

**Minutes of the Ashford Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm in the Church Hall,**  
**St Peter's Church, Ashford**

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

Mrs V Woodhouse, Locum Parish Clerk  
County Cllr P Maskell  
North Devon Cllr R Knight

10 Members of the public

2310/01

**Apologies**

Cllr V Lawson.

2310/02

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

2310/03

**Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 as a correct record.

2310/04

**County Councillor Report**

Report attached as Appendix A, County Cllr Maskell confirmed that a defibrillator cannot be attached to a lamppost and the Offshore Windfarm Planning Application is open for comment until 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 and there is a public meeting in Braunton.

2310/05

**District Councillor Report**

Cllr Knight explained that NDC is working closely with Torridge District Council on a review of the Local Plan, Torridge has been awarded funding via the levelling up fund and would really like to "re-work" the Local Plan and start again. The offshore windfarm is a big application for the area and economic development and the Marine works in Appledore will enable Northern Devon to become an economic hub with links to Morocco and Alverdiscott, the scheme is technically difficult and will require robust analysis to minimise the environmental impact. North Devon Council is currently carrying out a review of its polling stations.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to ask a question, the public were interested in the likely timescale, which was noted as the "near future", people were concerned about the route taken and Cllr Knight explained that there would be encouragement to utilise the same routes where possible to minimise damage.

The Chairman reinstated Standing Orders.



2310/06

### **Logo**

Cllr Furse explained that she had designed a new logo on the website and asked if the Parish Council would like to use as its letterhead. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to adopt the Logo and use as the Parish Council's letterhead.

2310/07

### **Registration of Village Green and Asset of Community Value**

The Chairman read out an email received by the person that had recently purchased the land at auction (it was noted that the author had given permission for the email to be read at the meeting). It was noted that the purchaser would like to speak with the Parish Council and agreed to postpone any action until that conversation has taken place.

2310/08

### **Highway Priorities**

Cllr Withey thanked residents that had responded to her request for the community's priorities, however, she had removed the article after 48hours as there had been a misunderstanding about the Parish Council's resolution for which she apologised. Cllr Withey summarised the main priorities which were:

Safety of crossing main road.  
Hedges to be cut back more often.  
A child and adult flashing sign.  
Volunteers for speed watch.  
A flashing light to slow down.  
Mirrors.

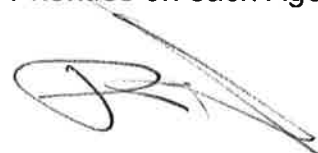
Cllr Hughes apologised for not clarifying the Council's resolution at the meeting and would ensure decisions are clarified so everyone is clear going forward. Cllr Hughes proposed that the Parish Council's email network is resurrected once Cllr Lawson returns, then a larger opinion can be obtained.

Cllr Kettle was concerned by the Government's recent announcement with regards to speed limits, he felt that the Parish Council has indication of what might be achieved.

Cllr Maskell explained that there was a suggestion that DCC's cabinet may consider allowing Parish Council's to fund 20mph speed limits the suggestion was in its infancy and no more details available at this time. Braunton PC has recently purchased a moveable flashing sign at a cost of between £3,000 - £4,000.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary:

- For the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to meet and look to resurrect the Parish Council's email network and bring back to a Parish Council Meeting.
- To write to Cllr Maskell to confirm support for a pedestrian crossing on the A361.
- To place an item relating to Highway Priorities on each Agenda.



2310/09

**Payment and Receipts**

The following payment and receipts were received:

**Payments**

14. Clerk's Expenses (mileage & postage)	£24.15
15. Clerk's Invoice for hours to end of October 23	£260
16. ICO, Annual Data Protection Fee	£40.00
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£324.15</b>

**Receipts**

1. NDC, Precept April 2023	£2,500
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£2,500</b>

2310/10

**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 following:

- Financial Regulations
- General Privacy Notice
- Privacy Notice for Staff, Cllrs and Role Holders
- Accessibility Statement for the website


2310/11

**Defibrillator**

Cllr Hughes reported that he was looking into options and prices with National Grid, an application had been made to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator and other funding sources, such as the Fullabrook Windfarm funding, were being investigated. It was agreed to bring figures and options to a future meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed .....



Dated .....

14/11/23

**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

October 2023

**Bus Issues** – Stagecoach launched their winter schedule at the beginning of September and unfortunately there were some cuts to the 21C service. In particular the 13.40 service from Barnstaple bus station was cut which caused difficulty for residents and school children and, after several days of lobbying Cllr Davis as Cabinet Member for Transport, she managed to get that service reinstated for us. The £2 fare cap has been extended to December 2024 (please note that any fare usually under £2 will still be available) and we would encourage members of the public to make use of this opportunity. The “Miles of Smiles” campaign which previously promoted the £2 cap will now be focused on getting National Bus Pass holders to get out and use them.

**Defibrillator** – I have made enquiries with the Street Light team at DCC about the possibility of using one of their lamp posts in the Meadowside entrance to site Ashford’s defibrillator so that it is in a more central location. Unfortunately they have straight policies around placing things on lamp posts and also the power supply belongs to National Grid. They suggested approaching National Grid to see if they might offer an alternative solution.

**White Cross Offshore Wind Farm Application 77576** – The consultation period for this application ends on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. I would advise the council and members of the public to look at the application and to make representations on the planning portal if they wish to do so.

[Planning application: 77576 - Council Services \(northdevon.gov.uk\)](#)