ASHWICK ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13th May 2026 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 2026-2027.
   (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, Phil Briscoe, David Thorley, Philip Blatchford, and Stephanie Dowley.
4. **Apologies**
   No apologies were received.
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**
   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.
8. **Risk Assessment**
   (a) To approve the Annual Risk Schedule
   The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Risk Schedule following a slight amendment.
9. **Policies**
   (a) To review and adopt Financial Regulations
   (b) To review and adopt Standing Orders
   (c) To review and adopt the Code of Conduct
   (d) To review and approve the Risk Assessments for Open Spaces – Land owned by the Parish Council
   (e) To review and adopt the Volunteer Policy
   The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the above policies and Risk Assessment.
10. **Confirm and agree Dates of Future Meetings for the following year**
    The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the dates for future meetings for the following year.

11. **To review and approve the annual insurance for Ashwick Parish Council** A quote has been received from Zurich Insurance for the renewal cost of £459.00, this is the same as 2025-2026.
    The Council **RESOLVED** to remain with Zurich for the annual insurance and **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of £459.00.
12. **Councillors Interests/Responsibilities**
    (a) Finance – Cllr Phil Briscoe
    (b) Highways – Cllr David Barlow
    (c) Planning – Cllrs David Thorley and Phil Briscoe
    (d) Footpaths – Cllr David Hine
    (e) Village Hall – Cllr David Thorley
    (f) Environmental Initiatives / Climate Emergency – Cllrs Philip Blatchford and David Hine
    (g) LCN Representative – Cllr David Barlow
13. **Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2024**
    (a) To Note the Annual Internal Audit Report from the Internal Auditor and any actions
    - **Clear reasons for holding Ear Marked Reserves**
    - **Members to make themselves aware of the requirements of the external Auditor for next year.**
    - **Work with residents to bring forward projects of benefit to the community.**
    - **Take extra care to ensure that all meetings are quorate.**

    The Council **NOTED** the Internal Audit Report and the recommended action.
    (b) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 of the Annual Return
    The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026. The Council also **NOTED** that Assertion 10 was marked as NO as the new website and emails were not in place by the end of March 2026, as a result the website was not WCAG 2.2 compliant by the end of the financial year.
    (c) To approve the Accounting Statement 2025/2026 of the Annual Return
    The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statement for 2025/2026.
    (d) To approve the Certificate of Exclusion
    The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Certificate of Exclusion for 2025/2026.
    (e) To note the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance and Accountability Return will run from Wednesday 3rd June to Tuesday 14th July 2026
    The Council **NOTED** that the notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance and Accountability Return will run from Wednesday 3rd June to Tuesday 14th July 2026.
    (f) To confirm that the Clerk is also the Responsible Finance Officer.
    The Council **CONFIRMED** that the Clerk is also the Responsible Finance Officer.

Next Annual Council Meeting Wednesday 19th May 2027

Meeting closed 7.53pm