

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 29th January at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

Present: - Cllrs Phil Briscoe, David Barlow (Chair), David Thorley, Sarah Emery, and Philip Blatchford.

Also, in attendance – Kate Egan (Clerk)

1 Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr Barlow welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Jackie Bally

3 Absent

Cllrs David Hine and David Simons

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

No written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests were received.

(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

There were no Somerset Councillors in attendance.

7 To confirm the minutes of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th December, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th December be accepted as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

8 To consider the co-option of a new Parish Councillor

The prospective Parish Councillor was not in attendance so the co-option did not proceed.

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) **2025/0006/HSE** Divide double garage and convert garage space adjoining the house to a reception room. 9 The Old Maltings, Oakhill. **Recommendation** Ashwick Parish Council recommended approval.

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

(a) **2024/2037/PAA** – Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1no. dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Bramley Farm, Bath Road, Oakhill **Decision** Somerset Council have given prior approval.

(b) **2024/1702/HSE** Proposed widening of the single storey rear kitchen extension. Proposed loft conversion with rooflights to front and rear roof slopes. 2 Rock Cottages, Chapel Lane to Stockhill, Gurney Slade. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

- (c) **2024/0607/FUL** Erection of dwelling and car port and formation of vehicular access. Land South of Corner Cottage, Blackey Lane to Withy Lane, Neighbourne. **Decision** Somerset Council have refused the application.
- (d) **2024/2285/TCA** T1 (Lawson Cypress) – Fell due to storm damage. Oakhill Manor, Zion Hill, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

11 Policies

- (a) **To consider, approve and adopt the amended grant policy for Ashwick Parish Council**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the amended grant policy.

12 Grant Applications

- (a) **To consider the grant application from the Art Bank in Shepton Mallet for £500**

The Council declined the grant application as it was felt there was no benefit to the young within the Parish.

- (b) **To consider an additional grant from the Village Hall Committee for £1553.32**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the additional grant to the Village Hall Committee for £1553.32

13 To be Resolved / Discussed

- (a) **To consider the increase of the Home Allowance to the Parish Clerk from £6.50 a month to £13.00 a month effective from the 1st of April 2025.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the Home Allowance to the Parish Clerk from £6.50 a month to £13.00 a month effective from the 1st of April 2025.

- (b) **To consider and approve the budget for 2025-2026**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2025-2026

- (c) **To consider and approve the precept requirement for Ashwick Parish Council for 2025-2026**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the precept requirement for Ashwick Parish Council for 2025-2026. Amount requested will be £23,356.00

14 Clerks / Councillors Report

- (a) Following correspondence between Cranmore Parish Council and Somerset Council regarding Beacon crossroads requesting safety improvements are a high priority and a programme be implemented. The reply states a small improvement scheme was implemented in 2020 with new signs, road lines and a new hardwearing surface, there are no further immediate plans to make additional changes. The route is not currently identified for further safety improvements and if the Parish Council are looking for more major changes, it would cost a significant sum of money.

15 Finance

Bank Balance as at 23rd January 2025

Current account £1,806.72

Reserve account £25,154.63

To consider the quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the quarterly Bank Reconciliation; this was signed by Cllr Phil Briscoe.

To note the Budget Review up until 31st December 2024

The Council noted the Budget Review up until 31st December 2024

Receipts

- (a) Bank Interest - £31.73 – received 10.01.25

Payments

- (b) Idverde – Grass Cutting - £171.77 – pd 27.12.23

- (c) Clerks Salary and Expenses – December and January - £630.67

- (d) ICO – renewal of annual membership £47.00 – pd by DD 20.02.2025

- (e) Idverde – Grass Cutting - £171.77

Transfers

- (f) Transfer of £5,000 from the Reserve account to the current account.

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

16 Correspondence

- (a) HR Training Courses supplied by SALC – forwarded 14.01.25
- (b) Somerset Council – Local Plan Call for Sites – forwarded 14.01.25
- (c) Invitation to attend a workshop on creating an emergency plan – forwarded 14.01.25

17 Matters to report/items for next agenda

- (a) Cllr David Thorley gave a verbal report on the final meeting of the Parish Community Review plan held on 22nd January 2025. Various groups were formed and will run independently but will maintain links with the Parish Council, Village Hall and / or Oakhill Surgery Patient Participation Group as appropriate.
- (b) Speed Indicator Devices

18 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 12th March 2025 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.33pm