

# ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN OAKHILL VILLAGE HALL  
ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019 AT 7.30PM

**Present** D Barlow (DB, Chair), R Battagel (RB), D Gilson (DG), E Lewis (EL), D Thorley (DT) and B Wells (BW).

**In Attendance** S Vaillant (Clerk), Josh Burr (District Cllr), M Pullin (County Cllr) and 33 parishioners.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Action**

147/19 Apologies were received from S Emery (SE) and P Briscoe (PB).

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

148/19 No request for dispensation was made.  
D Barlow declared an interest in planning application 2019/1154/FUL & 1155/LBC.

149/19 The Chair advised that the order of the meeting would be altered to accommodate members of the public present. The Item relating to the Oakhill Crossing was dealt with first.

## **AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD**

150/19 The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (where not dealt with later)**

151/19 (157/18) Registration of playing field with Fields in Trust & raised garden bed in High Street – Ongoing.

152/19 (12/19) Request for a defibrillator at the Village Hall – Cheque was signed at May meeting. Action complete.

153/19 (33/19) Truespeed – The works in the High Street have been made good. Chair agreed to invite M. Pullin to have a walk around to assess the situation.

**DB**

154/19 (103/19) Whatsapp group – The group has been set up. Action complete.

155/19 (104/19) New Village Signs – This will be added to agenda of July meeting.

**SV**

156/19 (140/19) Potholes near Rookery Farm / Badgers Cross down to Gurney Slade – This was reported on Highway website. Action complete.

## **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

157/19 J Burr (Mendip District Councillor) reported as follows:

- Explained that MDC's duties are pretty much restricted to planning and licencing. He will therefore try to help with the highways by liaising with residents.
- Connecting Devon and Somerset will be discussed at an upcoming scrutiny meeting and would like feedback on this.
- Regarding policing, it is believed that an organized gang from Weston working in the area doing burglaries.
- Damaged sign on Coronation Terrace is on the relevant officer's list to be replaced.

158/19 M Pullin (Somerset County Councillor) did not have a report to give, but attended the meeting and helped with items throughout.

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## OAKHILL CROSSING

159/19

The meeting was attended by large number of parishioners. Katy Beauchamp spoke on behalf of those present and explained that residents would prefer to arrive at a practical solution to the current problem, rather than using a traffic order and sought the Parish Council's help to effect this. It was further clarified that residents are in agreement with the crossing but not the double yellow lines which will prevent some residents from parking outside their houses. It is believed that this could compound the congestion problem further down the High Street as those affected will seek to park somewhere else.

It was also noted that users of the pub, the Church and the upholstery shop also parked in this area; as well as residents of Dye Lane who do not have parking. However, it was noted that as well as children's safety when crossing in this area, the congestion could potentially affect emergency services not being able to drive past.

This could also devalue the price of properties affected.

The following was discussed:

- it is possible to revoke the traffic order?
- Do Highways have a responsibility to replace the loss of a parking space?
- Is resident-only parking a possibility?
- With some security improvement, would alternative parking at the Village Hall be acceptable?

The Chair explained how events and consultations happened, and that the Parish Council had expressed concerns and tried to have the double-yellow lines changed but Highways followed the recommendations of a safety audit and, in light of it, were not prepared to alter the plans.

Somerset County Councillor Mike Pullin explained that he was able to speak to the Director of Highways, Alyn Jones, and would present the residents letters he was handed earlier in the day and express how strongly people felt about the issue.

Following concerns over the apparent lack of consultation from Highways, the Parish Council agreed to keep residents regularly updated on this issue, via the Parish Website and social media.

## WALKING BUS

160/19

Chair gave background information for the public present. Alex Pearce, Vice Chair of the PTA, and Philip Morris, Headteacher, were in attendance. Alex confirmed that the PTA/School had spoken with the owners of the property on which the footpath is located who gave agreement in principle to improvements being made to the path to make it more practicable (with reservations until final details confirmed). Various options are being investigated.

Chair suggested that the school asked parents if anyone had expertise in costing and implementing such thing and to come back to the parish council with prices for consideration. B Battagel agreed to ask the Footpaths officer if she had any ideas.

**RB**

## BEACON HILL CROSSROADS; CONSULTATION

161/19

The Parish Council reviewed the proposed plans. M Pullin explained this was in a way a 'stop gap' solution until they were able to look at it in a more complete way or solution, which would require a much larger budget than is currently available. It is felt that the proposals to highlight the stop signs will not make any difference. It was unanimously agreed (EL proposed, DT seconded) to respond that there is disappointment that they haven't gone for a better solution like a roundabout or traffic lights.

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## HIGHWAY ISSUES IN NETTLEBRIDGE

- 162/19 J Burr and M Pullin have been looking into the parking and speeding problems in Nettlebridge, and in particular the 40mph speed limit sign, which has been moved in the past. A meeting with residents has been organized to review this. It was also pointed out that speed was an issue near Oakhill Garage, especially when emerging from a side lane.

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

- 163/19 Fosse Road from 267m East of the junction with Fosse Way, Eastward for a distance of 500m, related to works by Truespeed – Noted.

## HIGHCROFT QUARY

- 164/19 A couple of residents have concerns about the explosions disturbing livestock and asked for the Parish's assistance in requesting that notifications be issued ahead of explosions taking place. Clerk to write to owners of the quarry.

SV

## NOTICEBOARDS

- 165/19 Both noticeboards in the High Street and at the Pound will need to be refurbished. Chair asked for councillors to think if they knew of anyone able to do the work and to send contact details to Clerk.

## PLANNING

- 166/19 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 S– No decision.  
2019/0143/FUL; Conversion of hangar and its related landing area to create single residential dwelling; Rookery Farm, Zion Hill to Underhill, Ashwick – Approved w/c.  
2019/0402/TCA; Proposed works to a tree in a conservation area: T1 Goat Willow; fell; The Beeches, Gas Lane, Oakhill – TPO not required (no objection).  
2019/0243/FUL; Erection of a four-bedroom detached dwelling house and associated works; Kingsdon, Old Frome Road to Underhill, Gurney Slade – Approved w/c.  
2019/0464/TCA – No decision  
2019/0592/LBC & 2019/0591/HSE – Approved w/c.  
2019/0585/FUL – No decision.  
2019/0648/FUL – Approved w/c.

- 167/19 2019/1154/FUL & 1155/LBC; Alterations to the existing house. Use of historic dairy as a holiday let. Change of use of the sheep barn from agricultural use to allow holiday let use; Little Oakhill, Brewery Lane, Oakhill – DG proposed to recommend approval (DT seconded, unanimously agreed) as the plans propose a sensible re-use and upgrade of the existing facilities. The council has not received any complaints. It was also agreed to leave the decision regarding Listed Building aspect of the application to the LBC office who will have more expertise in assessing such proposals.

SV

## FINANCE

- 168/19 Financial Statement – Statement to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was agreed and signed.
- 169/19 Asset Register and Risk Assessment were agreed and signed.
- 170/19 Annual Return and internal audit – Clerk confirm the results of the internal audit (no comment).
- 171/19 AGAR 2018/19 Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement was read, completed and signed as appropriate.
- 172/19 AGAR 2018/19 Section 2 – Accounting Statement was read, completed and signed as appropriate.

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173/19	The following invoices were agreed and cheques signed:-	
		£
	879 S Vaillant; Clerk's Net Salary & Expenses	276.76
	880 HMRC	64.00
	881 IDVerde (Grass cutting)	400.55
	882 AED Locator (Smart tag monitoring)	58.80

174/19 Grant request from Wells Vineyard church – It was felt that the charity's reach was slightly outside the village limit and agreed not to grant any money this time.

## MATTERS OF REPORT

175/19 PCSO – Report circulated prior to, and read at the meeting.

176/19 Village Hall – VHC will have a presence at the festival on Saturday. DT stated that a decision would need to be made over the summer about what should happen in terms of rejuvenation.

DT also thanked the Parish Council for the donation towards the defibrillator. The cheque was given to Becky to hand in.

177/19 School / Highways / Footpaths / GDPR – Nothing further to report.

178/19 Clerk read email from David Hine who expressed an interest in being co-opted on the Parish Council. Clerk to add to July meeting. **SV**

179/19 BW presented his apologies for not coming out with David yesterday as he was held up at the Village Hall Car Park, speaking to the driver of the Mendip Community Transport bus parked inside the gates and blocking the entrance. Clerk to write to Mendip Community Transport to politely request that he does not park there. **SV**

## DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

180/19 It was agreed that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019, at 7:30pm. EL presented her apologies for the meeting.