

Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 15 January 2018 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present : Cllrs H Hewson (Chairman), C Criddle , P Lang, A Knight, K Lyons,
Mrs J Davidson (Clerk), County/District Cllr L Vijeh and 4 members of the public.

69/17 Apologies

None.

70/17 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests

None.

71/17 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 13 November 2017; and
- Meeting of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on 27 November 2017.

72/17 Public Participation

- Attention was brought to the handrail - on the footpath directly behind 5 Ashton Close - which had been reported at the last meeting of the Parish Council as it was becoming loose. It has now disappeared and people are instead using adjacent garden fences as a handrail. The Clerk advised she had received an e-mail – dated 20 December 2017 - from the Somerset County Council Right of Way Team in response to her report regarding this matter to say this matter was now closed as they had not been able to find a hand rail. The Clerk would make a request to the Somerset Rights of Way Team for the hand rail to be reinstated.

73/17 Playing Field

- a) The January 2018 payments/receipts report for the Ashill Playing Field Trust was received and noted.
- b) A quotation of £125 + VAT was received and considered from VitaPlay Ltd. to carry out a full operational inspection complete with report and any general maintenance that may be required for the existing Adult Gym Equipment and Safety Surfacing. Vitaplay has recommended that this work should be carried out at least quarterly as a minimum. However it was resolved - in the first instance - for there to be one inspection and maintenance booked for this year to be done as soon as possible. The Parish Council – and not the Playing Field Trust – would provide the funding for this service.

74/17 Planning

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

Application No.	17/04519/FUL
Proposal	The erection of first floor extension to dwelling
Location	Ashton Close, Ashill.

The response made by the Parish Clerk, using delegated authority, on behalf of members observations was noted. No observations or objections had been raised with regard to this proposal.

- ii) The following planning applications which have been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting were received and considered :

Application No.	17/04862/FUL
Proposal	The erection of an extension to agricultural building
Location	Shrubbery Farm, Old A358, Horton, Ilminster.

No observations or objections were raised with regard to this proposal.

Application No.	17/04867/FUL
Proposal	Extension to commercial premises for the manufacture & storage of shepherds huts
Location	Blackdown Shepherd Huts, Shrubbery Farm, Old A358. Horton, Ilminster.

The Parish Council supported the sustainable growth of this rural business which is making a positive contribution to the creation of employment opportunities for local people.

Application No.	17/04868/FUL
Proposal	Alterations to include the conversion of outbuilding to annexe & formation of pitched roof
Location	Hunters Cottage, Wood Road, Ashill.

The Parish Council was of the opinion that this proposal would have a positive impact on the appearance of the property and therefore there were no objections.

Application No.	17/04888/OUT
Proposal	The erection of 3 No.Dwellings
Location	Land Adjoining Ashill Village Hall, Ashill.

As this planning application had arrived too late to be included on the agenda for this meeting It was resolved that a meeting of the Parish Council Planning Committee would be held on 5 February 2018 in order to discuss this matter.

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

Application No.	17/04304/FUL
Proposal	Erection of replacement annexe & workshop
Location	Wood Cottage, Wood Road, Ashill.

75/17 Highways / Footpaths

- a) Correspondence was received and considered regarding the - Somerset County Council - termination of the current speed indicator device (SID) programme. The County Council's SIDs are reaching the end of their serviceable lives and the County Council is not currently in the financial position to be able to invest in a replacement programme. The options which have been put forward for Parish/Town Councils is to either :
- join a possible revised County Council scheme operating from 1 April 2018 funded entirely by contributions received from participating Parish/Town Councils; or
 - for Parish/Town Councils to purchase and operate their own SID, either as an individual Parish/Town Council, jointly with an adjoining Parish/Town Council, or in conjunction with a number of Parish/Town Councils; or
 - do nothing and no longer have a SID.
- Ashill Parish Council agreed that no decision should be taken regarding this matter until the cost to the Parish is known.
- b) The Clerk presented a verbal report of a discussion with an Officer of Somerset County Council Highways regarding concerns which had been raised about speeding traffic through Rapps. The Officer had conveyed that at best the minimum speed limit would be 40mph as this area would not meet the criteria for 30mph. A study conducted by Highways a few years ago had identified what had been considered to be minor incidents of vehicles travelling over 40mph. In order to reinforce a speed limit of 40mph then a number of signs would need to be erected at regular intervals along this stretch of road and the cost of this project would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Highways Officer had made the suggestion that in the first instance the community may wish to explore other ways of traffic monitoring such as a community speed watch schemes. The Parish Council agreed that no further action should be taken with regard to this matter until the situation with the A358 Dualling Scheme was clarified.
- c) Recent incidents of surface water flooding were reported at the A358/Cad Road junction which was thought to be due to the overflowing of the adjacent ditched.

76/17 Environment

- a) Cllr Criddle reported she was of the opinion that - apart from one of the bottom boards needing to be replaced - the rest of the bus shelter opposite the Square & Compass Public House appeared to be in good condition. It was agreed to explore the cost of replacing the board with Mr S Hewson.

- b) The Clerk reported she had contacted the Contracts Manager – Somerset Waste Partnership – with regard to the inconsistency of the wheelie bin and recycling box collection service which had been raised by a member of the public at the last meeting of the Parish Council. The Contracts Manager had conveyed apologies and advised that this matter would be taken up with the contractor. Temporary staff are given a full induction regarding what they should – and should not – collect but it is recognised there can be some confusion despite these measures. With regard to the collection of plastics - only plastic bottles should be taken - and other items such as pots, tubs and trays should not. Members of the public were encouraged to bring any further concerns regarding this service to the attention of the Parish Clerk to convey to Somerset Waste Partnership.

77/17 Consultations

A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme from 16 January to 27 February 2018

Correspondence on behalf of Highways England was received and noted offering Parish Council members only an A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme briefing. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take up the offer of meeting with the Highways Project Team - as part of this 2nd consultation - to discuss the proposals in more detail. The Clerk was instructed to explore possible dates for when this could be take place and to maybe join Broadway Parish Council. Following this meeting a response to the 2nd Consultation would be formulated.

South Somerset draft recommendation of ward boundaries from 9/1/2018 to 19/3/2018

The Parish Council unanimously objected to the proposal for the ward of Neroche to be joined with the ward of Ilminster. It was felt the proposal to combine 4 rural Parishes with the town of Ilminster was not in the interest of any of the communities as a market town has totally different needs and objectives to those of rural settlements.

78/17 Parish Notice Boards

It was reported the Parish Council & Community Notice Boards at Stewley and Windmill Hill have now been replaced. The notice board at Thickthorne Lane has been cleaned and Mr Hewson is proposing to rub it down and paint it at no additional cost when the weather permits.

79/17 Community Events

- a) It was noted the Parish Christmas Tree had been provided in time for the Carol Singing Event which was held on 9 December 2017.
- b) It was noted that a PTFA Village Tea Party is to be held on 9 June 2018.

80/17 Finance

- i) The January 2018 Parish Council Payments/Receipts Report and 2017/18 Draft Budget was received and considered. . It was resolved to collect a Precept of £4,500 from Council Tax Payers, which with the Council Tax Support Grant of £10, would provide a Parish Income of £4,510 for 2018/19.
- ii) It was noted the External Auditor Webinar Training to present the new audit arrangements is to be held on 23 January 2018. The Clerk would be unavailable to view this presentation on this date and therefore had made the request for a video to be provided.
- iii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :
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| Mr P Smith - Christmas Tree (<i>Paid</i>) | £ 40.00 |
| South Somerset District Council – Playground Inspection (<i>Paid</i>) | £ 57.60 |
| Mr S Hewson – Notice Boards | £800.00 |

81/17 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Appointment of Internal Auditor
- A358 Consultation Response

82/17 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being 5 March 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.55

Signed : Chairman)
5 March 2018