

**Minutes of the Ashford Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 25th January 2024 at 7pm in the Church Hall,
St Peter's Church, Ashford**

Present: Cllrs P Hughes (Chairman), J Bosley, K Furse, G Holder (from Minute No. 2401/12), and M Withey

Mrs V Woodhouse, Locum Parish Clerk

6 Members of the public

2401/01

Apologies

Cllrs B Kettle, V Lawson, County Cllr P Maskell and North Devon Cllr R Knight.

It was noted that Cllr G Holder would be late and had sent his apologies.

2401/02

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hughes declared an interest as the recipient of a payment.

2401/03

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th December 2023 as a correct record.

2401/04

County Councillor Report

The report is attached as Appendix A.

2401/05

District Councillor Report

There was nothing to report at this time.

2401/06

Highway Priorities

Members discussed the appointment of a Co-Ordinator for the Community Speedwatch it was noted that Ken Kies had agreed to the appointment of the Co-Ordinator and had spoken to the Co-Ordinator of Braunton Speedwatch as to what was involved. It was agreed to appoint Ken Kies Co-Ordinator for the Community Speedwatch.

2401/07

Payment and Receipts

The following payment and receipts were received and approved:

Payments

23. Clerk's Expenses (mileage)	£21.15
24. Clerk's Invoice for hours to end of January 24	£260
25. Ashford Church Council, Hall Hire	£20
26. Cllr P Hughes, Highway Sign	£106.44

Payments **£407.59**

Receipts

None.

Receipts **£0.00**



2401/08 **Review of Governance**

The draft documents were circulated prior to the meeting, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the amended Standing Orders and agreed to place Public Participation on the Agenda from the next meeting, however, if it caused disturbance to the Parish Council meeting it could be withdrawn.

2401/09 **Planning**

78058 Extension to garden store and conversion two storey store to ancillary accommodation at Solway Ashfield Lane Ashford Barnstaple
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Whittaker

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend Approval. However the Parish Council did not feel there was enough information and would like to see a restriction via a Section 106 agreement to prevent holiday lets or Air B & B.

2401/10 **Calendar of Meetings**

It was noted that it had been previously agreed to hold monthly meetings until the end of 2023 and to review the Calendar of Meetings for 2024 at the January meeting. Members discussed the frequency of meetings, and it was agreed, as three Cllrs were absent, to hold the next Parish Council meeting on the 15th February and to make a decision on frequency of meetings at that meeting.

2401/11 **Lengthsman Duties**

The Chairman reported that a revised quotation had been received following the last meeting where it was agreed to seek a quotation and a separate quotation to include the removal of mud in Gratton Lane. The revised quotation was £2,000 with £500 for Gratton Lane. The County Cllr had informed the Chairman that it was North Devon Council that is responsible for road sweeping and not the County Council. Concerns had been received that the whole of the village had not been included but it was noted that the routes proposed were well used, where most people walk/cycle and are narrow. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to undertake the works and include Gratton Lane.

Cllr Holder entered the meeting at 7.27pm.

2401/12 **Grass Cutting**

Members considered the grass cutting contract for 2024-2025 and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to seek quotations to cut the visibility splays at the junction of Strand Lane and the A361, (it was noted that DCC would need to be notified that the PC wish to cut these areas under contract again), also the strip of land along the bottom of Meadowside and the piece of land in Meadowside that is used by the Village, it was noted that, although this piece is privately owned, it is regularly used by the village. The owner had indicated he would consider contributing to the cost of cutting.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to move item 19 on the Agenda forward to this point.



- 2401/13 **Defibrillator**
 Members were informed that the Fullabrook CIC had agreed to funding of £1,500 towards the purchase and installation of a second defibrillator and Cllr Hughes had successfully obtained funding which would mean a purchase price of the defibrillator and cabinet of £750, leaving an outstanding cost of around £500 for the Parish Council to fund. The standing charges for electricity could be in the region of £200 a year. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the funding offers and proceed with the purchase and installation of a second defibrillator and cabinet.
- 2401/14 **Chairman to report on items of work carried out in village**
 The Chairman reported that the overhanging branches obscuring the warning sign for long vehicles at the garden centre had been cut back along with other branches beside the fence and also the remaining uncut parts of hedges in Strand Lane. Several drains in the vicinity had also been cleared.
- 2401/15 **Footpath Ashfield Lane to Ashfield Close**
 The Chairman confirmed that this had been reported to Devon County Council and would be investigated by DCC.
- 2401/16 **Landslip Long Lane Extension (Watery Lane)**
 The Chairman advised that the County Cllr had been informed and will try to arrange a site visit for all parties.
- 2401/17 **State of highway Ashfield Lane**
 The Chairman confirmed that the matter had been reported to Devon County Council, however, it was not bad enough to action. The Chairman has spoken to the County Cllr who will have a look.
- 2401/18 **Diseased tree Strand Lane**
 The Chairman confirmed that this had been reported to Devon County Council and, although a Tree Surgeon had been seen inspecting the tree no response had come from DCC.
- 2401/19 **To note sign ordered for HGVs as agreed**
 It was noted that the sign had been ordered, delivered and installed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.44pm.

Signed 

Dated 22-2-24

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

January 2024

Happy New Year to you all!

I haven't got much to report as things are only just starting to get going again at County Hall. I have my first meetings coming up at Children's Scrutiny this week and then Governance Review Board, Adult Health Scrutiny and Foster Panel next week! There will be lots of discussion about the Budget at upcoming meetings and some difficult decisions to be made. Unfortunately with no funding announcement yet for Local Authorities it's getting harder to budget for services with ever increasing costs.

On Street Parking Charges in Braunton – The consultation for these proposals has ended and I have submitted an email to the cabinet to express my objections to the proposals which I think will have a negative impact on the businesses along the Exeter Road.

Buses – Here are the updates from DCC and Stagecoach. DCC have completed their upgrades of the shelters and signage at Barnstaple bus station and they have plans to install "Real Time" signs soon to inform passengers of delays etc. I was **Buses** – I sit on DCC's Bus Forum as the North Devon representative and we met last week to hear glad to hear at North Devon Council's Strategy and Resources meeting last week that the bus station itself (which they own) will be reopened by Easter and that they are putting the café out to tender. Passengers will have access to toilet facilities again after 3 years of closure! Stagecoach reported that they have had a successful driver recruitment year and spent in excess of £2m on driver training last year. They also have 10 new diesel vehicles arriving soon and have applied to DCC for funding for electric vehicles. The £2 bus fare is extended to December and is proving very popular.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. [unclear]', written over a faint horizontal line.