

ASHWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

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

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

No requests for dispensation as appropriate were received.

5 Public session

There were two members of the public in attendance.

Tabby Sutton introduced herself as the new Parish Path Liaison Officer for Ashwick Parish Council. The Council were happy to endorse her in the role. Tabby was thanked for volunteering for the role and the Council looks forward to working with her. This will be ratified formally at the next meeting.

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 26th November 2025, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November 2025 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.

2025/2227/PAA Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Mendip Lavender, Unit I, Old Frome Road, Doulling. **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.

2025/1688/REM Application for reserved matters following outline approval
2022/0797/OUT application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved for demolition of redundant agricultural buildings and a B8 storage building, erection of 1no. dwelling house with details of access. Matters of appearance / landscaping / layout / scale to be determined. Longacre, Pound Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

10 To be Resolved / Discussed

(a) To consider the possibility of setting up a dedicated Parish Council Website and moving to.gov.uk domain along with dedicated emails. If members approve, prices and possible designs will be brought to the April meeting.

The Council **RESOLVED** to set up a dedicated Parish Council Website, move to a.gov.uk domain along with dedicated emails. Examples and costs brought to the April meeting.

(b) To discuss the format of the public engagement meeting to be held on 18th February 2026. This is to follow the short Parish Council meeting to be held at 7.30pm on the same evening.

Councillors discussed the format of the evening. A short Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm, followed by a presentation on what the Parish Council is and what it is responsible for. Refreshments will be available and Councillors will give a short presentation on areas they represent.

(c) Approval of the budget for 2026-2027

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2026-2027 and put £15,000 into Earmarked Reserves for Village Projects.

(d) To consider the precept request for 2026 and approve the figure to be submitted to Somerset Council.

The Council **RESOLVED** to submit £24,706 as a precept request for 2026-2027.

11 Clerks / Councillors Report

(a) A request has been submitted to Somerset Council to undertake a Community Governance Review to reduce the number of Councillors at the 2027 local elections.

(b) Somerset Council have been chased regarding the junction of Highcroft Lane and the A37, this was submitted via the portal on 4th December 2025.

(c) Somerset Council have been chased requesting a meeting with a highways engineer to visit the Parish to consider possible locations for a SID, this was submitted via the portal on 4th December 2025.

12 Finance

Bank Balance as at 23rd December 2025

Current account £2,046.26

Reserve account £33,916.93

To note the Quarterly Budget Review

Councillors noted the Quarterly Budget Review for October to December 2025

To consider the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation.

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

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - £41.54 - received 10.12.25

Payments

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

(c) Clerks Salary / Expenses – December - £310.79

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

(d) David Barlow – refund for purchase of additional grit - £17.98

13 Correspondence

(a) Monthly report from Liberal Democrats Somerset Councillors – forwarded 04.12.25

(b) Correspondence was received concerning a hunt that took place in early December. It was noted that any incidents arising from such activities should be reported directly to the Police, as the Parish Council has no authority to monitor or regulate activities conducted on private land.

(c) Councillor Training Events Winter 2026 – forwarded 23.12.25

14 Matters to report/items for next agenda

(a) The High Street will be shut on the 2nd February 2026 for four days to allow works to be carried out by National Grid.

(b) Reports have been received of a burnt-out car at Gulley Batch, this will be reported to the local police for removal.

(c) A message was received of a missing sign on the footpath that goes through Pound Cottages, Following the meeting the defect was reported to Somerset Council, reference 85141.

15 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 18th February 2026 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. This will be a short meeting followed by a Public Community Engagement Meeting.

Meeting closed 8.44pm