

ASHWICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Wednesday 24th June 2026 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall
starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs David Hine, David Barlow (Chair), David Thorley, David Simons, Philip Briscoe, Philip Blatchford.

Also, in attendance – Kate Egan (Clerk)

1 Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr David Barlow welcomed everyone to the meeting and for coming out on a very warm evening.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Stephanie Dowley

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

(c) No written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests were received.

(d) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

No requests for dispensation as appropriate were received.

Cllr Philip Blatchford arrived at 7.34pm.

5 Public session

There was one member of the public in attendance and asked whether the Parish Council would support re-installing a bus stop in Nettlebridge. This is a joint project with Stratton on the Fosse Parish Council who have already given their support. Stratton on the Fosse Parish Council will be contacted to arrange a meeting with all the various bodies involved.

6 Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Sam Phripp was in attendance and provided a verbal report.

Following the public session, Cllr Phripp kindly offered to liaise with the Transport Liaison Officer to establish whether local bus operators would support the introduction of a bus stop. In response to the heavy storms earlier in the week, Cllr Phripp has already visited residents affected by localised flooding caused by blocked drains and gullies. He will raise the matter with Somerset Council and request that the affected drains and gullies are cleared. Cllr David Barlow offered to accompany him on a walk along the High Street to identify and highlight the blocked drains requiring attention. The issue of a SORN vehicle parked on the High Street was also discussed. The vehicle is causing access difficulties and has previously been reported to Somerset Council. Cllr Phripp agreed to follow this up and seek an update on any enforcement action being taken.

7 To confirm the minutes of the meeting from the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May and the Annual Council Meeting held on 13th May, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 13th May and the Annual Council Meeting held on 13th May 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) **2026/0947/TPO** – T1 (M1215) – Ash – fell due to infection of ash dieback overhanging road. Land adjacent to Fosse Road, 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.
- (b) **2026/1002/TCA** Proposed tree works detailed in tree survey. 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.
- (c) **2026/0964/TPO** M1153 – Ash T23 – Fell due to Ash dieback. Replant with Beech or Hornbeam. Oakhill House, Dean Lane, 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) **2026/1011/AGB** Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building. Beacon Cross Farm, Old Frome Road, Masbury. **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.
- (e) **2026/0960/FUL** Proposal for 3 no. detached 3-bedroom dwellings with parking and amenity space, on development land behind Rock House. Land at 362338 149135 Old Frome Road to Underhill, Gurney Slade. **Recommendation** Ashwick Parish Council recommended approval in principle, although Ashwick is currently over its allocation for housing and residents would prefer affordable housing.
- (f) **2026/1086/TCA** T1 – Birch – Fell. Holmlea, 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.
- (g) **2026/1188/TCA** Ash (T1) – Fell, Horse Chestnut (T2) – Reduce back to previous points. The View, 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.

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

- (a) **2026/0964/TPO** Ash T23 – Fell due to Ash dieback. Replant with Beech or Hornbeam. Oakhill House, Dean Lane, Oakhill. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted TPO Approval.
- (b) **Appeal Ref 6005171 Planning Application 2025/0306/OUT** Application for outline planning permission with all matters reserved for development of six detached houses and a pair of semi-detached houses and garages. **Decision** Date of Decision by the Planning Inspectorate 15th June 2026. The appeal is dismissed.
- (c) **2026/1011/AGB** Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building. Beacon Cross Farm, Old Frome Road, Masbury. **Decision** Somerset Council have stated prior approval is not required.

10 Policies

(a) To review and approve the policies below.

- Data Protection Policy
- Email Privacy Policy
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Public Participation Policy
- Updated Grants Policy

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above policies.

11 Grants

(a) To consider the grant application from Beacon Trinity for help towards the annual grass cutting, amount requested £1,000.

The Council **RESOLVED** to give £1750 as a quote had been received for the works which also included hedge cutting and gully clearing.

12 To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) Proposal to move the accounting system from an excel spreadsheet to Scribe accounts at an initial setup cost of £249 with a £33 monthly support cost.

The Council **RESOLVED** to move to Scribe accounts at an initial setup cost of £249 and £33 monthly support cost. All Councillors will be given viewing only access.

(b) To consider a proposal to stop using the Parish Council's old email address and to use the Council's.gov.uk email accounts for all future correspondence. To note that the community website will remain available but will no longer be updated by the Parish Council. All new Parish Council information will be published on the new website: www.ashwickparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Council **RESOLVED** to stop using the Parish Council's old email addresses and to only use the Council's.gov.uk email accounts for all future correspondence.

Councillors will be sent a reminder to their old emails. The Council also **NOTED** that the community website will no longer be updated by the Parish Council and all new information will be published on the new website.

(c) To appoint a Councillor to lead the fingerpost refurbishment programme by visiting and inspecting each fingerpost within the parish, taking photographs, and preparing a brief condition report. Subject to approval, this information will then be used to obtain quotations for any necessary refurbishment works.

Cllr David Barlow, Philip Briscoe and David Simons offered to travel around the parish finding the fingerposts, taking photographs and recording the status of each finger post.

13 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.

14 Finance**Bank Balance as at 15th June 2026****Current account £1,066.93****Reserve account £36,551.35****Receipts****(a)** Bank Interest - £46.19 – received 10.06.2026**Payments****(b)** Mark Hamlin – wall repair at the Pound - £250.00 – pd 20.05.26**(c)** Oakhill & Ashwick Village Hall – Hall Hire - £25.00**(d)** Clerks Salary and Expenses for May and June - £660.78**Transfers****(e)** Transfer of £5,000 from the reserves account to the current account

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above receipts, payments and transfers.

15 Correspondence**(a)** Councillor training events (May to August) 2026 – forwarded 18.05.26**(b)** Invitation to an online update on the Local Plan being held on 10th June at 4pm. – forwarded 22.05.26**(c)** Have you say on the Somerset Local Plan – Scoping Consultation Launched – forwarded 19.06.26**16 Matters to report/items for next agenda****(a)** Overgrown vegetation outside the Surgery in Oakhill obscuring the road signs.**17 Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 29th July 2026 at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.****Meeting closed 8.45pm**