

# ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall  
starting at 7.30pm

### 1. Election of Chair

#### (a) To elect the Chair for the forthcoming year

The Council **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr David Barlow as the Chair of Ashwick Parish Council for 2025-2026.

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

Cllr David Barlow as Chair 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 David Barlow (Chair), David Hine, Stephanie Dowley, David Simons, Sarah Emery, David Thorley, Jackie Bally, and Philip Blatchford.

### 4. Apologies

Cllr Phil Briscoe

### 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 Custodian 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.

8. 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.

### 9. Risk Assessment

#### (a) To approve the Annual Risk Schedule

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

### 10. 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

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

Following a discussion the Dates of Future Meeting for 2025-2026 were approved.

### 12. Councillors Interests/Responsibilities

(a) Somerset Waste – Cllr David Barlow

(b) Schools Liaison – Cllrs Stephanie Dowley and David Barlow

(c) Finance – Cllr David Simons

(d) Highways Cllr David Barlow

(e) Planning – Cllrs David Thorley and Phil Briscoe

- (f) Footpaths – Cllr David Hine
- (g) Village Litter Pick Up Co-ordinator – Cllr David Hine
- (h) Village Hall – Cllr David Thorley and Jackie Bally
- (i) Farming – Cllrs Philip Blatchford and David Thorley
- (j) Environmental Initiatives / Climate Emergency – Cllrs David Hine and Jackie Bally
- (k) Quarry Liaison – Cllrs David Hine and Philip Blatchford
- (l) LCN Representative – Cllr David Simons

### **13. Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**(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 2024/2025 of the Annual Return**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 of the Annual Return

**(c) To approve the Accounting Statement 2024/2025 of the Annual Return**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statement of the 2024/2025 of the Annual Return

**(d) To approve the Certificate of Exemption**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Certificate of Exemption for 2024/2025

**(e) To note the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance and Accountability Return will run from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance and Accountability Return will run from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**(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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Meeting closed 8.05pm