

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 18th December at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

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

Also, in attendance – Kate Egan (Clerk)

1 Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr David Barlow welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Philip Blatchford

3 Absent

Cllrs Sarah Emery and Jackie Bally

4 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

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

No declaration of interests from Councillors on items on the agenda were received.

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

A written request for dispensation was received from Cllr David Barlow regarding the potential development at Chapelfield, this was granted for a period of 12 months and is valid until 10th January 2025

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

No requests for dispensation were received.

5 Public session

There were no members of the public in attendance.

6 Somerset Councillor Reports

No Somerset Councillors were in attendance although apologies had been received from Somerset Councillor Edric Hobbs

7 To confirm the minutes of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November be accepted as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

8 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) **2024/2037/PAA** Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1no. dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Bramley Farm, Bath 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.

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

(a) **2024/1776/TCA** T1 – Beech – Fell, T2 – Oak – reduce by 4.5m, T3 – Ash – Fell, T4 – Ash – Fell, T5 – Ash – Fell, T6 – Ash- reduce by 4.5m, T7 – Oak – reduce by 3m. The Beeches, Gas Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset have granted approval.

(b) **2024/1508/HSE** Erection of a rear single storey extension with decking above, first floor half-storey extension. Brewery Cottage, Brewer Court, Brewery Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

- (c) **2024/1927/AGB** Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building. Strodes Farm, Blakey Lane, Ashwick **Decision** Prior approval is not required.
- (d) **2024/1644/TCA** T3 – Sycamore – pollard, G2 – Hazel – reduce height to 5m. Spencer House, Manor Place, High Street, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.
- (e) **2024/0191/FUL** Erection of a dwelling to replace the extant dwelling permitted under planning permission 2019/1154/FUL. Little Oakhill, Brewery Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (f) **2024/0192/LBC** Erection of a dwelling to replace the extant dwelling permitted under planning permission 2019/1154/FUL. Little Oakhill, Brewery Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (g) **2024/1838/HSE** Erection of single storey side extension. Varykino, Pound Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval

10 To be Resolved / Discussed

- (a) **To consider the draft budget and report and discuss any additions to the budget for 2025-2026 and produce a budget to be approved at the January meeting.**

A discussion was held around the budget which included grant funding for the village hall, purchase of new noticeboards, bus shelters, speed indicator cameras. The budget will be written and brought back to the next meeting for approval.

- (b) **To ratify the decision at the last meeting to split the costs with Binegar Parish Council to clear the drains in Gurney Slade. The decision was for Ashwick Parish Council to cover up to £600 of the costs.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to split the costs with Binegar Parish Council to clear the drain in Gurney Slade.

- (c) To note Monica Mundy resigned as a Parish Councillor, a vacancy notice has been published dated 19th November asking if within 14 days of the date of the notice, a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is made in writing to Electoral Services, Somerset Council. If ten requests are received an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by the Parish Council by co-option.

Update No requests for an election had been received so the Parish Council is able to follow the co-option procedure for a new Parish Councillor.

11 Clerks / Councillors Report

- (a) The Parish Council were sad to hear of the passing of Bryan Wells, he had been a Parish Councillor for many years and supported the village in many ways. He will be sadly missed
- (b) Final update from the Community Review Working Party. **Update** Cllr David Thorley gave a verbal update. The Ashwick Parish Community Review 2024 and Ashwick Parish Community Review 2024 Executive Summary was published on 30th of November on the Parish Council website with some hard copies available upon request. A meeting will be held in January 2025 to put forward the initiatives within the report and requests for volunteers.
- (c) A request has been received to install a dog waste bin in a lane off Fosse Road near the footpath. Currently Somerset Council are not allowing permission to site bins on their land and if situated upon private land the Parish Council will need to cover the costs of emptying.

- (d) Update from Cllr David Barlow and David Thorley on the meeting with Keir concerning the Enhanced Maintenance Scheme. **Update** Cllrs David Barlow and David Thorley met with Nathan Turnbull from Keir and showed him the issues in the village such as blocked drains, blocked gullies, overgrown hedges, road surfaces, road marking, etc. Keir are still awaiting further information from Somerset Council before confirming prices, this has yet to arrive.

12 Finance

Bank Balance as at 11th December 2024

Current account £3,156.25

Reserve account £25,122.90

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - November £31.63 – received 10.11.24

(b) Bank Interest – December £30.65 – received 10.12.24

Payments

(c) Ideverde – Grass Cutting - £171.77

(d) David Thorley – refund for printing expenses - £256.00

(e) Clerks' salary and expenses – November - £424.99, includes a contribution for PIALC course of £72.00

(f) Ashwick Village Hall – hall hire - £25.00

(g) Binegar Parish Council – ditch clearance - £300.00

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

13 Correspondence

(a) Cllr Bill Revans – letter to Parishes – November 2024 – forwarded 13.11.24

(b) SALC Councillor Training Events January and February – forwarded 03.12.24

14 Matters to report/items for next agenda

There were no matters to report or items for the next agenda.

15 Date and time of next meeting: - **Wednesday 29th January 2025 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.**

16 Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(a) To note the Annual Appraisal of the Parish Clerk

The Council noted the Annual Appraisal of the Parish Clerk.

Meeting closed 8.33pm