

**Minutes of the Ashford Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 7pm in the Church Hall,
St Peter's Church, Ashford**

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Locum Parish Clerk
Cllr R Knight, North Devon Council

7 Members of the public

2402/01

Apologies

Cllr V Lawson and County Cllr P Maskell.

2402/02

Declarations of Interest

None.

2402/03

Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns about being recoded during Public Participation at Parish Council meetings, it was noted that there are procedures in place.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its work including the highway works to the grass verges, new signage and purchase of a second defibrillator.

2402/04

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2024 as a correct record.

2402/05

County Councillor Report

The report is attached as Appendix A.

2402/06

District Councillor Report

Cllr Knight explained that the devolution proposals have taken quite a bit of time and are complex along with the budget setting for NDC. The Whitecross planning application has been resubmitted with further information, NDC has also requested further public consultation it is an ongoing application and probably will not come before NDC's planning meeting until May/June.

2402/07

Highway Priorities

a) To note resignation and appoint a new Snow Warden.

It was **resolved** to note the resignation and send out on the Parish Council's email network to request a volunteer to take on the role.



2402/08

Payment and Receipts

The following payment and receipts were received and approved:

Payments

27.	Clerk's Expenses (mileage)	£21.15
28.	Clerk's Invoice for hours to end of February 24	£200
29.	Ashford Church Council, Hall Hire	£20
30.	London Hearts, Defibrillator & Cabinet	£900
31.	DALC, Webinar Cllr Training	£18
Payments		£1,159.15

Receipts

None.

Receipts	£0.00
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2402/09

Calendar of meetings

Members discussed further the proposals for monthly or bi-monthly meetings, after discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to hold monthly Parish Council meetings until the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May at which point the frequency will be reviewed. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held prior the April Full Council meeting.

2402/10

Grass Cutting

Members were informed that three quotations had been sought for the cutting of the three areas within the village, as agreed at the previous meeting. Two quotations had been received and were considered. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the quotation from Mr M Baker for 10 cuts during 2024/2025 at a cost of £60 per cut and to seek a contribution from the landowner of the open area in Meadowside.

2402/11

Jubilee/Coronation Tree

Cllr Withey confirmed that the land owner had given permission for a tree and associated plaque to be planted on the open area in Meadowside.

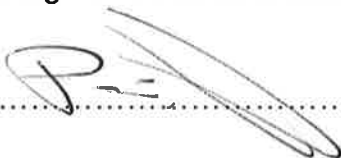
2402/12

Village Litter Pick/Clean Up

It was agreed to hold the village litter pick and clean up on the 4th May 2024 and to organise refreshments for volunteers afterwards. It was further agreed to circulate on the Parish Council's email network.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed



Dated 21/3/24

IMPORTANT NOTE – IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH ANYTHING PLEASE CONTACT THE LOCUM PARISH CLERK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NOT LATER THAN 7 DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO AGREE ANY CHANGES, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN WHO WILL DETERMINE ANY CHANGES AND INFORM THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THEIR FINAL APPROVAL.

County Councillor Report for Ashford Parish Council

February 2024

Budget Day - last Thursday at DCC and it is predicted on a 4.99% Council Tax increase. DCC will be spending some £43.8 million extra next year, mainly on the young, the old and the vulnerable, but departments will still need to save £49.6 million by doing things differently in their departments to balance this budget. The council has listened to its Scrutiny committees and has put some additional funds into drainage and into the Homelessness fund to support the District Councils for another year and to give more time to jointly look at how we will work together in the future.

Devolution - Last week, Cabinet members from Devon County Council and Torbay Council voted to support the proposed deal which would see the formation of a Combined Council Authority which would include all 8 District Councils. This will now go out for a 6 week public consultation period from Monday 12th February.

Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

It would allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Here's a summary of the highlights:

- under the proposals, the CCA would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030
- it would create a stronger relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities to provide the skilled workforce the local economy needs for the future
- it would see the Government transfer over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy
- there would be a stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people, and reduce homelessness
- it would lead to even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport
- Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025
- there would be a significant boost to high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital

The Leader of Devon County Council, John Hart, said:

"This proposed Devolution Deal is hugely significant and long-awaited. If agreed, the devolvement of funding and powers will enable us as a partnership to make a real difference to people's lives in ways that matter the most to them.



“It will enable us to tackle real challenges, such as the shortage of affordable housing, and a need for more investment to support local businesses. It will bring new training and re-training opportunities, increasing productivity and pay. And it will bring improved coordination of public transportation across Devon and Torbay.

“This proposal also puts Devon and Torbay in a new and very different relationship with Government, one where we will have a stronger voice in Whitehall and an ability to influence policy for the benefit of our residents, communities, and businesses.

Footpath issues – Simon Houghton, the Footpaths Warden for DCC visited Footpath 8, Long Lane last week following a landslip and has closed the path for emergency repairs. Residents whose gardens have been affected have been advised that they may wish to use the closure to sure up their banks.

PE
21/3/24