have been re-instated but the road marking is still awaited
- b) Flood/Mud on the road on the top road to Heanton
Patching has been done near the site of the flood and a grating appears to have been tarmacked over. Most of the mud has not been cleared which will cause the drain to block at some point.
- c) Hedge cutting by DCC and to consider if APC should provide further cuts
Whilst some work has been done by DCC, there are still some areas requiring attention.
It was **resolved** to engage a contractor to complete further work up to a maximum of £120 expenditure, to include the top part of Strand Lane (Ashfield Lane to the top road)
Proposed: Cllr Withey, seconded: Cllr Holder, (all in favour)
- d) State of highway Ashfield Lane
It is understood that scalplings have been promised, but are still awaited.
It was agreed to send a letter regarding highways issues to DCC

2407/30 **Payment and Receipts**

It was **resolved** to approve payments and receipts.

Proposed: Cllr Bosley, seconded: Cllr Lawson (all in favour)

Cllr Hughes declared a personal interest: in signage

		VAT
P Hughes, reimbursement for signs	£203.99	£34.00
M J Baker invoices x 2 4278 & 4282 (grass cutting)	£240.00	
Ashford Church Council (Hall Hire)	£20.00	
Western Web (renewal cloud email account)	£86.40	£14.40
Mrs M J Mills pyt on acct June and July	£200.00	
North Devon Council (recharge Parish Clerk)	<u>£1230.86</u>	<u>£5.14</u>
Total	£1981.25	£53.54

2407/31 **To receive an update on the current situation with the defibrillator**

Members were advised of the difficulties of the installation; it was suggested that a solar panel could provide the power and a refund from National Grid should be obtained.

It was **resolved** that the Chair and Vice-Chair should proceed with the purchase and installation within a budget of £600.

Proposed: Cllr Holder, seconded Cllr Kettle (all in favour)

2407/32 **To consider an appeal for funding for Churchyard Maintenance**

Cllr Hughes declared a personal interest:

It was **resolved** to make a donation of £200.00

Proposed: Cllr Lawson, seconded: Cllr Holder, Cllr Hughes abstained

2407/33 **To receive an update on clearance of the path adjacent to the Garden Centre**

Members were advised that the path has been cleared by the Garden Centre and an excellent job has been done. It was hoped the good relationship between the Parish Council and the Garden Centre under the new Manager could continue.

2407/34 **To note the position of the pedestrian warning signs**

It was agreed to note

2407/35 **To consider if APC wishes to support the bill regarding lithium batteries**
(information sent by e-mail)

It was **resolved** not to proceed with support

Proposed: Cllr Lawson, seconded Cllr Hughes (all in favour)

2407/36 **To receive an update on internet banking**

Members were advised that the Locum Clerk has been removed and work is progressing to allow the new Parish Clerk to operate online banking.

2407/37 **To confirm the date of the next meeting**

The date is confirmed as Thursday 19th September 2024

2407/38 **To consider refurbishment of the telephone box library**

The seat beside the telephone box has been tidied. Cllr Hughes and Cllr Lawson will proceed with sanding and repainting of the telephone box.

Residents are invited to assist.

2407/39 **Planning**

Planning Applications: to consider

Application 78883 (information sent by e-mail)

Erection of local occupancy dwelling at Land adjacent 5 Meadowside Ashford Barnstaple Devon EX31 4BS Grid Ref: 253184; 135081

Applicant Ms Clare Sampson

Cllr Hughes declared a personal interest and left the meeting

It was **resolved** to suspend Standing Orders to enable members of the public to speak. Correspondence was also read out

Proposed: Cllr Lawson, seconded Cllr Bosley (all in favour)

It was further **resolved** to re-instate Standing Orders

Proposed: Cllr Lawson, seconded Cllr Holder (all in favour)

It was **resolved** that the Parish Council is unable to make a recommendation as a consultee but concerns were raised about highways issues, infill development, foul water disposal and whether or not the proposed development is within the development zone.

Proposed: Cllr Withey, seconded Cllr Kettle (all in favour)

Part B

2407/40 **To resolve: that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.**

It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

Proposed: Cllr Holder, seconded Cllr Withey (all in favour)

2407/41 **To consider staff matters.**

It was **resolved** to set up a direct debit monthly to pay the salary of the Parish Clerk based on a fixed number of hours, with adjustments being made at subsequent Parish Council meetings.

Proposed: Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Lawson (all in favour)

2407/42 **To resolve to re-admit members of the public and press**

It was **resolved** to re-admit members of the public and press

Proposed: Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Lawson (all in favour)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.26pm

SignedDated.....