

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN OAKHILL VILLAGE HALL
ON 13TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM

Present D Barlow (DB, Chair), P Briscoe (PB), P Dennis (PD), S Emery (SE), D Gilson (DG), C Sully (CS), D Thorley (DT) and B Wells (BW).

In Attendance Cllr R Carter (District Cllr; in part) and S Vaillant (Clerk).

- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** **Action**
- 57/19 Apologies were received from R Battagel (RB) and E Lewis (EL).
- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**
- 58/19 No requests for dispensation was made.
C Sully declared an interest in Planning Application 2019/0402/TCA.
- AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD**
- 59/19 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2019 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held with the following amendments:
- Item 46/19; last cheque number should read 869.
 - Item 47/19; should read '(...)' to make it initially free to local residents.'
- MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (where not dealt with later)**
- 60/19 (157/18) Registration of playing field with Fields in Trust & raised garden bed in High Street – Clerk to confirm agreement of costs and speak to SALC. Ongoing. **SV**
- 61/19 (12/19) Request for a defibrillator at the Village Hall – Shape Mendip bid was submitted but was unfortunately unsuccessful. SV to respond to Andy North's letter. **SV**
- 62/19 (35/19) Litter Pick up day – Clerk has registered the Village Event and Chair has put an entry in the magazine. Village Hall Committee wondering if they should provide volunteers and the Chair confirmed the event was open to the general public.
- 63/19 Progress of crossing in the High Street – Clerk read update from Juan Gomez, which was slightly confusing. Clerk to obtain clarification. **SV**
- 64/19 (33/19) Truespeed – The works in the High Street are still not finished; will ask Mike to order a survey once it is done. **DB/SV**
- 65/19 (34/19) Temporary road closure A367 Fosse Way and A367 Bath Road – The works are finished but it was noted that some areas did not seem to have been resurfaced.
- DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**
- 66/19 R Carter (District Cllr) reported as follows:
- Green spaces in Mendip – MDC are asking parishes for their help in identifying any areas that are not being used.
 - The last Parish Forum was very well attended and was a very useful evening; well worth attending.
 - A Brexit contingency fund has been ear-marked.
 - Planning training is scheduled for after the elections in May for all new or interested councillors.
 - A trend of people putting applications for sheds with the intention of then applying for conversion after a short time has been noted at MDC.
 - Traffic travelling from Stoke St Michael to Oakhill via Fosse Road is still a problem. Will speak to Mike Pullin about this.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

67/19 Zion Hill, Ashwick, to be closed from 25th March 2019 for 5 days to enable drainage works to be carried out – Noted.

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2019

68/19 Clerk tabled two quotations which were compared to previous contracts. PB proposed to accept IDVerde's quotation (PD seconded, unanimously agreed). Clerk to respond. **SV**

OAKHILL BUZZ PROJECT

69/19 Following a discussion, DT proposed to allow for half of the Pound to be used to plant wild flower for the Oakhill Buzz Project, for an initial period of a year (PD seconded, 5 votes for, 2 against, 1 abstention). It was recognized that the Parish Council had tried to ask various groups to tend the Pound over the years which had been unsuccessful. That said, it was also agreed that there were some established plants which should be protected and looked after. The garden could be reinstated the following year if necessary.

GURNEY SLADE DITCH

70/19 Chair read email from Gurney Slade Parish Council. It was agreed that the plans circulated and suggestion made were sensible, and that we would share half the costs. It was also agreed to suggest fencing the ditch off to protect the public. **DB**

MOURNING PROTOCOL FOR ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

71/19 PD has spoken to Rvd Priestley who would take the lead on this. Depending on how important the person is, the church would be opened with a book of condolence and and the flag flown at half mast. Should the death be of a senior member of the Royal Family, all 3 churches would be opened.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

72/19 Chair gave his apologies for the meeting to be held on 8th May.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to invite the headteacher of the Primary School to introduce himself and reinforce ties between the school and the Parish Council, as speaker at the Annual meeting. **DB**

Clerk also explained the format of the meeting following the elections.
Clerk to find out the electoral roll numbers from Mendip and circulate. **SV**

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

73/19 Chair awaiting clarification about the award, and will respond accordingly. **DB**

PLANNING

74/19 Updates on previous applications:-

2018/1849/FUL; Demolition of existing buildings on site and erection of replacement dwelling and attached building; Stable Cottage, Highcroft Lane, Gurney Slade – No decision.

2019/0039/FUL; 105' x 40' clear span agricultural building for the housing of livestock; Land at 364743 147940 Bath Road, Oakhill – Approved w/c.

2019/0085/TPO; Proposed works to trees in TPO area: T1-T5 Ash – Fell. Subject to TPO M329; Coombe End, Binegar Lane, Gurney Slade – Approved w/c.

2019/0143/FUL; Conversion of existing hangar and its related landing area to create single residential dwelling; Rookery Farm, Zion Hill to Underhill, Ashwick – No decision.

75/19 Application 2019/0402/TCA; Proposed works to a tree in a conservation area: T1 Goat Willow; fell; The Beeches, Gas Lane, Oakhill – Speaking as a member of the public, CS provided further information and explained that there was disagreement over access through the gate currently obstructed by the tree.

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As is usual for this type of application, it was unanimously agreed to leave the decision to the Tree Conservation Officer, however, the Chair encouraged residents to also respond to this application directly with Mendip to voice any concerns.

76/19 Application 2019/0243/FUL; Erection of a four bedroom detached dwelling house and associated works (renewal of lapsed planning permission 2016/0287/FUL); Kingsdon, Old Frome Road to Underhill, Gurney Slade – CS proposed to recommend approval (BW seconded, all agreed) as per previous application.

77/19 Clerk advised another application was received this morning for tree works. It was agreed to leave it to the tree conservation officer.

FINANCE

78/19 Financial Statement – Statement to 12th March 2019 was agreed and signed.

79/19 The following invoices were agreed and cheques signed:-

	£
870 S Vaillant; Clerk's Net Salary & Expenses	278.30
871 HMRC	64.20

80/19 Review of Risk Assessment and Asset Register – Postponed to next meeting.

SV

MATTERS OF REPORT

81/19 PCSO – Report received for February/March was read.

82/19 Village Hall – Andy North, acting chairman for the Village Hall, has raised the issue of slow communication with the Parish Council and wondered if there was a solution to obtain answers more quickly. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for next meeting.

SV

83/19 Village Hall Rejuvenation – A leaflet was circulated to advertise the Special General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 27th March, to which the Chair of the Parish Council was invited and the format of the meeting was discussed.

The Chair encouraged all councillors to attend and will also ask the school to publish on their newsletter.

DB

84/19 School – Chair agreed to speak to the Headteacher to find out the outcome of the consultation with parents, in order to respond to Highways.

Clerk tabled email received from local resident experiencing visibility problems exiting her driveway at school drop off and pick up times.

85/19 SALC – Clerk's briefing on 12th April, 10-1pm in Somerton.

86/19 Highways / Footpaths / GDPR – Nothing further to report.

87/19 PD suggested that it would be nice to have a village sign to welcome visitors. Chair stated there were costs involved and also regulations from highways about what can be done. This will be added to the agenda for next month.

SV

88/19 BW advised of some signage improvement at the junction of the A37 with the B3135; with big 'crossroads' signs at the approach to the junction.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

89/19 The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April 2019, at 7.30pm.