

# ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall  
starting at 7.30pm

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

Cllr Philip Blatchford

**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 no members of the public in attendance.

**6 Somerset Councillor Reports**

Neither Somerset Councillor Tony Robinson or Edric Hobbs were in attendance.

**7 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 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**

There were no matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda.

Cllr David Simons joined the meeting at 7.35pm

**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) 2023/2169/HSE** Retrospective planning application for loft conversion and installation of 2no. conservation rooflights. Spargeside, Old Brewery, High Street, Oakhill.

**Recommendation** Ashwick Parish Council recommended approval.

**(b) 2023/2170/LBC** Retrospective planning application for loft conversion and installation of 2no. conservation rooflights. Spargeside, Old Brewery, High Street, Oakhill.

**Recommendation** Ashwick Parish Council recommended approval

- (c) **2023/2159/FUL** Change of use of land for the siting of 6 units of glamping accommodation; 2no. compost toilet and shower sheds to serve the bell tents; and parking and turning provision. Land at 363416 146980, Bath Road, Oakhill. **Recommendation** Ashwick Parish Council recommended approval.
- (d) **2023/2210/TCA** T1 (yew) – Crown lift of the canopy by 1-2m. T2 (Maple) – Thinning and crown reduction by 2-3m. 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.

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

- (a) **2023/1260/TCA** T1 – Oak – reduce limbs by 2m. T2 – Beech – reduce by 5m. T3 – Ash – reduce limbs by 2m. The Beeches, Gas Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have given TCA approval.
- (b) **2023/1469/TCA** T1 – Beech Tree – Reduce by 7m. T2 & T3 – Sycamore – Reduce by 5m. The Beeches, Gas Lane, Oakhill. Somerset Council have given TCA approval.
- (c) **2023/1836/TCA** T1 – Yew – Crown reduction by 3m. T2 – Canadian Maple – Crown reduction by 3m. The Maltings, Gas Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** The application has been withdrawn.
- (d) **2023/1358/TPO** T1 – Sycamore – Fell (NB Amended specification T2-T4 now withdrawn as agreed with applicant). The Old Barn, Brewery Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have given TPO Approval.
- (e) **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. **Decision** Somerset have granted approval.

#### 11 To Be Resolved / Discussed

- (a) **Proposal to contribute £500 a year over the next two years towards the cost of the Parish Clerk studying for the Community Governance qualification.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to contribute £500 a year over the next two years towards the cost of the Parish Clerk studying for the Community Governance qualification.
- (b) **Discussion and possible proposals on the services being offered to be devolved down from Somerset Council.**  
Following a discussion, the Council did not wish to take on anything the Council were not already doing and were not prepared to take on anything else due to it not being viable.
- (c) **Proposal to reappoint Idverde as the contractor to carry out the grass cutting at an annual cost of £2015.09 plus VAT.**  
Due to the increase Idverde will be contacted regarding the costs if the cuts were reduced.
- (d) **Approval of the annual budget for 2024-2025**  
Following a brief discussion, the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2024-2025.
- (e) **Proposal to approve the annual precept for 2024-2025**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the annual precept figure of £23,000 for 2024-2025

#### 12 Clerks / Councillors Report

- (a) The Expression of Interest for the Community Plan was submitted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, the Parish Council are still waiting to hear whether it has been successful or not.
- (b) The damaged bench has been removed and taken to the Men’s Shed in Shepton Mallet. It will be repaired over the weekend and reinstalled in the spring when the weather has improved.

- (c) Cllr David Simons gave a verbal update from the latest LCN Meeting and it was reassuring to hear that local parishes had similar priorities and problems.
- (d) Cllr David Thorley gave a verbal update from the Working Party for the Parish Design Statement, there are now four members consisting of Councillors and residents. A draft questionnaire is being put together.

#### 5 Public Session

A member of the public arrived late and was permitted to speak about a future planning application. Questions were asked by Councillors and replies were given.

#### 14 Finance

**Bank Balance as at 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Current account £2,471.78**

**Reserve account £16,763.13**

##### Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - £16.70 – received 10.11.23

##### Payments

(b) Clerks Salary and Expenses October - £247.61

(c) Clerks Salary and Expenses November (includes the back pay and the annual pay award) - £391.77

(d) Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall – Hall Hire - £25.00

(e) SLCC Annual Membership - £75.57

(f) Men's Shed – Repair of Bench - £500.00

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

#### 15 Correspondence

(a) Minutes from the LCN Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October, the next meeting is being held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

(b) Councillor Training Events for Spring 2024 – forwarded 28.11.2023

#### 16 Matters to report/items for next agenda

(a) Cllr David Thorley gave a verbal update on the Village Hall and Playing Field, the café is doing very well but they are still looking for more volunteers.

(b) The obstruction of the Highway outside Holly Cottage has not been moved; Somerset Highways will be chased to enforce this.

**17 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please note due to various reasons the January meeting has been brought forward a week from the 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Meeting closed 8.49pm