

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

Present: - Cllrs David Barlow (Chair), David Hine, David Thorley, Phil Briscoe and Monica Mundy

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 Philip Blatchford and David Simons

3 **Absent**

Cllr Sarah Emery

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 no members of the public in attendance.

6 **Somerset Councillor Reports**

Apologies were received from Somerset Councillor Tony Robinson

Somerset Councillor Edric Hobbs was in attendance and gave a verbal report. He was pleased to see a quick response from Somerset Council in regard to the rebuilding of the pavement, although debris had been left behind. Drainage clearance is still being chased and a request has been submitted for a representative from Somerset Council to walk through the village to see the issues first hand. Following the last meeting a response to the treatment of Ragwort within the verges has still not been received. The contract for Highways within Somerset has been awarded to a new company.

7 **To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th September, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th September 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**

(a) The proposal for the installation of the dog bin within of Binegar has been withdrawn as the owners of the proposed site had not been previously consulted and were unhappy with the idea.

12 **Clerks/Councillors Report**

(b) Following the last meeting and a Traffic Engineer has visited Holly Cottage on Long Lane and the fence will be moved back further into the property

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) **2023/1757/HSE** Amendments to existing roof and the addition of dormer extension above gym and addition of dormer extension above kitchen to existing mezzanine floor. The Court Yard, Zion Hill, Oakhill **Recommendation** the Parish Council recommended approval.
- (b) **2023/1795/HSE** Side and rear extension, loft alterations and reconfiguration of roofscape, new dormer to north side and new gable end over extension. Engine Cottage, Benter Lane, Oakhill. **Recommendation** the Parish Council recommended approval.
- (c) **2023/1836/TCA** T1 – Yew – Crown reduction by 3m. T2 – Canadian Maple – Crown reduction by 3m. The Maltings, Gas Lane, Oakhill. This is a **notification** only and 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 the planning officers.
- (d) **2023/1838/FUL** Alterations and change of use of former Sunday School to grocery shop (use Class E) (a). Oakhill Methodist Church, Bath Road, Oakhill **Recommendation** the Parish Council recommended the decision be left to the Planning Officer. There were concerns about the parking and impact of traffic on the school. The question was asked would it change the status of the village from a secondary to a primary village.
- (e) **2023/1839/LBC** Alterations and change of use of former Sunday School to grocery shop (use Class E) (a). Oakhill Methodist Church, Bath Road, Oakhill **Recommendation** the Parish Council recommended decision be left to the Planning Officer. There were concerns about the parking and impact of traffic on the school. The question was asked would it change the status of the village from a secondary to a primary village.
- (f) **2023/1937/HSE** Side extension for utility room with link to garage. Holly House, Bath Road, Oakhill **Recommendation** the Parish Council recommended approval.
- (g) **2023/2004/TCA** Copper Beech (T1) – Reduce crown by 1.5m to 2m. Thin out crown by 15%. The Rectory, Fosse Road, Oakhill. This is a **notification** only and 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 the planning officers
- (h) **2023/1800/TCA** Various felling of trees and reducing the canopy of a dozen trees. Oakhill Manor, Zion Hill, Oakhill. This is a **notification** only and 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 the planning officers

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

- (a) **2023/1346/HSE** First floor extension above existing single storey section of the building, minor window and door alterations. Render all external elevations. Longacres, Pound Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset approved the application
- (b) **2023/0969/TPO** T1 Beech (TPO M1170) – crown reduction (selective) of up to 3m. Spencer House, Manor Place, High Street, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset granted TPO approval.
- (c) **2023/1338/TPO** TPO M321 A1 – T1 – Fir – Fell. The Old Workshop, Zion Hill, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset granted TPO approval.
- (d) **2023/1630/HSE** Garden office and gym outbuilding – The Old Smithy, Bath Road, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset granted approval.
- (e) **2023/1530/FUL** Proposed replacement dwelling, annexe and associated buildings and works. Beacon Cross Farm, Old Frome Road, Masbury. **Decision** The application has been withdrawn.

11 To Be Resolved / Discussed

- (a) **Proposal for the Parish Council to enter a Notification of Interest for the Community Plan project being run by Smart Communities, the deadline is 30th November.**

The Council **RESOVLED** to enter a Notification of Interest for the Community Plan. The submission will be approved over email due to the next Parish Council meeting being after the deadline.

- (b) **Proposal for the Parish Council to set up a Working Party to review the Parish Design Statement and approve the Terms of Reference**

The Council **RESOLVED** to set up a Working Party to review the Parish Design Statement although if the Council are successful for the Community Plan project, this will be run first. Councillors were asked to drum up interest, a post was also put on the Parish Council Facebook page. The Council also **RESOLVED** to approve the Terms of Reference.

- (c) **Discussion on the first draft of the budget for 2024-2025**

There was a brief discussion, Councillors were asked to consider the budget ready for approval at the next meeting.

12 Clerks / Councillors Report

- (a) Update from Cllr David Barlow on Recruitment to Councils training **Update** Cllr David Barlow gave an update on the online training course on how to Recruit Councillors, the PowerPoint will be forwarded to Councillors. Cllr David Barlow mentioned the various ideas on how to recruit Councillors and on the whole found it very interesting and thoughtful.

13 Finance

Bank Balance as at 17th October 2023

Current account £3,297.10

Reserve account £16,746.43

To note the Quarterly Review from 1st July to 30th September 2023

The Council noted the Quarterly Budget Review from 1st July to 30th September 2023

Approval and signature of the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation and this was signed by the Chair.

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest £14.84 – received 10.09.23

(b) Bank Interest £14.38 – received 10.10.23

Payments

(c) Ashwick Village Hall – Hall Hire - £25.00

(d) Clerks' salary – September - £247.61

(e) SALC – Annual Membership - £382.71

(f) Somerset Forge – Repair of finger post - £120.00

(g) Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday - £25.00

(h) SALC – Online Training - £25.00

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

14 Correspondence

(a) Mendip Local Plan II – site allocation review – meeting online 26th September – forwarded 15.09.23

(b) Monthly Somerset Council report – forwarded 05.10.23

15 Matters to report/items for next agenda

(a) Cllr David Thorley gave a verbal update on the Village Hall. More volunteers are needed for the community café.

**16 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 6th December
Meeting closed 8.43pm**