

# ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN OAKHILL VILLAGE HALL  
ON 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM

**Present** D Barlow (DB, Chair), R Battagel (RB), S Emery (SE), D Gilson (DG), D Hine (DH),  
D Thorley (DT) and B Wells (BW).

**In Attendance** S Vaillant (Clerk), Josh Burr (District Cllr), Mike Pullin (County Cllr) and six  
parishioners

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

211/19 Apologies were received from E Lewis (EL) and P Briscoe (PB).

**Action**

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

212/19 No request for dispensation was made.

213/19 D Barlow declared an interest in planning application 2019/2148/HSE, in Chapelfield.

214/19 Chair advised that the order of the meeting would be altered for the benefit of the  
parishioners and visitors present.

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

215/19 The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were agreed to be a true and  
accurate record of the meeting held.

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

216/19 (33/19 & 185/19) Truespeed Works –

- The road at Chapelfield has been made good.
- The manhole cover outside the Church, currently a trip hazard, will be made good.
- Another hole has been dug in the High Street, which seems to be a repeat of work  
done before.
- The newly laid pavement at the top of the High Street was also dug out. Upon  
reviewing photos, Highways stated that this was not acceptable.
- Chair queried if Truespeed had a licence to undertake the works.

Parish Council is liaising with Highways to ensure the works are made good to an  
acceptable standard.

217/19 (160/19) Walking Bus – Unfortunately, the project is currently on hold as it is too big  
for the PTA to manage. Chair will be meeting with the Headteacher mid-September to  
discuss. In the meantime, residents have noted increased traffic towards the Chapel  
and the road getting busy with parents also parking on the bus stop.

It was agreed that the school should encourage parents to park at the Village Hall and  
walk down to the school.

**DB**

218/19 (188/19) Bus Stop at Nettlebridge – District Cllr J. Burr has taken pictures of the  
location and is pursuing with First Bus.

219/19 (188/19) Traffic in Nettlebridge – Clerk to send request to Highways to review  
situation.

**SV**

220/19 (192/19) VE Day 75; 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Clerk to push for more feedback from residents.

**SV**

221/19 (193/19) Grass bank at Gurney Slade, A37 – Clerk has written to IDVerde. Ongoing.

**SV**

222/19 (204/19) Overhanging vegetation at Pondsmead – Cllr Burr has asked Mendip what  
could be done. Clerk to write to Pondsmead owners.

**SV**

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## DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- 223/19 J Burr (Mendip District Councillor) reported as follows:
- Talk will be given at the Council on Climate Change on 27<sup>th</sup> September at Shape Mendip
  - Parish Forum is tomorrow. Councillors and Clerks encouraged to attend.
  - County Parking Strategy – Consultation coming out soon, which will extend to villages as well as towns.
  - Shepton Mallet Library update.

- 224/19 M Pullin (County Councillor) reported as follows:
- Not much happening at the moment.
  - There is a small SIS in the works to spend £80k for more lines, signs and painting on the road at the Beacons Crossroads. It was felt that the money should be put back in the pot and saved to fund a proper solution, like a roundabout. Mike is in discussion with the local quarry, trying to push this idea forward. It was agreed to fully support any move to implement a roundabout or any other solution.

## COUNCILLORS AREAS OF INTEREST

- 225/19 All councillors were happy to continue with their current areas of interest. Cllr David Hines expressed an interest in the Natural Environment & Sustainability. **SV**

## COOPTION OF COUNCILLOR

- 226/19 Mr Asprey not present. To be added to October agenda if appropriate.

## OAKHILL CROSSING AND PARKING AT THE SCHOOL

- 227/19 The project is completed and comments are generally positive, however, issues have arisen as a result:
- The hump at the top of the High Street has been removed. It was originally put there following flooding in the High Street. Highways responded that the hump was incorporated into the design but was less obvious, and that draining on the High Street and the A367 has also been improved. Some gulleys will be further cleared to ensure proper drainage. Josh asked that gulleys in Fosse Road are also cleared at the same time.  
  
Residents do not believe what has been done will prevent flooding and will be monitoring closely. Cllr M. Pullin asked that residents and Parish Council keep in touch after rain and heavy rain with photos and comments to monitor the situation.
  - Parking; Due to movement of cars in the High Street, some residents now have to park quite a way away from their houses and noted that the High Street was quite dark when walking back at night. Clerk to write to Highways, copying Mike, to request for additional lighting in the High Street, in the area near the flower bed. **SV**
  - The offer of parking at the school has been withdrawn due to building work at the school at the moment. Might consider it again later, although it is wondered whether there would be liability issues.
  - Space in front of BT exchange – could we rent the land? D Gilson recalled contacting BT back in March 2017 and the following was recorded in the minutes:

*(355/16) Land around telephone exchange; High Street – D Gilson spoke to someone with knowledge of the exchange and was told that it would soon to be removed but that no one would be allowed to buy, use or rent the land thereafter. The council is uncertain what the next step might be.*

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- It was requested if the Parish Council could publish an appeal for residents to be considerate of each other and behave in a neighbourly manner.

DB

## OAKHILL INN

- 228/19 Request to liaise with Highways to look at new pavement or cross-hatch area to prevent car parking directly outside entrance and blocking disabled access. Could the pavement from the A367 be extended up to the front door to provide disabled / wheelchair access. Clerk to enquire.

SV

## REPAIR OF BENCHES AT THE RECREATION FIELD

- 229/19 The seats on the tables are rotting again. Clerk to contact person Lizzie recommended to refurbish the noticeboards and the tables at the same time.

SV

## CONSULTATIONS

- 230/19 Proposed Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Changes; D Thorley had originally responded to the consultation and ran through his thoughts and felt that the report was more thorough and appeared sensible.

Josh went to a meeting with presence of Fire Department in Wells and Frome who expressed changes about their working practices and concerns about quality of the consultation. Hotspot times and response time data was queried, and raised concerns over large number of historical buildings in Wells. Mendip have arranged for representatives to speak to the Fire Departments and response will be forwarded to parish councils for information.

## PLANNING

- 231/19 Updates on previous applications:-  
2019/0464/TCA – No decision  
2019/0585/FUL – Camp Five Blackey Lane to Withy Lane – Approved with Conditions.  
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 Little Oakhill, Brewery Lane, Oakhill – No decision.
- 232/19 Pre-Planning Application Consultation; Creation of driveway, High Street, Oakhill – Postponed to next month.
- 233/19 Planning Application 2019/1658/FUL; Conversion & Extension of a Redundant Rural Building to a Dwelling (retrospective); Moorewood Upper Benter to Stockhill - Lee Wright spoke on behalf of the client and presented the history of the application and the new proposals. No objections have been received and neighbours are offering support on MDC website. D Thorley proposed to recommend approval (D Gilson seconded, unanimously agreed)
- 234/19 Planning Application 2019/1646/FUL; A 2 bedroomed agricultural worker's dwelling; Woodside Farm, Bath Road, Oakhill – Possible surface drainage problems have been raised by Land Drainage. D Thorley proposed to recommend approval (B Battagel seconded, unanimously agreed) provided that the comments by land drainage are addressed.
- 235/19 Planning Application 2019/1793/HSE; Erection of single storey conservatory to provide utility space on south side elevation; Spencer House, Manor Place, High Street, Oakhill - B Wells proposed to recommend approval (S Emery seconded, unanimously agreed).

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- 236/19 Planning Application 2019/1806/FUL; Conversion of existing bungalow to two storey dwelling, change of use to adjacent land to ancillary curtilage incidental to 'Hill Top', and replacement of the existing dilapidated barn with new ancillary workshop; Hill Top, Blackey Lane to Withy Lane, Neighbourne - An objection for the barn was noted. D Hine proposed to recommend approval (D Thorely seconded, unanimously agreed).
- 237/19 Planning Application 2019/2057/LBC & 2056/HSE; Proposed single storey rear extension and conversion of garage; Nelson Cottage, Pound Lane, Oakhill – S Emery proposed to recommend approval (B Battagel seconded, unanimously agreed) to the Household application. It was unanimously agreed to leave the Listed building aspect to the officer.
- 238/19 Planning Application 2019/2148/HSE; Proposed single storey rear extension and internal alterations; 17 Chapelfield, Oakhill – S Emery proposed to recommend approval (D Thorley seconded, unanimously agreed – although Cllr D Barlow did not take part).
- 239/19 Planning Application 2019/2052/TCA; Proposed works to tree(s) in a Conservation Area; The Beeches, Gas Lane, Oakhill - D Hines pointed out that as a society we need to be more careful about felling trees and destroying natural habitat. D Thorley explained that the felling was necessary in the short term in order to refurbish the grotto before replanting later on. D Thorley proposed to leave the decision to the tree officer (5 votes for, 1 abstention from DH).
- 240/19 Planning Application 2019/2208/TPO; T1 Western Red Cedar & T2 Ash: fell both trees to prevent further damage to the mass retaining wall and damage from falling branches; 1 The Elms, Halcyon Park, Bath Road, Oakhill – DT proposed to recommend approval (B Wells seconded, 6 votes for, 1 vote against by DH).

## FINANCE

241/19 Financial Statement – Statement to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 was agreed and signed.

242/19 The following invoices were agreed and cheques signed:-

	£
887 S Vaillant; Clerk's Net Salary & Expenses	251.64
888 HMRC	76.40
889 ID Verde (Grass Cutting)	1201.65
890 The Good Companion	100.00

243/19 Grant Request from the Good Companions – S Emery proposed to increase the donation to £100 (D Gilson seconded, unanimously agreed).

## MATTERS OF REPORT

- 244/19 PCSO – Report circulated prior to the meeting.
- 245/19 Village Hall – D Thorley gave a brief update which included Village Hall Rejuvenation. It was noted that three committees have been created: Events & Fundraising; Admin, Social Media and Bookings; and VH Facilities Management Group.
- 246/19 SALC – Area Meeting in October, Clerk to attend.  
D Hines will be attending New Councillor training on 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- 247/19 D Gilson expressed concerned about parking at the bottom of Zyon Hill. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

## DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

248/19 The next parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 7:30pm.