

ASHWICK ANNUAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.35pm

1. Election of Chair

(a) To elect the Chair for the forthcoming year

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr David Barlow as Chair of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year. Cllr Philip Blatchford proposed Cllr David Barlow as Chair of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year, this was seconded by Cllr David Thorley and unanimously agreed.

(b) The Chair to sign the Declaration of Office Form

Cllr David Barlow as Chair for the forthcoming year signed the Declaration of Office Form.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

(a) To elect the Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to appoint a Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.

3. Present

Cllrs Philip Blatchford, David Thorley, Phil Briscoe, Monica Munday, Sarah Emery, David Hine and David Barlow.

4. Apologies

No apologies were received.

5. Banking Arrangements

(a) To agree the 'banking arrangements' for the year and to agree any changes to the nominated signatories. It is recommended Councillors have online access to authorise payments, currently it is sole authorisation. Current signatures are the Clerk, Cllrs Philip Blatchford, David Thorley and David Barlow.

The Council **RESOLVED** to keep the current arrangements.

6. To confirm that the Parish Council are Custodian Trustees of the Oakhill and Ashwick Village Hall and Playing Fields

The Council **CONFIRMED** that the Parish Council are Custodial Trustees of the Oakhill and Ashwick Village Hall and Playing Fields.

7. Ashwick Parish Council are not eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence as two thirds of the Councillors were not elected at the last elections held in 2022, although there is a qualified clerk

The Council **CONFIRMED** that Ashwick Parish Council are not eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence as two thirds of the Councillors were not elected at the last elections held in 2022 although there is a qualified clerk.

8. Risk Assessment

(a) To approve the Annual Risk Schedule

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Risk Schedule

9. Policies

(a) To review and adopt Financial Regulations

(b) To review and adopt Standing Orders

(c) To review and adopt the Code of Conduct

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the above policies.

10. Confirm and agree Dates of Future Meetings for the following year

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the Dates of Future Meetings for the following year.

11. Insurance Cover

- (a) **Agree annual insurance.** The Parish Council changed insurance last year to Zurich for one year, the recommendation is to stay with Zurich as the quote received is the same price as last year.
- (b) **Agree payment of annual insurance of £459.00**
The Council **RESOLVED** to renew the annual insurance with Zurich at a cost of £459.00

12. Councillors Interests/Responsibilities

- (a) **Somerset Waste** Cllr Monica Munday
- (b) **Schools Liaison** Cllrs David Barlow and Sarah Emery
- (c) **Finance** Cllr Phil Briscoe
- (d) **Highways** Cllr David Barlow
- (e) **Publicity** Cllr Monica Munday
- (f) **Planning** Cllrs David Thorley and Phil Briscoe
- (g) **Footpaths** Cllr David Hine
- (h) **Village Litter Pick Up Co-ordinator**
- (i) **Village Hall** Cllr David Thorley
- (j) **Farming** Cllrs David Thorley and Philip Blatchford
- (k) **Recreation Field Maintenance**
- (l) **Environmental Initiatives / Climate Emergency** Cllr David Hine
- (m) **Quarry Liaison** Cllr Philip Blatchford

13. Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2024

- (a) **Note the Annual Internal Audit Report from the Internal Auditor**
The Council **NOTED** the Annual Internal Audit Report from the Internal Auditor
- (b) **To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024 of the Annual Return**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024 of the Annual Return
- (c) **To approve the Accounting Statement 2023/2024 of the Annual Return**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statement 2023/2024 of the Annual Return
- (d) **To approve the Exclusion Certificate**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Certificate of Exemption for 2023/2024
- (e) **Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance and Accountability Return**
The notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance and Accountability Return will run from Monday 3rd June to Friday 12th July 2024
- (f) **To confirm that the Clerk is also the Responsible Finance Officer.**
The Council **CONFIRMED** the Clerk is also the Responsible Finance Officer.

Next Annual Council Meeting 28th May 2025

Meeting closed 7.51pm