

# Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 11 March 2019 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

**Present :** Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), R Abel, A Crouch, C Criddle, A Knight, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and no members of the public.

## **75/18 Apologies**

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Lyons and Cllr Perryman. The written resignation of Cllr Perryman with effect from today was also noted with regret. Appreciation was conveyed to Cllr Perryman for all of the time and commitment he had given to the Parish during his time as a Councilor especially with regard to the Playing Field.

## **76/18 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests**

Cllr Knight declared a personal interest in paragraph 86/18 – Correspondence.

## **77/18 Minutes**

It was resolved for the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2019 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

## **78/18 Public Participation**

- No public representation.
- County/District Cllr Linda Vjeh.had conveyed her apologies due to being unavailable to attend this meeting.

## **79/18 Playing Field**

- a) The March 2019 playing field report which would be the final one submitted by Cllr Perryman was received and noted.
- b) The Clerk advised a response was still awaited from Mr Hewson regarding an assessment of the actions required as a result of the SSDC Playground Inspection Report. It was agreed the Clerk should contact Mr Hewson again before starting to explore obtaining quotations with possible other contractors to carry out this work.
- c) No other matters relevant to the playing field were tabled.

## **80/18 Planning**

- i) It was noted the following planning application had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting of the Parish Council :

Application No.	19/00264/FU
Proposal	The erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling
Location	Orchard Poultry, Cad Lane, Ashill.

The response which had been made on behalf of Ashill Parish Council to the previous Planning Application 17/04901/FUL in support of the erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling on this site was noted. It was resolved that the Parish Council was still supportive and had no further observations to make with regard to this revised proposal.

- iii) It was noted the following planning application had been permitted by SSDC since the last meeting :

Application No.	18/03531/FUL
Proposal	Change of use from paddock to domestic use with erection of outbuilding.
Location	The Cottage, Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill,

**Correspondence** (noted)

Mr White – Pre-application Planning Advice - *the Clerk had written to Mr White to advise him that the SSDC Planning Authority would be able to provide him with this information*)

**81/18 Highways / Footpaths**

- a) Winter Gritting - it was reported there do not appear to be any spare grit bins available within the Parish and, moving forward, it was considered that some thought should be given to adopting a community-based approach to winter gritting. It was agreed that further discussion with regard to this matter should be deferred until the September meeting.
- b) Missing handrail on the footpath behind Ashton Close - the Chairman reported he had been unable to make contact with the relevant officer at SSDC in order to progress this matter and the Clerk was instructed to chase this up.
- c) Rights of Way Issue #48726 with Path CH 1/6 - it was noted that Somerset County Council had confirmed the issue of this footpath being overgrown, which had been reported by the Chairman on 10/7/2018, had now been resolved.
- d) Footpath Patrols / Parish Ranger Scheme – as part of the ongoing discussion with regard to this matter the Chairman agreed he would speak with the South Somerset Ramblers to explore whether any of the members who regularly walk the Ashill footpath network would be interested in submitting an informal report to the Parish Council from time to time with regard to the condition of the footpaths. It was felt if this arrangement could be established then it would help the Parish Council to be able to make informed decisions about what areas were in need of attention for the introduction of a Parish Ranger Scheme. In the meantime the Chairman and the Clerk would arrange for copies of the Ashill footpath map to be made available for Councillors at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- e) Speed Signage at Rapps - correspondence was received and noted from a resident of Rapps advising that the residents of Rapps had obtained the necessary funding to be able to address the road safety concerns there. The members of Ashill Parish Council were pleased to hear this news and conveyed congratulations to the residents for their initiative.

**Correspondence** (circulated)

Somerset County Council - TRO Rapps Road Parish of Ashill 40mph Speed Restriction  
Griffiths - M5 Junction 25 Improvement Scheme

**82/18 Environment**

- a) The Clerk reported she had confirmed with Mr Hewson that he had removed the old pond picnic bench before Christmas as had been requested by the Parish Council at the November 2018 meeting. Mr Hewson had reported he had left the steel ground anchors that had been fixed to the bench so they could be used again if the Council wished to replace the bench with the same design etc. Otherwise Mr Hewson would remove the old steels which for the time being have been marked with Hi Vis tape so that no one walks into them. A discussion was introduced as to whether the bench should be replaced and it was agreed it would be preferred for it to be replaced by a three seat bench made of tannellised wood. The Chairman agreed he would look into what would be obtainable from Yarcombe Woodland Products and present a report at the next meeting.
- b) A question was raised with regard to notices being posted on trees adjacent to the highway and the Clerk was instructed to establish what is permissible with the Planning Authority.
- c) No other matters regarding the Parish Environment were tabled.

**83/18 Ashill Village Hall**

The Chairman reported that new hand dryers have been installed in the Village Hall toilets since the last meeting.

**84/18 Website / Communication**

- a) A discussion was introduced as to whether the Parish Council should introduce the use of Facebook in addition to the Parish Council Website. It was unanimously resolved not to introduce the use of Facebook at this moment in time.

- b) The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council Website provides Parish Council information and also any correspondence she receives which she feels is of interest to the Community such as the monthly County/District Councillor report from Cllr Vijeh, Somerset Waste Partnership briefings and the M5 Junction 25 Improvement Scheme information. Councillors and members of the Public are always encouraged to submit feedback with regard to the Website;
- c) The Clerk reported Mr Hewson had reported he had repaired the notice board by the garage for the second time. It is thought damage to the door is being caused by it being caught by the wind after being left unlatched. If this happens again then Mr Hewson has offered to change the door for a single drop down front like the one at Windmill Hill at no additional cost to the Parish.

**85/18 May 2019 Elections**

The Clerk advised this would be the last meeting of the Parish Council for the 2015/19 quadrennium. Parish Council Elections combined with elections for South Somerset District are to be held on 2 May 2019. The Clerk handed out nomination forms to Councillors which need to be completed and returned to the SSDC Offices in Yeovil by 3 April 2019. An actual poll will not take place if the number of valid nominations received for a Parish Council is less than the number of vacancies to be filled which for Ashill is seven. If the number of nominations are sufficient to make the Parish Council quorate – i.e. for Ashill is greater than or equal to three – then the Parish Council will still be able to conduct Parish Council business and any remaining vacancies can be filled by co-option.

**86/18 Finance**

- a) It was resolved to appoint Mr John Brunt to carry out the Internal Audit for the 2018/19 Parish Council Accounts;
- b) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :
 

Mr P Lang – Playing Field Safety Sign Frames	£ 16.00
Clerks Salary (January-March)	£ 586.30

**Correspondence** - noted  
St.Marys Church – Grant Funding

**87/18 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Parish Ranger Scheme
- Parish Footpath Warden
- Defibrillator
- Pond Bench
- Winter Gritting – September 2019

**88/18 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council would be the Annual Meeting and would be held on Monday 13 May 2019.

*The meeting closed at 9.10 pm*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
13 May 2019