

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 26th November at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

Present: - Cllrs David Simons, David Barlow (Chair), Phil Briscoe, David Thorley, Stephanie Dowley, and Philip Blatchford

Also, in attendance – Kate Egan (Clerk)

1 Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr David Barlow welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr David Hine

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

There was no declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.

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

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

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

Cllr David Thorley requested a dispensation for item 10a to be allowed to speak but not partake in the voting. The dispensation was granted.

5 Public session

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee spoke as a member of the public reporting on the latest activities of the village hall and requested whether the Parish Council would consider including a budget line for 2026-2027 to help with future projects.

6 Somerset Councillor Reports

There were no Somerset Councillors in attendance.

7 To confirm the minutes of the meeting from the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd October, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd October were 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.

There were no planning applications to consider.

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

(a) **2025/0306/OUT** Application for outline planning permission with all matters reserved for development of six detached houses and a pair of semi-detached houses and garages. Land at 363907 147136 Fosse Road, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have refused the application.

(b) **2025/1573/LBC** Installation of replacement windows. The Round House, Little London, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.

(c) **2025/1408/LBC** Installation of a through floor internal lift. Harridge Farm, Bath Road, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have refused the application.

(d) **2025/1558/PAA** Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 3no. dwelling houses (Class C3) with access, amenity space, garaging and car parking. Park Farm, Fosse Road, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted prior approval.

- (e) **2025/1435/FUL** Erection of 3 detached dwellings and associated parking, amenity space – Land at 362338 149135 Old Frome Road to Underhill Gurney Slade.

Decision Somerset Council have refused the application.

10 Grants

- (a) **Grant application from the Village Hall for £1004.40 for clearance of leaves and debris within the car park.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Grant Application from the Village Hall for £1004.40.

11 To be Resolved / Discussed

- (a) **To consider and approve the Scheme of Delegation for the Clerk**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Scheme and Scope of Delegation of Powers.

- (b) **To discuss the future of the Parish Council**

A discussion was held around the future of the Parish Council and members were asked to bring along to the next meeting ideas on how the Parish Council can move forward and to bring a friend. An idea was to keep the February meeting relatively short and follow it with a public engagement evening.

- (c) **Proposal to carry out a community governance review with a view to reduce the numbers of Parish Councillors required on the Parish Council in time for the 2027 elections.**

The Council **NOTED** the explanation of what a Community Governance entails and **RESOLVED** to request that Somerset Council undertakes a Community Governance Review with the purpose of reducing the number of parish council seats from 11 to a more sustainable number.

12 Clerks / Councillors Report

- (a) Highways at Somerset Council were contacted regarding reducing the speed limit on Highcroft Lane and to re-design the junction of the A37, no response has yet been received.
- (b) Highways at Somerset Council were contacted to arrange a site visit for the possible location of a speed indicator device, no response has yet been received.
- (c) Following a request that the narrow stretch of ground opposite the old school house on the High Street, Oakhill be attended too as the shrubs were blocking part of the road and reducing visibility. Cllr David Barlow contacted a local gardener and the site was quickly cleared; the Council would like to thank them for the quick response.

13 Finance

Bank Balance as at 19th November 2025

Current account £3,659.10

Reserve account £33,920.39

To consider the Draft Budget for 26-27

The budget was discussed and several ideas were put forward. The budget will be amended and forwarded to members for consideration before being approved at the January meeting.

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - £45.52 – received 10.11.25

Payments

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

(c) Bjorn Saw – Clearance of land - £210.00 – pd 30.10.25

(d) Clerks' salary and expenses – October - £291.72

(e) Clerks' salary and expenses – November £291.72

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

14 Correspondence

(a) Monthly report from the Liberal Democrats within Somerset Council – forwarded 05.11.25

15 Matters to report/items for next agenda

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

16 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 7th January 2026 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.**17 Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public would 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.**

The Council **RESOLVED** 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.

The Clerk left the meeting at 9.05pm.

(a) Increase in SCP Points for the Clerk.

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the SCP Points for the Clerk.

Meeting closed 9.20pm