

# Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 13 November 2017 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

**Present :** Cllrs H Hewson (Chairman), R Abel, C Criddle , P Lang, A Knight, R Perryman, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk), County/District Cllr L Vijeh and 38 members of the public (*reduced to 4 members after the Public Participation item with regard to Planning Application - 17/04328/OUT - Land West of School Lane, Ashill*).

## **54/17 Chairmans' Opening Remarks**

Cllr Hewson welcomed everyone to the meeting but it was suspected that the unusually high attendance was due to a flyer which had been delivered to local properties during the weekend. The flyer – which had been nothing to do with the Parish Council - had advised that this meeting would include a discussion regarding Planning Application - 17/04328/OUT - Land West of School Lane, Ashill. The Parish Council has a due process with regard to how planning applications are dealt with and significant proposals need to be publicised as an item on the Parish Council meeting agenda. The plans had only been received from South Somerset District Council on Friday 10 November 2017 and therefore it had been too late to include this proposal on the agenda for this meeting. A separate meeting would be arranged - on a date yet to be determined - in order to discuss this matter. However – due to the number of people attending this meeting - a short time would be allocated for the Parish Council to receive and note any comments which members of the public may wish to raise at this time.

## **55/17 Public Participation**

The following issues were raised by members of the public with regard to Planning Application - 17/04328/OUT - Land West of School Lane, Ashill :

- Drainage – attention was brought to the geology of Ashill which is made up of impermeable clay and - along with the sloping topography - there were concerns regarding whether the introduction of another built area could cause more surface water flooding of existing properties and elsewhere. Attention was brought to an incident of flooding – which caused significant damage to property at Kenny during 2008 – that was due to surface water running down to the river and causing it to overflow. Concerns were also raised regarding the sustainable management of foul drainage and sewage treatment which is also an issue in the Parish.
- Wildlife Habitat – the site is considered to be of significant interest with regard to wildlife - including newts, toads and grass snakes- and also for wildflowers.
- Broadband – a member of the public reported she had been advised by BT that the Parish was reaching capacity with regard to broadband provision.
- Highway Safety /Parking– the existing road network is considered to be not adequate enough to accommodate the additional residential traffic. There are also future uncertainties regarding the local road network due to the proposed upgrading of the A358 which could create a further increase in vehicle movements along the old A358 carriageway. Neither the proposal to create a new footpath at the back of the proposed development nor the existing footpath adjacent to the old A358 / proposed new development addresses highway safety concerns for all users of the road network in the area of the church/school/playing field where there are no footways and limited visibility. There are also concerns that the access and design of the proposed new development would encourage parking adjacent to the old A358 carriageway.

*Members of the public were given the opportunity to leave the meeting at this stage and after a short break the meeting reconvened with four members of the public remaining,*

- Mr Raikes spoke of his Planning Application - 17/04304/FUL - Wood Cottage, Wood Road, Ashill – proposal to rebuild an annexe following fire damage – planning permission is required as the height of the eaves of the proposed new building exceeds the permitted development height of 2.5 metres.
- Mr Praetor asked the Parish Council to give consideration as to whether the weeds along the footpath leading from Ashton Close to the Church could be sprayed and kindly offered to carry out this task. Attention was also brought to the handrail located at the beginning of the footpath which has become loose.
- It was reported that the adult exercise equipment does not appear to have any resistance.
- A member of the public advised that some of the wheelie bins and recycling boxes are being missed from being collected in the area of the Church and Windmill Hill Lane. It is also felt there appears to be some inconsistency around the District with regard to the type of plastics being collected.
- The September 2017 & October 2017 Ilminster Division County/District Councillor reports were received and noted. Cllr Vijeh also advised she is trying to explore the situation with regard to the cancellation of the Ashill bus service.

#### **56/17 Apologies**

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Lyons.

#### **57/17 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests**

None.

#### **58/17 Minutes**

It was resolved for the minutes of the following meetings to be signed as a true record :

- Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 September 2017;
- Meeting of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on 9 October 2017.

#### **59/17 Planning**

i) It was noted that the following planning application had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting :

Application No.	17/04328/OUT
Applicant	Ian, Clifford & Sandra House, House & Vaux
Proposal	Erection of 26 dwellings and associated works including the formation of 2 No. accesses and car park (outline)
Location	Land West of School Lane, Ashill.

It was resolved that a meeting of the Parish Council Planning Committee would be held on 27 November 2017 in order to discuss this matter.

ii) The following planning application which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting was received and considered :

Application No.	17/04304/FUL
Applicant	Mr & Mrs Jason Raikes
Proposal	Erection of replacement annexe and workshop
Location	Wood Cottage, Wood Road, Ashill.

The Parish Council raised no objections or observations with regard to this proposal.

iii) It was noted the following planning application has been granted by SSDC since the last meeting :

Application No.	16/03294/FUL
Applicant	Mr Christopher Slow
Proposal	Application to vary conditions 02 (approved plans) and 05 (proposed access) of planning permission 16/05090/FUL to change access from Wood Road to Windmill Hill
Location	Paddock Adjoining Square & Compass Public House, Windmill Hill, Ashill.

- iv) 17/03800/OUT - Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill – the Clerk reported she had received a telephone call from Mrs A Cameron – SSDC Leisure Policy Co-ordinator - asking the Parish Council for comments regarding the proposal for a footway to be created near to the tennis court and the proposed proximity of some of the proposed properties to the playing field. The Parish Council resolved that it did not support the creation of any additional footway adjacent to the playing field or the creation of any additional access to the playing field. The Parish Council also did not support the proposed close proximity of some of the proposed properties to the playing field which is not within the SSDC recommended guidelines for the minimum gap between properties and a playing field. Ashill Playing Field is considered to be a well-used valuable amenity and the Parish Council would wish for the current health, well-being and enjoyment opportunities that it provides for all members of the community to be preserved. Mrs Cameron had also asked for the Parish Council to give consideration to potential leisure planning obligations - under the Section 106 agreement - in the event of planning approval being granted. Preliminary ideas put forward were for the provision of a running track; the height of the tennis court fencing to be increased; and for a playing equipment replacement and maintenance programme to be introduced. The Clerk would explore with SSDC whether these suggestions were within the Section 106 guidelines.
- v) Correspondence was received and considered from Mr A Jones – Future Communities –regarding the Parish Council response to the planning application - 17/03800/OUT - Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill - which had been considered at a meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 October 2017. It was resolved there were no additional comments or amendments to be made with regard to the response which had been made.
- vi) South Somerset Local Plan Review – the South Somerset Issues and Options Consultation - 26 October 2017 to 11 January 2018 was received and considered. It was agreed a response should be formulated with regard to the level of development proposals being put forward in Rural Settlements.
- vii) **Other Correspondence** – received & noted :  
 Mr C Slow - Paddock Adjoining Square & Compass Public House, Windmill Hill.  
 Mr D Boggon - Paddock Adjoining Square & Compass Public House, Windmill Hill.  
 Mr D Bond - Paddock Adjoining Square & Compass Public House, Windmill Hill, Ashill  
 Mr D Boggon - Windmill Hill Transport Statement 4 October 2017  
 Mr & Mrs Blackmore-Wynn - Ancient Orchard of Ashill proposed development.  
 SSDC - power point from planning training events held on 5 & 12 October 2017

#### 60/17 Playing Field

- a) The Annual South Somerset District Council Playing Field Inspection Report was received and noted.
- b) Cllr Perryman presented a November Playing Field Inspection Report. The mole problem has now been resolved and some minor repair and maintenance tasks are required.

- c) The resistance issue which had been raised by a member of the public was considered and it was agreed to explore the servicing of the adult gym equipment with the supplier.

#### **61/17 Highways / Footpaths**

- a) Correspondence regarding speeding traffic through Rapps was received and considered. It was agreed to explore whether anything could be done to mitigate this with Somerset County Highways.
- b) Appreciation was conveyed to Mr Praetor for his kind offer to carry out a spray treatment of the weeds along the footpath between Ashton Close and the Church. It was agreed that Mr Praetor would be fully reimbursed for the cost of the weed treatment product. The loose handrail on this footpath would be reported to the Somerset County Footpath Officer.
- c) **Other Correspondence** – received and noted :  
County Highways – South Somerset Winter Service 2017 & Grit Bin Filling  
Somerset County Roads – Winter Service in Somerset 2017/18  
Planning Inspectorate - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section S14 - Somerset County Council - refusal to upgrade footpath CH 1/23 to a restricted byway (Parish of Ashill) for a route continuing southwards from Copse Lane, Ashill (from ST 333 172 to ST 333 167).

#### **62/17 Environment**

The condition of the bus shelter opposite the Square & Compass Public House which had been brought to attention by a member of the public at the last meeting of the Parish Council was considered. It was agreed that Cllr Criddle would inspect the bus shelter and present a report at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **63/17 Village Hall**

Cllr Lang advised there were currently no relevant matters to bring to attention regarding the Village Hall.

#### **64/17 Website/Communication**

- a) A discussion was introduced as to what further measures could be taken to publicise Parish Council meeting dates. Currently the agenda for each meeting is posted on the Parish Council Website and four notice boards around the Parish (near the Church; corner of Windmill Hill; Thickthorn Lane and Rapps). A meeting date schedule for each year is published on the Parish Council Website. . It was agreed that a meeting date schedule should also be displayed on the notice boards and published in the Parish Magazine. There was also a discussion about the use of Social Media and it was agreed that no further action to be taken regarding this at the present time.
- b) Cllr Lang reported the contractor who had been selected to carry out the proposed notice board replacement and repair programme was no longer able to carry out this work. It was resolved that Mr S Hewson would be asked if he wished to take over this contract at the same cost as had been previously agreed.

#### **65/17 Ashill Christmas 2017**

- a) A discussion was introduced regarding as to whether a tree should be provided for Christmas 2017. It was agreed that Cllr Abel and Cllr Knight would source a tree at a cost of around £50 and Cllr Hewson would purchase some additional lights. It was agreed to aim for the Christmas Tree to be in place for the Parish Carol Singing Event - scheduled to be held on 9 December 2017 - which is currently being publicised as 'Singing under the Stars'.

- b) Consideration was given as to whether to work in partnership with SSDC to provide a Christmas Tree Recycling Service this year in Ashill. It was resolved that no further action would be taken regarding this matter as a suitable site for a storage compound could not be identified.

**66/17 Finance**

- i) The external auditor certificate and opinion for the 2016/17 accounts was received and noted.
- ii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| Clerks' Salary (October - December)       | £574.81 |
| Website (November 2015 to November 2019 ) | £580.05 |

**67/17 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- 2017/18 Financial Report & 2018/19 Budget
- Ashill Christmas 2017 Report
- Notice Board Replacement Update

**68/17 Meeting Dates 2018**

The 2018 meeting dates were confirmed as being 15 January, 5 March, 7 May (Annual Meeting), 2 July, 3 September and 5 November.

*The meeting closed at 9.45 pm*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
15 January 2017