

# ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall  
starting at 7.30pm

**Present:** - Cllrs Philip Blatchford, David Barlow (Chair), David Hine, David Thorley,  
Sarah Emery and David Simons

**Also, in attendance** – Kate Egan (Clerk)

Items were taken out of order from the agenda

**1 Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Monica Mundy and Phil Briscoe

**3 Absent**

No Councillors were absent

**4 Declarations of Interest and dispensations**

**(a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda**

No declarations of interest were received from Councillors on items on the agenda

**(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests**

No written requests were received for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

**(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

No requests for dispensation as appropriate were received

**5 Public session**

There were two members of the public in attendance and both spoke about planning application 2023/1530/FUL which was discussed under items 9(d).

**7 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, previously circulated.**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July be accepted as a true record and were signed and dated by the Chair

**8 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**

The 30mph zone on Fosse Road and Galley Batch has now been completed.

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

**(d) 2023/1530/FUL** Proposed replacement dwelling, annexe and associated buildings and works. Beacon Cross Farm, Old Frome Road, Masbury. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended refusal due to the large footprint, the proposed dwelling would be prominent on the landscape and it was outside the development area. The Council would reconsider the application if a more muted design was submitted.

**6 Somerset Councillor Reports**

Somerset Councillor Edric Hobbs apologised for arriving late. A verbal report was given covering issues such as Highways, Drainage, Fly tipping and the treatment of Ragwort within the verges.

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

- (a) **2023/1358/TPO** TPO M1196 – T1 – Sycamore – Fell. T2 – T4 – Sycamore – Crown reduction of 30%. The Old Barn, Brewery Lane, Oakhill. This is a **notification only** in line with Somerset Council's constitution and the adopted scheme of delegation and terms of reference, the decision for this application is delegated to Somerset officers.
- (b) **2023/1469/TCA** T1 – Beech Tree – Reduce by 7m, T2 & T3 – Sycamore – reduce by 5m. The Beeches, Gas Lane, Oakhill, Radstock. This is a **notification only** in line with Somerset Council's constitution and the adopted scheme of delegation and terms of reference, the decision for this application is delegated to Somerset officers
- (c) **2023/1346/HSE** First floor extension above existing single storey section of the building, minor window and door alterations. Render all external elevation. Longacres, Pound Lane, Oakhill. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval as there were no grounds for refusal.
- (e) **2023/1630/HSE** Garden office and Gym Outbuilding. The Old Smithy, Bath Road, Oakhill. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval as there were no grounds for refusal.

**10 Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council.**

No decisions with regard to Planning Applications had been received from Somerset Council.

**11 To Be Resolved / Discussed**

- (a) **Reappointment of Do the Numbers Ltd as the Internal Auditor for 2023-2024 at a cost of £190.00, noting that if the Income or Expenditure exceed £25,000 the annual cost of the internal audit will be £250.00**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Do The Numbers Ltd as the Internal Auditor for 2023-2024.
- (b) **Discussion and possible proposals on Complying with the biodiversity duty and Understanding Biodiversity Net Gain**  
The Council noted the Biodiversity Duty and this will be discussed at a later date.
- (c) **Proposal for the Parish Council to contribute £100 towards costs so the Clerk can attend the National Conference in October.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to contribute £100 towards costs so the Clerk can attend the National Conference in October.
- (d) **Discussion and any possible proposals as to whether to repair the damaged bench on Pound Lane or whether to replace it.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** accept the quote of £500 to repair the damaged bench on Pound Lane, this will be carried out the Men's Shed based in Shepton Mallet.
- (e) **Proposal to accept the quote from Somerset Forge on the repair of the Finger Post by the Oakhill Inn**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Somerset Forge for £100 to repair the Finger Post by the Oakhill Inn.
- (f) **Proposal for the Parish Council to apply for apply for the Community Review Project funded by CCS and SALC.**  
This was deferred as the application process is not yet open.
- (g) **Proposal for the Parish Council to set up a Working Party to look at the Parish Design Statement and consider writing a Parish Plan.**  
Cllrs David Thorley, David Simons and Phil Briscoe will meet to discuss ideas for organising a public meeting to ask residents to join a working party to help rewrite the Parish Design Statement and possibly a Parish Plan.

**(h) Proposal for Ashwick Parish Council to move from monthly meetings to every six weeks and agree the new schedule for Meetings.**

The Council **RESOLVED** Ashwick Council will move from monthly meetings to every six week and **RESOLVED** to agree the new schedule for Meetings.

**12 Clerks Report**

- (a) The application form for the Health and Wellbeing Grant was sent to Councillors for completion, the deadline has now passed. Applications reopen in January 2024.
- (b) Following the major flooding on 2<sup>nd</sup> August with part of the road and pavement being washed away Somerset Council have been contacted by resident to improve the gullies so rain water is drained away safely.
- (c) A report has been received from a resident regarding driveways that are being obscured by large vehicles along the High Street and as a result residents are pulling out blindly into traffic.
- (d) Save the Date – Meeting of the next Local Community Network Meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of October, location yet to be decided

**13 Finance**

**Bank Balance as at 02.09.2023**

**Current account £3,917.32**

**Reserve account £16,717.21**

**Receipts**

- (a) Bank Interest - £12.30 – received 10.07.23
- (b) Bank Interest £13.33 – received 10.08.23

**Payments**

- (c) Clerks Salary and Expenses £495.22 – July and August
- (d) Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall – Hall hire - £25.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above receipts and payments.

**14 Correspondence**

- (a) A basic first aid course is being held at Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 6pm.
- (b) Councillor Training Courses provided by Somerset Association of Local Councils – forwarded 25.07.23
- (c) Monthly report from Somerset Council on behalf of the Liberal Democrats – forwarded 08.08.23
- (d) Draft Minutes from the Local Community Network meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March – forwarded 15.08.23
- (e) Autumn Courses being run by SALC – forwarded 01.09.23

**15 Matters to report/items for next agenda**

- (a) Installation of a dog waste bin in Binegar
- (b) The Parish Council were sad to hear of the news of the death of Andy Clemence, he had been a Parish Councillor for a short while and was very supportive of the Council and was keen to help.
- (c) Possible intrusion and obstruction of the Highway on Pound Lane, this will be reported to the local Enforcement Team.

**16 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Meeting closed 9.13pm