

ASHWICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 29th July 2026 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

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

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 were no declarations 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 was one member of the public in attendance regarding the reestablishing the bus stops in Nettlebridge, this was discussed under item 10 (a).

6 Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Sam Phripp arrived later during the meeting so this item was moved.

7 To confirm the minutes of the meeting from the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th June and Planning Meeting held on 15th July, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th June and the Planning Meeting held on 15th July 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.

(a) **2026/1447/FUL** Retrospective change of use of land for the purpose of commercial dog walking with associated parking. Land adjacent to Pilgrim House, Bath Road, Oakhill. **Recommendation** Due to the application being received on the day of the meeting, it was agreed to send it out to councillors and obtain responses under delegated authority.

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

There were no responses to be noted from Somerset Council

10 To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) **To consider the proposal to work with Stratton on the Fosse Parish Council to re-establish two bus stops in Nettlebridge, one being within the Parish of Stratton on the Fosse and one within Ashwick Parish Council.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to work with Stratton on the Fosse Parish Council to re-establish two bus stops in Nettlebridge – one being with the Parish Council of Stratton on the Fosse and one within Ashwick Parish Council.

Somerset Councillor Sam Phripp joined the meeting item 6 was revisited.

6 Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Sam Phripp gave a verbal report. He advised that an audit of the village drains and gullies had been carried out with the Chair of the Parish Council. Over two-thirds were found to be heavily silted, with weeds growing in many of them. Photographs have been submitted to Somerset Council, and a response is awaited.

Works to address the flooding issue on the corner past the garage have been delayed. Following further accidents outside the Mendip Inn, Cllr Phripp is working with Somerset Council to have improvements at this location added to the highways works programme. He also reported ongoing concerns about visibility being obstructed by signs that are repeatedly placed in the wrong location.

Cllr Phripp is continuing discussions with Somerset Council and the bus companies regarding the bus stops in Nettlebridge. He will also forward updated information on the Chapelfield planning application, as the Parish Council has not been informed of all recent developments. Reports of overgrown vegetation have been submitted to Somerset Council, and he will follow these up.

10 To Be Resolved / Discussed

(b) To consider approaching Somerset Council to install extra signage on Fosse Road to stop HGV's using the road from the direction of Stoke St Michael.

Stoke St Michael Parish Council will be contacted to ask whether this matter can be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting. The Somerset Councillor will also liaise with Somerset Highways to establish how the proposal could be progressed.

(c) To consider whether Councillors wish their home addresses to be published, in order to comply with Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011, as inserted by Section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026.

The Council **RESOLVED** for their home addresses not to be removed from documents published on the Council's website apart from Cllr Phillp Blatchford whose details will be removed. Councillors who were not in attendance will be contacted as to their decision.

11 Clerks / Councillors Report

- (a)** Following the last meeting and the discussion around the installation of a speed indicator device within the village, the decision was forward to the Highways Department at Somerset Council, no reply has yet been received.
- (b)** Correspondence has been found from 2021 when Somerset Council adopted a policy to implement a 20mph zone around all schools in the county, and a request was made for the High Street in Oakhill. The question has been raised once again with the Highways Department at Somerset Council.
- (c)** Scribe has now been installed. Invoices are being entered and will be updated regularly, with financial reports produced as required. All Councillors have been sent a link providing view-only access to the system.
- (d)** Following the last meeting, Councillors have been surveying the fingerposts throughout the parish to assess their condition. A report will be presented to the Council once the survey has been completed.
- (e)** A post was published on the Parish Council Facebook page asking for volunteers to help maintain the flower beds by the War Memorial. **Update** Two volunteers have kindly stepped forward to help maintain the flower beds by the War Memorial.

- (f) A request has been received from Somerset Council asking the Parish Council to check the grit bins within the parish. Any grit bins that are empty or less than half full can then be added to Somerset Council's refill schedule.

12 Finance

Bank Balance as at 22nd July 2026

Current account £3,332.35

Reserve account £31,592.75

To approve the bank reconciliation

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

To review and note the quarterly budget report

The Council noted the quarterly budget report.

Payments

(a) Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall – Hall Hire - £43.75

(b) Scribe – Set up of Accounts - £298.80 – pd 27.06.26

(c) Scribe – Monthly support payments – August and July - £79.20 – Pd by DD

(d) Clerks Salary and expenses – July - £306.79

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments plus the additional payment listed below.

(e) Paul Cornish – Installation of the bench at the Pound - £31.02

13 Correspondence

(a) Councillor Training Courses July and August – forwarded 29.06.26

(b) Invitation to a site visit – forwarded 09.07.26

14 Matters to report/items for next agenda

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

15 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 9th September 2026 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.20pm