



**Minutes of the Ansford Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.00pm, in Caryford Community Hall**

<b>Councillors:</b>	Cllr C Edwards, Cllr F Houlton, Cllr D Henderson, Cllr R Leary, Cllr D Pinnions, Cllr M Maxted
<b>Parish Clerk:</b>	R.Coombes
<b>County Councillors:</b>	Cllr K Messenger
<b>Parishioners:</b>	5 members of the public were present
<b>CCTC:</b>	Judi Morison

It was noted that Cllr Williams had decided to resign from the Council. Ansford Parish Council are thankful for the work and time contributed.

**065/2024      Open Session**

A parishioner spoke regarding the newsletter and the council noted their concerns.

Another parishioner spoke to thank the council in relation to the vegetation clearance on the pavements and footpaths. The parishioner noted that there was still some work to be done towards the station. The parishioner had previously raised concerns over some street lights that were not working, the parishioner updated the council that these have now been addressed, and after speaking with the engineer, it had been found that some weren't wired up. It was also noted that the culvert at Fairfield is flooding more frequently.

A parishioner spoke regarding the SID, APC informed them that the SID will be put in to position on Station Road as soon as possible and that it was now with SLR to enable this. The parishioner stated that the school lights are no longer working, Cllr Messenger agreed to raise this with Somerset Council again. The parishioner thanked APC for clearing Maggs Lane and the Coombe, as well as the route down to the station.

Cllr Pinnions highlighted that in the summer holidays there will be gates erected at Toybox and 2 cameras added to the sports hall.

**066/2024      Apologies**

None, all Councillors were present.

**067/2024      Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**068/2024      To exclude members of the public for item 16**

Councillors voted to approve the in-camera session at the end of the meeting.

**069/2024      To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th June 2024**

It was agreed that these minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting with the noted amendments being made. Councillors proposed and approved these minutes with amendments.

A query was raised at the last meeting regarding the Ansford Parish Councillors that live within the boundaries of Castle Cary and whether they have a pecuniary interest in the newsletter. Although being sure ourselves that this

wasn't the case, advice was sought to clarify the matter and it was found there was no pecuniary interest.

**070/2024**

**Unitary Councillor and Police Reports**

Cllr Messenger reported an email had been received from an asset manager at Somerset Council regarding the field at the end of Maggs Lane. It was agreed this would be a great asset to the community, further conversation and discussion is required and this will be an item on September's agenda.

Cllr Messenger had attended the flood group at Queen Camel and reported that there is a £5k grant available for an emergency resilience fund, should it be applicable. It was noted that at Lovells Farm there seems to be an issue when there is a high level of rainfall.

Cllr Messenger agreed to address the culvert again with Kier. He reported they have been out twice, and it should have been addressed. It was advised the council also contact Richard Wilkins from Somerset Council to report the issue.

It was reported that the new battery plant is progressing, there will be a rail link and an exit on to the motorway.

It was noted that a lot of parish councils have been taking the verges on themselves.

*Police Reports*

The latest policing statistics were read out. It was agreed to contact the Police Commissioner again for a response to the email previously sent.

**071/2024**

**Planning**

*21/00061/OUT – Land at Station Road – reduction of houses from 37 to 36.*

Councillors objected to this planning application based on previous reasons related to Highways matters (vehicular & pedestrian) and housing density in a confined area already suffering from over development.

It was confirmed with Somerset Council that the Zerba crossing on Station Road noted in the S106 agreement would not have been removed after having been identified as needed.

**Action: Clerk to contact Planning regarding footpath application**

**072/2024**

**Caryford Hall**

Councillors received an update from Councillor Leary, which is attached to the end of the minutes.

It was also noted that the open day plans have changed, and Michael Eavis is no longer available to open the hall at the ceremony

**073/2024**

**LCN**

Cllr Edwards had circulated a report regarding the AGM. The minutes of the AGM will be made available by Somerset Council in due course.

**074/2024**

**Fairfield**

A quote regarding the installation of a handrail at the zigzag path was received from CCTC. Councillors felt further quotes for this work were required.

There was a meeting regarding fencing off the play area and pump track. Councillors noted on the NHS England website that it states there are 10,000 admissions to hospitals a year due to dog attacks and bites, and the majority are children aged under 10. APC hope to achieve the implementation of the fence and there will be a further meeting requested with CCTC.

075/2024

## **Footpaths and Highways**

### **A371 Safety Focus Group Update**

It was noted that the first meeting took place the night before the APC meeting. It was noted that the group wish to challenge historical speed data that is used by Somerset Council and the police.

The feasibility study commissioned by APC with the help of Robert Brown (CCTC) had been forwarded to contacts at The Newt who have shown an interest in the installation of another zebra crossing.

Work is being done to aid visibility along the road. Concerns had been raised by a parishioner regarding a wall lining the road on Ansford Hill. Cllr Houlton agreed to take photographs so that APC can contact the owners.

### **TWG**

No update received.

### **Zebra Crossings**

Zebra crossing improvements were discussed by Councillors. New beacons could be purchased and installed, these would have 3 strips of LED lights, and each side would have an extra light directed on to the zebra crossing. It was noted the possibility of making this a raised crossing was being investigated. Councillors are committed to pay for the crossing; however it was decided to investigate and ascertain whether APC can apply for funding via the Small Improvement Scheme available from Somerset Council with the support of Cllr Messenger. APC have previously decided to focus on Health & Safety and all councillors voted in approval of improvements being made to the crossing.

### **Footpath Maintenance**

It was noted that the upgrade of the station footpath can still be investigated. It is hoped the next round of funding from GWR will be an opportunity to progress this project.

It was noted that residents are walking the A371 to establish who is responsible for hedges overhanging the pavements. The Council will then write a letter with a timeline, and then must report the issue to highways.

Local contractors have been brought in to clear the worst affected areas regarding overgrown vegetation, however there is still more work to take place. It was noted that the contractors will be starting to clear overgrown styles on Friday. It was noted that this is a frustration felt within several parishes where there isn't any clear information being received from Somerset Council as to when clearance work will take place. Ansford Parish Council now have a spreadsheet to document issues and clearance dates to create a schedule for future years.

Ansford Parish Council had contacted The Newt to request help with clearing the station footpath because of their commercial interest at the station. The Newt agreed to add the footpath management to their village steward rota.

076/2024

## **Finance**

The financial report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed that this be signed. Resolved (5.0.0)

### **Online & cheque payments:**

R Coombes	Clerk Salary	
Lighthouse	Payroll Admin Charge	£13.00
Caryford Hall	Hall Hire	£30.00
A Wadman	June Grass Cut	£540.00
C Dycer	Vegetation Clearance	£750.00

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P Russell	Internal Audit Fees	£195.00
C Edwards	D Day Flag	£6.59
C Edwards	Plants for station troughs	£58.00

It was proposed and agreed that these payments be made (5.0.0)

It was noted that all contractual payments will be paid during August when APC are not meeting and noted at September's meeting.

A payment to a parishioner to reimburse their costs for a fire damage was mentioned. APC have agreed to contribute, CCTC voted she should claim on her insurance. APC agreed there was liability where flammable materials were stacked against her fence. All in councillors were in favour of making these payments.

**077/2024 PWL**  
Councillors noted the repayment of £3,546.00 towards the PWL which will be debited from the account.

**078/2024 Internal Audit Report**  
Councillors noted the internal audit report received.

**078/2024 Financial Regulations**  
Councillors agreed to adopt the latest version of Financial Regulations which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**079/2024 Parishioner Contact**  
Contact had been received from parishioners regarding vegetation growth previously, further parishioners had been in contact to thank the council for the maintenance work that had been carried out.  
  
A parishioner had been in contact regarding the grass cutting at Ashlea Green and enquired as to why the edges had not been cut. This was due to the profusion of spring wildflowers that had been sown a couple of years ago, and when they have died back naturally, they will be removed.

It was noted that there is ongoing contact regarding the Hillcrest & BMI sites, as well as issues regarding the A371.

**080/2024 Any other correspondence**  
An email had been received regarding the former fitness centre off Maggs Lane.

**081/2024 Date of the next meeting**  
The next Ansford Parish Council Meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, at Caryford Hall 7pm.

**The in-camera session began at 19:52**

**082/2024 Clerk contract and training**  
It was decided to approve the Clerks request to partake in CiLCA training.

The meeting ended at 19:55

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