

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 16th July at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

Present: - Cllrs David Hine, 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.

Cllrs Sarah Emery, David Simons, and Jackie Bally.

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 interests 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

No requests for dispensation as appropriate were received.

5 Public session

There were four members of the public in attendance. Three members spoke about the grant application discussed under item 10a.

Cllr Philip Blatchford arrived at 7.33pm.

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 16th April 2025 and the Annual Council Meeting held on 11th June, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April and the Annual Council Meeting held on 11th June 2025 were a true record, these were signed 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) **2025/0749/LBC** Replacement porch and exterior decoration. Church Cottage, Heckley Lane, Ashwick. **Recommendation** Due to the timescale this was submitted under delegation and the recommendation was to approve the application.

(b) **2025/0765/TCA** T1 – Holly Tree – Fell. Sackville House, Manor Place, High Street. Oakhill. **This is a notification only** -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.

(c) **2025/1037/TCA** T1 – Cider Gum: fell to ground level and grind stump. Oakhill Manor, Zion Hill, Oakhill. **This is a notification only** -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.

- (d) **2025/1160/TCA** T3 – Sycamore – Remove. G1 – Laurel – Remove. Spencer House, Manor Place, High Street, Oakhill. **This is a notification only** -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) **2025/0310/APP** Approval of details reserved by condition 4 (Materials) on planning permission 2024/1508/HSE (Erection of a rear single storey extension with decking above, first floor half-storey extension). Brewery Cottage, Brewery Court, Brewery Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset have granted approval.
- (b) **2025/0428/REM** Application for removal of reserved matters following outline approval 2022/1343/OUT. Matters of landscaping to be determined. Batts Farm, Batts Lane, Gurney Slade. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (c) **2025/0939/AGB** Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed steel framed livestock and feed store building. New Row Farm, Yelling Mill Lane, Downside. **Decision** Prior approval not required.
- (d) **2025/0326/FUL** Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erect new 3-bedroom dwelling and associated works. Beacon Cross Farm, Old Frome Road, Masbury. **Decision** Somerset have granted approval.
- (e) **2022/1972/FUL** Change of use from former quarry to residential and erection of single storey dwelling (part retrospective). Land at 361982 145851 Highcroft Lane, Gurney Slade. **Decision** Somerset have refused the application.
- (f) **2024/1053/FUL** Erection of a building for light industrial use and associated infrastructure. Land at 361998 147954, Roemead Road, Binegar. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (g) **2025/0732/FUL** New covered yard for cattle, apex building off side of existing building with 2no. separate calf pens – Strodes Farm, Blackey Lane, Ashwick. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (h) **2025/1037/TCA** T1 – Cider Gum: Fell to ground level and grind stump – Oakhill Manor, Zion Hill, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted TCA approval.

10 Grants

(a) Beacon Trinity PCC £1,000

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application to Beacon Trinity PCC for £1,000

11 To be Resolved / Discussed

(a) To consider the quote from Somerset Forge to repair the whole fingerpost, cost would be £2500 + VAT.

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Somerset Forge to repair the whole fingerpost at Badgers Cross at a cost of £2,500.00 + VAT.

(b) To consider the approval of the reappointment of Do the Numbers Ltd as the Internal Auditor for 25-26 at a cost of £190.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Do the Numbers Ltd as the Internal Auditor for 2025-2026 at a cost of £190.00.

12 Clerks / Councillors Report

- (a) Binegar Parish Council were contacted as to whether they would be willing to share their Speed Indicator Device (SID), unfortunately they have replied saying the SID's should not be moved from their current approved sites but at the recent LCN Highways meetings there was a discussion about parishes getting together to purchase and share their SID's.
- (b) Highways at Somerset Council have been contacted regarding alternative locations for the SID, still waiting for a response.

- (c) Somerset Council are no longer accepting reports from Fix My Street networks, all issues now need to be reported through the portal on the Somerset Council website.
- (d) Reports have been received about the overgrown vegetation on Dye Lane. This has been reported to Somerset Council, reference number 82536. Email received 5th July saying the report had been closed as it is an urban footpath, the issue has been reported to Highways.

13 Finance

Bank Balance as at 9th July 2025

Current account £2,374.13

Reserve account £38,681.87

To approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation, this was signed by Cllr Stephanie Dowley.

To note the quarterly Budget Review

The Council noted the quarterly Budget Review.

Receipts

- (a) Bank Interest - £25.57 – received 10.04.25
- (b) Bank Interest £44.12 – received 10.05.25
- (c) Bank Interest £48.89 – received 10.06.25
- (d) Bank Interest £47.37 – received 10.07.25

Payments

- (e) Clerks Salary and Expenses April and May - £637.14 pd 01.06.25
- (f) Ashwick Village Hall – Hire of Hall - £25.00 pd 01.06.25
- (g) Clerks' salary and expenses June – £283.05
- (h) Ashwick Village Hall – Hire of Hall (two invoices) - £37.50

Transfers

- (g) Transfer from the Savings account to the current account – £5,000 transferred on 18.04.25.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments, receipts and transfer from the Saving Account to the Current Account.

14 Correspondence

Monthly report from Somerset Councillor Anthony Robbins – forwarded 30.04.25

- (a) Invitation to the LCN Meeting on 13th May 2025 at the Council Chambers in Shepton Mallet – forwarded 30.04.25
- (b) Update on the Somerset Local Plan – forwarded 08.05.25
- (c) LCN Meeting – Monday 7th July in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet starting at 7pm.
- (d) Briefing Sheet on the Volunteer Highway Scheme and the Highway Volunteer Handbook – forwarded 05.07.25

15 Matters to report/items for next agenda

- (a) An enforcement issue was raised regarding a planning application; this will be brought back to the next meeting.
- (b) A sink hole appeared outside the school. The police and Somerset Council were informed due to health and safety concerns. Somerset Council have refilled the hole and replaced the tarmac; it will be monitored for further damage.
- (c) Various reports of dog waste being left around the village have been reported.
- (d) Verges are becoming overgrown compromising vision at junctions. The Parish Council do not currently have a grass cutting contract so any issues will be reported to Somerset Council.

16 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.32pm