

Ashill Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 January 2017 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present : Cllrs H Hewson (Chairman), R Abel, A Knight, P Lang, R Perryman (left the meeting at 8,15pm), County/District Cllr L Vjeh (left the meeting at 8.30pm), Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and 4 members of the public – Mr P Underhill, Mr C Downing, Mr C Slow (Square & Compass) and Mr D Boggon (Planning Agent) – (left the meeting after Paragraph 69/16 – Planning).

63/16 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Brunt. The resignation of Cllr Brunt with effect from today was also noted with regret. Appreciation was conveyed to Cllr Brunt for the positive contribution he had made during his long service to the Parish Council.

64/16 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests

None.

65/16 Minutes

It was resolved for following to be signed as a true record :

- Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 November 2016;
- Notes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 December 2016.

66/16 Casual Vacancies

- a) It was noted the Parish Council still has a Casual Vacancy which needs to be filled by co-option.
- b) The Notice of the Casual Vacancy, due to the resignation of Cllr Brunt, would be displayed on the Parish Council notice boards. If there are no requests for the vacancy to be filled by election, within the statutory 14 day period, then the Clerk will receive notification from SSDC that it can then be filled by the Parish Council by co-option. The Clerk would then display an advertisement on the notice boards for anyone interested in the position to contact any member of the Parish Council or the Clerk. A Working Group, comprising of all members of the Parish Council, would then be established to consider any registrations of interest.

67/16 Public Participation

- Correspondence regarding Police attendance at Parish Council meetings was received and noted. PCSOs will no longer attend Parish Council meetings as a matter of course. The local beat manager should be informed that a meeting will be taking place and someone may attend if they are free but this should not be expected as it cannot be guaranteed. If there is a specific problem which a Parish Council wishes to discuss with a local officer, e.g. a specific crime trend in the area, then an officer may be able to attend if given sufficient notice. Crime figures for each neighbourhood can be found at – www.police.uk - and then by clicking on 'Find Your Neighbourhood'.
- Mr Slow spoke regarding his planning application, his reasons for submitting the proposal and the modifications which have been made to his previous planning application - 15/03256/FUL (which had been refused by SSDC) to the point of access to avoid Windmill Hill Lane and measures taken to mitigate surface water runoff away from Wood Road.
- County/District Councillor Vjeh had submitted a written report which was received and noted.

68/16 Playing Field

- a) Cllr Perryman presented a playground inspection report carried out on 16 January 2017. The following issues were raised :
 - The mole/s is/are still active;
 - There is an issue with the Wendy House roof covering plus some wood erosion;
 - Both of the benches require cleaning and the wood treated;
 - The all-weather surface needs to be made level in the left hand corner;
 - The tennis court surface requires some treatment work.

- b) .Cllr Perryman presented a report regarding three possible options for treating the surface of the tennis court by Mr Ray King who is a tennis court and sport surface specialist. :
- i) Moss Spray (£130+VAT);
 - ii) Moss Spray + Power Wash (£630+VAT); or
 - iii) Moss Spray; Power Wash + Painting (£1,800+VAT).
- Consideration was given to the three options and it was felt that option iii) would be an investment which should mean that no further work would be required on the tennis court surface for 8-10 years and therefore it was resolved to approve option iii). Cllr Perryman and Mr Underhill would make the arrangements with Mr King for the work to be carried out.
- c) A discussion was introduced regarding the future of charging a membership fee for the use of the tennis court. It was agreed that this matter would be included as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

69/16 Planning

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

Application No.	16/05090/FUL
Applicant	Mr Christopher Slow
Proposal	The erection of 1 No. 4 detached dwellinghouse and detached double garage (Revised Application)
Location	Paddock Adjoining Square & Compass Public House, Windmill Hill, Ashill.

Additional modified plans dated January 2017 were taken into consideration. It was noted that the point of access has been modified again to avoid using Windmill Hill Lane entirely; the elevational treatment of the proposed new dwelling has been re-drawn to reflect the local vernacular; and the Environment Agency is keen for the surface water to be drained into Venners Water which can be very dry at certain times of the year. It was resolved (4 votes for : 1 abstain) to support the proposal as long as it is made a condition of planning permission being granted that only the one proposed new dwelling could be built and no future housing development would be permitted in any of the rest of the area within the curtilage of the site. The Parish Council was of the opinion that the one proposed new dwelling would not impact on the environment, amenity of the area and neighbouring properties. The modification of the point of access to avoid Windmill Hill Lane and measures taken to mitigate surface water runoff away from Wood Road and Windmill Hill Lane was welcomed.

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

Application No.	16/03363/FUL
Applicant	Mr & Mrs Gardiner
Proposal	The conversion of existing detached garage into ancillary accommodation or holiday let.
Location	Brookside, Old A358, Ashill, Ilminster, TA19 9NH.

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

Application No.	16/04454/OUT
Applicant	Mr & Mrs P Underhill
Proposal	The erection of 5 No. dwellings with associated access (Outline).
Location	The Builders Yard, Wood Road, Ashill, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9NP,

70/16 Highways / Footpath

- a) The proposed Speed Indicator Device (SID) Installation Dates for weeks commencing 13 February 2017 & 7 August 2017 at the Old A358 (near Harvey Way) were received and noted. At present Highways are only able to deploy a SID at each of our locations on two occasions during 2017 as there is a reduced number of SIDs due to vandalism, breakdowns and the increased number of SID locations throughout the County. However Highways are hoping that the majority of the damaged SIDs will be able to be repaired and, if this can be achieved, then the number of installations will be able to be increased.
- b) Appreciation was conveyed to Cllr Knight for collecting 10 bags of winter gritting material from SSDC which have been stored at Mr Underhill's yard.
- c) The temporary closure of footpath CH 1/2 due to an unsafe bridge was noted.
- d) It was noted that neither route 510M or 511M are currently recorded as either restricted byways (which can be used on foot, horseback, on bicycle and by non-mechanically propelled vehicle such as a horse and cart) or as Byways Open to All Traffic. Route 511M is currently recorded as footpath CH1/23, and route 510M is not currently recorded as a public right of way of any kind. This matter is ongoing as to the status and anyone who could provide any more detailed evidence relating to the status of either route is encouraged to bring it to the attention of the Parish Council.
- e) Mr Chris Weeks - Assistant Highway Service Manager - had provided a report regarding the Thickthorn Gating Order. The contractor had required additional information on the apparatus contained under the road/ verge which has now thrown up fibre optic cables and a specialist is required to mark their location. This is now in hand and works should be carried out within the prescribed three months and hopefully prior to Christmas. The only caveat is the same operatives also carry out the gritting so time may have to be slightly extended but this be allowed to go into the next financial year.
- f) The temporary road closure of Thickthorn Lane to enable BT to carry out cabling works was noted. The Order becomes effective on 5 December 2016 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to last for 3 days.
- g) Concerns were raised regarding the Old A358 Road which has such a smooth surface that it can become exceptionally slippery when the road is icy.
- h) Cllr Hewson reported that she had attended a Highways England Parish Council Area Group Meeting on 23 November 2016 to discuss the proposal to dual the A358 link between the M5 at Taunton and the A303.

71/16 Environment

It was noted that 'Heroes are wanted for the 'Great British Spring Clean' which is a national initiative to clean up this country between 3-5 March 2017.

72/16 Village Hall

- a) The arrangements which had been made for the provision of the 2016 Christmas Tree were reviewed. It was agreed it was felt the decision to put the tree in front of the Village Hall had been a positive one and this site should be used in future years. It was reported that Mr Underhill has offered to install – free of charge – a future permanent steel pipe holder for a Christmas Tree. Appreciation was conveyed to Mr Underhill for offering to carry out this task and also to him and Cllr Abel for facilitating the 2016 Christmas Tree and the Lighting which would be taken down during this next week.
- b) It was reported that the Christmas Lunch had been well attended and appreciation was conveyed to Cllr L Vijeh for providing the wine.

73/16 Website

It was reported there were no relevant matters to bring to attention regarding the Website.

74/16 Finance

- i) The January 2017 payments/receipts report and 2017/18 draft budget was received and considered. . It was resolved to collect £4,500 from Council Tax Payers, which with the Council Tax Support Grant of £30, would provide a Parish Income of £4,530 for 2017/18.

ii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :	
Mr P Underhill – Christmas Tree	£ 50.00
Mr R Abel – Christmas Tree Lighting	£ 40.95
Clerks' Salary (Oct-Dec)	£569.10

75/16 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- 2016/17 Audit
- 2017/18 Tennis Court Membership Fees
- Ashill Playing Field Trust Refund

76/16 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 6 March 2017.

The meeting closed at 9 : 00 pm

Signed : (Chairman
6 March 2017