



**Minutes of the Ansford Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.00pm, in Caryford Community Hall**

Councillors: Cllr C Edwards, Cllr F Houlton, Cllr D Henderson, Cllr D Pinnions, Cllr R Leary
Parish Clerk: R Coombes
County Councillors: None
Parishioners: 7 members of the public were present

Councillors and the public were advised the meeting would be recorded, and the recording deleted as soon as the draft minutes had been produced.

A parishioner spoke regarding the newsletter consultation, the parishioner will receive a response from the council.

Another parishioner spoke about the newsletter consultation. The parishioner also congratulated the council on behalf of the new belisha beacons. The council thanked Cllr Houlton for her work on the project.

089/2024 Apologies
None received.

090/2024 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Pinnions declared an interest in item 6 and 12.5

091/2024 To agree to remove the press and public for item 17
The council voted in favour of excluding the press and public for item 17 due to the discussion of confidential matters relating to staff.

092/2024 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22nd July 2024
It was agreed that these minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. Councillors proposed and approved these minutes.

093/2024 To receive reports from Unitary Councillors and police, if any.
Cllr Messenger reported that the council are working on the new boundaries commission which will affect the parish's unitary councillors oversee after a reduction in councillors. There are expectations that some parish councillors will be merged, which will need to be decided by the councils involved and Somerset Council. Cllr Henderson raised concerns over a potential amalgamation of Ansford and Castle Cary due to the council tax figures being based on data from 1991, it was felt this would lead to a significant increase of council tax for residents in Ansford.
Cllr Messenger reminded the council that now was the appropriate time to check the drain covers are clear and not blocked by leaves.
Cllr Henderson thanked Cllr Messenger for his work.

The latest figures from Police.uk were presented to the council. It was noted there had been 2 big raids recently, Cllr Messenger assured the council that Somerset Council were trying to gather more information to be able to provide to the police.

094/2024 Casual Vacancy and Co-option
Councillors voted to co-opt candidate A Parker on to the Council.
Approved: All voted in favour. Cllr Parker will complete the Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests.

095/2024 Planning

24/01801/HOU - Proposed two storey extension to existing domestic dwelling to include demolition of existing single storey rear extension
The council voted in approval of the application.

18/01603/LBC - Demolition of existing buildings, conversion of and alterations to listed buildings to form 11 No. dwellings, the erection of 70 No. dwellings (total 81 No. dwellings) and associated works, including access and off-site highway works, parking, landscaping, open space, footpath links and drainage infrastructure: Allowed Subject to conditions.
The council noted the update to this application.

24/01427/FUL - The demolition of a single storey sports pavilion and associated outbuildings with the erection of a single storey sports pavilion, associated ancillary building and associated landscaping
The council noted the update to this application.

096/2024 Newsletter Consultation

The consultation ran from 23rd of July to September 7th 2024. The consultation was delivered to 700 households in Ansford. 28 responses were received requesting continuation of home delivery of the newsletter, this equates to 4%. There is a clear mandate for this council to proceed with the cost saving operational changes to printing and delivery.

097/2024 Caryford Hall

Cllr Leary reported regarding the Caryford Hall.
It was decided to purchase a 3-drawer filing cabinet to be homed at the hall in order to archive old documents.
Caryford Hall committee had discussed the need to put cameras outside to cover the carpark. In principle the council are still supportive but would require further information regarding specification of the cameras.
Over the last 3 months, Caryford Hall has shown an operating profit of £1000.00. It was decided Cllr Leary would pass on congratulations from the council regarding the operating profit
There appears to be an issue with the roof of the new building; when it rains the noise on the roof affects the acoustics of the room badly. This will require further investigation from the committee.

098/2024 Fairfield

Cllr Edwards reported that he was following up the work carried out by Cllr Houlton for the tree planting in Fairfield. Cllr Edwards will letter drop those houses potentially affected by the scheme in order to advise them of the plans. There are 69 trees to be planted in Fairfield, with 8 along the border to be planted which could affect 16 homes.

APC had put forward a proposal to fence around the pump park and childrens play area to mitigate the risk provided by dogs being able to access the area. It was felt that although the risk included bites, there was more of a risk of collision with dogs off the lead and an accident occurring.

The Fairfield agreement was discussed. Ansford Parish Council had written to the solicitors to try to establish the original agreement, the solicitors advised with the transfer of ownership and didn't encompass the management of the field. A management committee was originally set up but management appears to have fallen back on to the 2 councils. A detailed agreement is required which establishes voting rights and how money is spent among other issues.

099/2024 Fairfield Insurance and risk assessment

After conversations with the insurance providers, it was found they do not cover boundaries. The risk assessment held on file was a generic one for

both Fairfield and Donald Pither Memorial Field. It was decided the clerk would complete risk assessment training online to provide risk assessments for Ansford Parish Council.

100/2024

Highways – A371 group

Cllr Houlton reported that the new zebra crossing had been installed, unfortunately one of the sets of lights isn't working, Cllr Houlton agreed to follow this up and stress the importance of people's safety while crossing the A371. Cllr Houlton confirmed the Highways Department are going to re-do the markings on A371 by the end of the year.

Cllr Houlton reported that letters had been written to residents that need to cut their hedges in order to promote access for those areas.

An exposed pipe and fallen tree along the A371 have been reported, as well as a wall with loose bricks.

The requirement for 2 further zebra crossings was discussed, one on station road to be discussed further in the meeting. Another on the A371 to allow access to the station footpath as per the feasibility study commissioned by the council. This study showed it was only possible to cross the road safely in one direction, it was decided to apply for a grant from GWR for this project.

The A371 group had discussed how to find out where the near misses are recorded so the information can be used. CrashMap was investigated but these are reports for injury collisions, nothing for near misses.

It was decided to post on facebook to request people report dangerous activity. Cllr Houlton was reminded to reach out to other councillors if further support is needed.

An update regarding the broken culvert situated next Station Road had been received, this requires further attention from Somerset Council.

Cllr Houlton thanked a parishioner for his help and assistance on the A371 group.

101/2024

Purchase of Speed Indicator Device

It was noted the SID had been repeatedly vandalised; it was decided to log this vandalism with the police. The clerk had also requested information from the manufacturers to see if anything could be done to prevent this happening. The purchase of a new SID was discussed, Somerset Council do not approve of having a SID installed in a permanent location. Cllr Houlton agreed to contact the Highways Department and try to get a site on the A371 approved. The council unanimously voted in principle of the approval of the purchase of a new SID.

102/2024

Footpath Maintenance

Contractors have continued to maintain the growth of shrubbery along the main footpaths. Councillors and parishioners were asked to report footpaths that need attention.

103/2024

S106/CIL Payments including the crossing on Station Road

The zebra crossing on Station Road was discussed. Both councils believed the original development required the installation of a zebra crossing, subsequently there was a renegotiation and the crossing was dropped. After further investigation it appears to be the case that there was an agreement for 2 informal crossings and a bus shelter only, these have not yet been installed. The council has enquired whether the contribution has been made for those items, and if not, could the money be contributed towards a zebra crossing.

It was noted that the planning application for 200 houses near the station on the A371 had been submitted. The council felt it needed to express its infrastructure needs before the funds are allocated by officers and perhaps part of the S106 agreement could be that the developers pay for a crossing on A371. The outline planning creates a small window of opportunity to put the councils needs across, a meeting with officers has been requested to explain the need for the zebra crossing. Cllr Messenger agreed to arrange a meeting with the Planning officers.

It was noted that an application to draw down S106 money from an Ansford development had been made by CCTC with APC being unaware. This had been investigated by Ansford Parish Council and they were assured this would not be allowed to happen again and applications would not be permitted without the host parish being consulted.

- 104/2024 Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme**
Information regarding the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. It was felt further information was required as to the outlay of this scheme.
- 105/2024 Payments to be made**
Payments on the payment schedule were approved.
- 106/2024 Spend to budget report**
The spend to budget report was noted by the council. Footpath maintenance is the biggest spend, the council will consider this when setting its budget for the next year.
- 107/2024 Earmarked Reserves**
The levels of Earmarked Reserves were noted by the council. It was decided to move the reserves from the Coombe Bottom allocation in to Improving Ansford and the Youth Provision allocations.
Since the last meeting, Cllrs Edwards and Henderson met with Dan Bennett and have progressed with the transfer of the asset of the football field.
- 108/2024 Grant Request from EatFestivals**
A grant request from EatFestivals had been received by the council. Councillors did not feel this was something the council should be funding and were against the grant proposal.
It was proposed to reject the grant request received:
Approved: 6
Against: 0
- 109/2024 Grant request from Castle Cary Carnival Society**
Councillors wished to make a donation to the Castle Cary Carnival Society. It is with regret that the budget did not allow the same donation as previous years. It was proposed to make a £500 donation to the Carnival Society.
Approved: 5
Against: 0
Cllr Pinnions had declared an interest and was unable to vote.
- 110/2024 Social Media Policy**
A social media policy had been proposed. Cllr Leary raised some questions regarding rules on posting in groups and where comments were aimed. Further clarification on the advertisement of events/charities/organisations is also required. RL – people comment on “real news” posts, do we allow comments on APC rather than on the Cary groups. Comments have been monitored.

Cllr Leary was asked to provide a proposal that the council can agree and work into the policy.
- 111/2024 Person specification for role of Councillor**
Councillors approved the person specification for the role of councillor.
- 112/2024 Parishioner contact**
Contact had been received on behalf of the church thanking the council for the work completed in clearing the vegetation at the boundary.

A parishioner had been in contact with the council to establish who was responsible for the Leylandi tree on the path between Tuckers Lane and Hallett Road. The parishioner has concerns about the height of the tree and

the potential damage that could be caused to their property. Cllr Edwards agreed to investigate further.

Parishioners had been in contact regarding speeding cars at Clanville. The council have positioned the SID at this location to try to establish speeds seen by that part of the parish.

113/2024 Date of the next meeting

The next Ansford Parish Council Meeting to be held on 9th October 2024, at Caryford Hall 7pm.

The meeting was closed to the press and public at 20:27pm.

In camera session began at 20:30pm

114/2024 In camera session

Councillors discussed the clerks hours and training commitments.

In camera session ended at 20:46pm

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT