



Minutes of the **Extraordinary** Ansford Parish Council Meeting
 held in Caryford Hall, Maggs Lane, Ansford, BA7 7JJ
 on **Thursday 23rd April 2026** at 6:30pm

Present: Cllr. Debra Henderson (Chairperson)
 Cllr. Fiona Houlton (Vice-chair)
 Cllr. Chris Edwards
 Cllr. Ray Leary
 Cllr. Annette Parker
 Cllr. Di Pinnions

In Attendance: Mr Simon Pritchard: Responsible Finance Officer
 & Acting Proper Officer

Members of the Public in Attendance: Zero

Public Comments:

- o No members of the public

Item no:	
1	<u>To receive any apologies for absence:</u> Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Summer Easeman.
2	<u>Declarations of interests:</u> None.
3	<u>Confidential session:</u> It was proposed by Cllr Henderson to go into confidential session as the next agenda item related to commercially sensitive information, seconded by Cllr Leary. RESOLVED (6-0-0) (For-Abstain-Against).
4	<u>Tender awarding – Lovells Farm play area:</u> Somerset Council is holding developer contribution funds that have been paid to Somerset Council to create a local area of play in Bartlett Square. The money has been in Somerset Council’s accounts for a number of years with previously no plan in place to deliver the scheme. In the last year, since the Parish Council became aware of the funds that are held by Somerset Council, encouragement has been given to Somerset Council to deliver on the promised play area. Somerset Council appointed one of its landscape officers to assess the area and find suitable equipment and contractors. That process has now come to an

end with the Parish Council now being presented with the results from three tenders to choose from. In parallel to this, the Parish Council's Responsible Finance Officer has pursued a fourth contractor to tender for the works in order to provide due diligence.

Councillors were presented with the three fully costed Somerset Council schemes and a fourth fully costed scheme obtained by the Parish Council.

Debate took place as to the merits of each; how the layout would work; access to the site; how residents would be kept informed; who would manage the project.

It was agreed that the timelines were now short for delivering the scheme and that the desire was to have the project delivered by the summer holidays.

The age range for the play equipment is set by Somerset Council and is 4 to 9 years old.

It was noted that if the Parish Council also contributed some of its own funds it would make a significant difference to the equipment that could be provided and that it is far more cost effective to have any additional equipment installed all at the same time while the contractor is onsite.

The freehold of the land is currently being transferred from the developer to the Parish Council as a separate process and it will be the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain the equipment/area once installed/transferred.

It was proposed by Cllr Leary:

- 1) To appoint Playdale to deliver the project, as they had clearly provided the best like-for-like tender on the current specification.**
- 2) To increase the specification, working with Playdale to deliver additional equipment or features to use all the £62k in s106 funding that is available and to authorise the drawdown and spending of the £62k now.**
- 3) That it is authorised now to spend at least an additional £10k of the Parish Council's own funds, adding to the overall project to provide further funding towards equipment/landscaping to achieve the best result.**
- 4) That it be at the discretion of the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) as to what additional equipment is suitable, in consultation with Playdale and council members.**
- 5) For the Parish Council to apply for the drawdown of the S106 funding from Somerset Council and to appoint the RFO to oversee and manage all aspects of the project on behalf of the Parish Council.**
- 6) That the RFO be awarded up to an extra 140 hours in overtime to be the project manager.**
- 7) That further funding of up to £1,000 be approved now for other landscape items after the project is completed, possibly including turfing the site in the autumn should the grass seed fail to grow.**
- 8) That once the final plan is in place, letters are delivered to all the homes in the square to introduce the project and keep residents fully informed.**

Seconded by Cllr Pinnions RESOLVED (6-0-0) (For-Abstain-Against).

End of Meeting at 7.01pm