

DRAFT MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION AT NEXT MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ASHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd MAY 2023 AT 7.00 pm**

Present: - Councillors Bosley, Furse, Holder, Hughes, Kettle, Lawson and Withey
NDC Councillor Knight
M Isaac (Acting Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 18

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2023/2024

Councillor Davis as the previous Chair presided over the appointment of the Chair.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Hughes be appointed Chair for 2023/24.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR 2023/2024

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Lawson be appointed Vice Chair for 2023/24.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings held on 12th May 2022 and 4th April 2023 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman subject to Coronation Bench being amended to Coronation Tree in minute 25 (d) of 4th April.

**6. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE
CHAIR SHOULD BE CONSIDERD AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency raised by the Chair.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Clerk reported the following questions raised by a Parishioner:

- a) The previous Parish Council (which last met in May 2022) rejected the case for a 20mph speed limit in Ashford and also refused to consider improvements to the A361 crossing to the Tarka Trail or any other safety measures for the village. Will the new Council now include these issues as Agenda items and properly discuss them?

The Chair stated that the issues would be included on a future agenda.



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- b) Why has the Parish Council produced no Accounts for 2021-22? When will they be made public?

The Chair stated that the issue would be included on a future agenda

8. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Clerk reported that DCC Councillor Maskell had submitted a written report that would be circulated to all Councillors.

9. REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

NDC Councillor Knight stated that this was his first term as a District Councillor. He had joined the Independent Group on the District Council of which there were 13 Members and had been appointed to the Planning Committee and the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC). He was aware of the local issues and the high percentage turnout at the election.

10. INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Chair reported that there was still difficulty in getting Legal Indemnity Insurance cover. A number of Insurance Companies/Brokers had declined to insure the Council. He was however, awaiting a response from the Broker used by North Devon Council.

Councillor Kettle stated that he may be able to use his contacts to identify other possible insurers, if required.

11. BANK/FINANCIAL POSITION

The Chair reported that bank statements had been passed to Jon Triggs, NDC to prepare a set of accounts for both 2021/22 and 2022/23 together with a detailed budget for the financial year 2023/24 and a full bank reconciliation. This had just been received.

It was agreed to hold an Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting, date to be agreed, to consider and agree the Bank reconciliation, Accounts for 2021/22 and 2022/23, the budget 2023/24 and the audit submission.

12. VILLAGE LITTER PICK

The Chair reported that through contacts from Councillor Davis bags, gloves and pickers would be provided for the litter pick. Councillor Holder agreed to clean the village signs.

It was agreed that the litter pick be held on 10th June 2023.

13. PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following payment be agreed:

M. Isaac Clerk Expenses £17.15



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14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the date for the next Parish Council meeting be agreed following the Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

15. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

As a matter of urgency, it was agreed that an Appointment Committee be set up with authority to agree the terms and conditions and the appointment of a temporary/permanent Parish Clerk and that Councillors Bosley, Hughes, Kettle and Lawson be appointed to the Committee.

16. ITEM FOR FUTURE MEETING

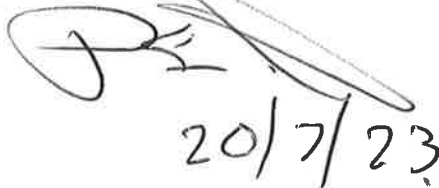
It was agreed that the submission of a NDC Community Grant application for funds towards the Village Website be considered at a future meeting.

17. THANKS

The Council recorded its thanks to:

- a) Councillor Andrea Davis for her advice and support as Ashford's North Devon Councillor over many years.
- b) Martyn Isaac (interim Parish Clerk) for his help and advice over the past 3 months.
- c) Sarah Sampson for her service to the Parish and Parish Council over many years.

Chair the meeting ended at 7.34 p.m.



Handwritten signature and date: 20/7/23