

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
ON 9th December 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllrs David Barlow (Chair), David Thorley, Roy Bailey, Phil Briscoe, Julia Barrett, Lizzie Lewis

Also, in attendance – Kate Egan (Locum Clerk)

85/2020 **Welcome by the Chairman**

86/2020 **Apologies for absence**
Cllrs Becky Battagel, David Gilson and Bryan Wells

87/2020 **Absent**
Cllrs David Gilson, Becky Battagel, Sarah Emery, David Hine, Bryan Wells

88/2020 **Declaration of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest

89/2020 **Public Session**
No members of the public were in attendance

90/2020 **County and District Councillor Reports**
No District or County Reports were received

91/2020 **To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 11th November 2020, previously circulated.**
After amending a couple of spelling mistakes the Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 11th November be accepted as a true record and would be signed by the Chair once physical meetings are resumed.

Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda
92/2020 There were no matters arising from the minutes

Policies to be Approved and Adopted
93/2020 **(a) Standing Orders**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the policy

94/2020 **(b) Grant Policy**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the policy.

To Be Resolved
95/2020 **(a) Proposal for contribution towards costs for a new Bus Stop in Nettlebridge**
This will be deferred to another meeting once the full specification and costs have been received.

96/2020 **(b) Proposal for the Green Bank in Gurney Slade to be part of the Parish Council Annual Grass Cutting Contract.**
The Council **RESOLVED** to include this within the annual grass cutting contract and costs will be obtained.

Signature: -

- 97/2020 **(c) Acceptance of tenders for next year's grass cutting costs**
Although three companies were contacted only one returned a quote and the Council **RESOLVED** to keep with the current provider – Idervde. Costs will be split between the Parish Council and Village Hall.
- 98/2020 **(d) Proposal of a new website and Councillor emails**
There were discussions as to whether the Parish Council run the village website as the Village Hall are considering a standalone web page. Further information will be obtained and brought back to another meeting.
- 99/2020 **(e) Ashwick Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.**
Cllr David Thorley is happy to continue as a representative of the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee.
- 100/2020 **(f) Acceptance of quotes for repairs to the Finger Post.**
Two options were received and the Council **RESOLVED** to accept option one which would include resiting the post, a new spigot, a 2nd hand aluminium finger and a new finial. The question will also be asked as to whether the finger post can be re-sited slightly further back to avoid further vehicle damage.
- 101/2020 **(g) Acceptance of quotes for repairs to the wall around the Memorial Flower Bed.**
The Council **RESOLVED** to accept a quote for repairs to the wall from Fowler and Loxton and they will be contacted to proceed with the provision that water drainage can be provided. If any extra cost is incurred this will be brought back to the next meeting.
- 102/2020 **(h) Discussion regarding the disturbance at Highcroft Quarry and how the Parish Council can help the residents.**
The quarry is used by a number of users and the Parish Council is working closely with one main user who will post messages on the WhatsApp Group, these will now also be posted on the Village Facebook page when they come in. If residents have concerns they should contact Environmental Health. The Parish Council are trying to get any messages about usage out to residents, but they are not always notified about usage.
- 103/2020 **(i) Proposal to ask for volunteers to help maintain the flower beds around the War Memorial due to local residents stepping down from the role.**
Two ladies have very kindly maintained the flower bed for some years but have now decided to step down from the role. They will clear the flower bed in the spring ready for the new gardeners. The Chair will send them a letter thanking them for their time and efforts. If anyone is interested in taking on the voluntary role please contact the Clerk.

Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered.

104/2020

(a) 2020/1149/FUL – Erection of 1 no.two storey dwelling house. Location 28 The Old Maltings, Oakhill,

These are amendments to the original planning application

Cllr David Thorley proposed that the Council recommended refusal due the over development of a small area, unnecessary removal of trees and parking would cause issues, this was seconded by Cllr Phil Briscoe and was unanimously agreed.

105/2020

(b) 2020/0494/FUL – Construction of a new dwelling and garden studio following demolition of existing dwelling and garden store. Location – Hill Top, Blackey Lane

Information only to inform the Council that this has been referred to the Appeals Board.

106/2020

Clerk's Report

(a) An email was received stating that a resident had mentioned the overhanging branches opposite the school and obstructing the payment, this has been reported to Highways.

(b) A resident contacted a Councillor in regard to a tree within her property and the Tree Officer was contacted who paid a site visit and gave the resident further advice in regard to the tree.

(c) Somerset Highways have been contacted in regard to the problems at the junction on the A37 between Pound Lane and Galley Batch

Finance

Bank Balances as at: - Business Instant Access (Reserve) from the cash book £9,223.37
Club Account (main account) from the cash book - £8,446.42

107/2020 **Setting of Parish Council Budget 2021/2022**

There were two small amounts that had been ring-fenced for the J Rayment Fund and the War Memorial Fund, these have now been incorporated into the general budget. After discussing the various costs, Cllr Phil Briscoe proposed that the Council accept the budget for 2021/2022, this was seconded by Cllr Roy Bailey and unanimously agreed.

108/2020 **Calculation of Precept Amount for 2021**

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the precept by £1,000 to £11,000 which was an increase of 10%

Receipts

Payments

109/2020 **(a) Idervde - £801.09**

110/2020 **(b) Locum Clerks Salary – November - £303.00**

111/2020 **(c) HMRC - £27.40**

112/2020 **(d) Zoom invoice £14.39**

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the above payments

113/2020 **Correspondence**

(a) Planning application 2020/0788/OTS was discussed at the Planning Board on 25th November

(b) SAVE Climate – forwarded 16.11.2020

(c) Invitation to SALC AGM on 16th December

114/2020 **Matters to report/items for next agenda**

(a) Report from the Village Hall Committee – included as appendix A

(b) A resident reported faulty spot lights on the crossing outside the school, it was reported to Somerset County Council and County Cllr Mike Pullin paid a site visit. The fault was not found and the lights are working again, they will be monitored in case it happens again

115/2020 **Date and time of next meeting:** Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm.
This will be held virtually via Zoom.

Meeting closed 9.44pm

Appendix A

Summary Report to Ashwick Parish Council of the activities of

The Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee – Dec 2020

This is a summary of my verbal report to Parish Council on 9th December 2020 on recent activities and discussions by the Village Hall Committee.

1. Two dead trees have been felled in the area of the Little People's Playground area in the interests of safety
2. Bulbs and Plant Plugs have been planted in selected wildflower areas in preparation for spring flowering and 11 trees are arriving shortly to be planted, probably at the far side of the Recreation Ground.
3. The 'Toilet Zone' will be redecorated either towards the end of December or early January in readiness for re-opening the Hall, which will occur as soon as Government Guidelines permit.
4. There is increasing interest in outside groups seeking to book the Hall on a regular basis.
5. A 'Clothes Bank' has been installed in the Car Park to receive good quality cast-off clothes, for which VHC receive a contribution of the order of £100 per ton. So far well over £100 has been received in a very short time.
6. The design drawings for the new Kitchen/Seating area are progressing well to a standard suitable for seeking Building Control Approval (in due course) but initially to seek reliable estimates/quotations for undertaking the work. This is to provide a basis for seeking grant and donations.
7. An extensive Fire Safety Risk Assessment for the VH has recently been completed and placed on file. A few loose ends, such as some additional notices and information for Hirers, remain to be completed.
8. The latter item is one example of formal documentation being produced in preparation for seeking Stage 1 Hallmark Accreditation for the Village Hall. This is a form of quality assurance regarding the way in which the VHC manage and run the facility, a big help when it comes to seeking funds.
9. The VHC is considering a standalone web site, driven by the need to have a link to professional software to manage Hall Bookings. Such software can enable potential hirers to check availability, make reservations, be invoiced for use, etc.

David Thorley

