

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
ON 31ST AUGUST 2020 AT 6.30PM

Present Becky Batagel, Phil Briscoe, David Thorley, Lizzie Lewis, David Gilson, Brian Wells,
David Barlow, Roy Bailey

In Attendance **Charlotte Stott (Clerk) Josh Burr District Cllr**

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Action

18/2020 Apologies were received from Sarah Emery. No response has been received from David Hine.
We welcome Roy Bailey as a new Parish Councillor. Roy expressed an interest in the listed vacancy during 'lock down' and now finally joins us.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

19/2020 BB to be abstaining from commenting on the Badgers Cross planning application due to personally knowing the family

AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD

20/2020 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2020 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held, with minor amendments to spelling error.

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

21/2020 (04/2020 & 347/19) Grass bank at Gurney Slade, A37 – Raised bank does not form part of the Highways scope. Is owned by SCC therefore should be maintained by their property services team in Taunton. Highways do not have resources to maintain for ascetic reasons. However they are happy for Parish to maintain using a suitably qualified contractor. This is to be pursued with Somerset as this obstructing the footpath. Becky had emailed Claire and is double checking response, clerk has sent an enquiry to SCC regarding the obstruction of the footpath.

Clerk

22/2020 (05/2020 & 349/19 & 204/19) Overhanging vegetation SCC has addressed some areas of overhanging vegetation but this seems to be an ongoing issue especially on Dye Lane and around Pondsmead. Notices have been placed on social media along with the parish magazine to make occupiers more aware of the situation. It is hoped that a marked improvement will be seen. If not then clerk is to report to SCC as they will take this up.

EL

DB

23/2020 Highcroft quarry – It was agreed at the last meeting that a whatsapp group would inform all those who wished to any blasts which were to occur on the site. The clerk has then been notifying on social media. So far there has been no adverse comment to these arrangements.

CS

24/2020 Finger Post and memorial flower bed to be added to the next meetings agenda.

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Josh Burr Cllr reported

25/2020

Chairman

Date

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£30million of grants have been issued by Mendip. It is believed that around £300k has been issued to businesses in this Ward alone.

26/2020 It is requested that Parish included cllr Josh and Sam in communications regarding planning applications rather than wait for responses to be placed on the planning portal which often has a lag.

27/2020 Chapelfield looks to of had activity recently which would suggest an intention to develop. However, at this point no application has been submitted and nothing has been discussed apart from questions asked by parishioners in regards to what is happening.

Planning

28/2020 Recently planning applications have been dealt with via email to allow everyone to contribute to the decision in the absence of parish meetings, the local community have then been informed of the councilor's thoughts by the publication of response in the parish magazine. However, its is felt going forward that discussion via meetings should be held in order for parishioners to be more involved if required.

29/2020 The new process will now be, that applications will be emailed out to councilors as they are received from Mendip in order for councilors to look in their own time and generate their initial response, of which any response to the clerk should be emailed to all councilors. A final decision will then be agreed at parish meetings before going back to Mendip.

30/2020 Badgers Cross - 2020/1597/FUL

The councilors do have a a few queries and questions although do not object in principle to the application. Firstly, they feel that the visibility on the entrance is not great and perhaps creating a more splayed entrance would help this. Is there sufficient parking for the business? The area is starting to look quite industrial perhaps some sort of screening could be applied.

No full recommendation has been made by the Parish council at this point, a confirmed response is required by Mendip by the 14th September.

Finance

31/2020 Invoices for Clerks salary, ID Verde and Audit agreed with cheques posted to EL for signature.

32/2020 Going forward councilors have agreed to current process of all invoices being emailed out to councilors for consideration, a cheque being written by the clerk and posted to signatories for signing. This process is to carry on until the council can physically meet.

33/2020 AGAR and YE 2020 finances have been agreed by all councilors and signed by Chairman DB, as witnessed in the zoom meeting. The unsigned version can now be replaced on the website with a signed copy.

Matters Arising

Foot paths – Nothing to report

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- 34/2020 **PCSO-** the report has recently been published in the parish magazine. Concern has been raised by RB in regards to regulations coming into force with parking on pavements. It is felt that when this is enforced it will make some roads in Oakhill impassable if people continue to park outside their houses.
- 35/2020 **Village hall** – The AGM is to be held in mid-September, giving the opportunity for people to see the improvements made. A write up of the rejuvenation can be found in the parish magazine.
- 36/2020 **Play equipment** – Now the play area is back open inspections are to recommence. EL & BB to look at schedule and move this forward.
- 37/2020 **Attendance of councilors** – It has been discussed by the councilors the attendance of some members due to legislation stating they are to attend at least once in a 6-monthly period. An exception has been agreed for Sarah Emery due personal circumstances. Contact is to be made with David Hine in regards to his attendance to ensure that he wishes to continue on the council.
- Date of next meeting**
- 38/2020 No date set at the moment; it is expected to reconvene in the village hall from October. A date will be posted on the parish website.