

# Ashill Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1 May 2018 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm

**Present :** Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), C Criddle, , K Lyons, A Knight, R Perryman (*left the meeting at 8.25pm*), Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and no members of the public.

### **1/18 Apologies**

None.

### **2/18 Appointment of Chairman**

It was proposed and seconded for Cllr Lang to be the 2018/19 Parish Council Chairman and it was unanimously resolved for Cllr Lang to be appointed. Cllr Lang signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form which was also signed by the Clerk.

### **3/18 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

It was proposed and seconded for Cllr Criddle to be the 2018/19 Parish Council Vice-Chairman and it was unanimously resolved for Cllr Criddle to be appointed.

### **4/18 Public Participation**

County/District Cllr Linda Vijeh had conveyed her apologies due to being unavailable to attend this meeting. County/District Cllr Vijeh had submitted her monthly report for April which is available to view on the Parish Council Website. The April report contains an update concerning public transport in and around Ilminster - after the collapse of NippyBus – in response to a question which had been raised during the Public Participation Item at the last meeting of Ashill Parish Council.

### **5/18 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests**

None.

### **6/18 Minutes**

It was resolved for the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 March 2018 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

### **7/18 Playing Field**

- a) Cllr Perryman presented a Playing Field Inspection Report. A quotation for the repair of the Wendy House from Mr S Hewson was also received and considered. It was resolved for the quotation to be approved – with funding to be provided by the Playing Field Trust - and the Clerk was instructed to inform Mr Hewson. It was also agreed that Mr Perryman should meet with Mr Hewson to discuss other required playing field wood treatment/repairs and at the same time would discuss the possible cleaning of the play area surface. The Clerk was instructed to ask Mr Hewson to contact Cllr Perryman so that a meeting could be arranged.
- b) Cllr Perryman advised it had been noticed that the tennis court is being used to play ball games other than tennis. Cllr Lang offered to investigate the availability of any readymade signs which may be suitable to help mitigate this. There was also a discussion regarding whether the playing field should have a Safety Notice with contact details. It was agreed a laminated notice should be displayed with the contact details of the Clerk.
- c) The 2018 SSDC Annual Playground Inspection Offer and Playground Risk Assessment Service was received and considered. It was resolved that SSDC should carry out the 2018 Annual Playground Inspection – as usual - but a Playground Risk Assessment Service would not be required at this time.
- d) The Adult Gym Equipment Report was received and noted.
- e) Notification of the EDF energy price increase from 26 April 2018 was received and considered. It was resolved that the energy contract with EDF should be left as it is at the present time. Cllr Perryman advised he had switched off the electricity supply for during the summer months as the playing field should not be used after 9pm and therefore the lighting should not be needed.

- f) The 2017/18 Payments/Receipts Report and Bank Reconciliation for the Ashill Playing Field Trust was received and noted.
- g) Correspondence from Ashill Community Primary School making a request for the Parish Council to give consideration to taking over the responsibility for cutting the playing field grass was received and considered. It was agreed that further information - with regard to the reasons why the school felt it was no longer in a position to continue with this long standing agreement - should be explored before a decision could be made. Cllr Lang and the Clerk were given the delegated authority to arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher of the School in order to discuss this matter.

**8/18 Appointment of Representatives**

Representatives for roles were agreed as follows :  
 Ashill Playing Field Trust – Cllr R Perryman & Cllr P Lang  
 Village Hall - Cllr P Lang  
 Millennium Pond – Mr S Hewson

**9/18 Casual Vacancy** – it was noted the Parish Council has a Casual Vacancy which needs to be filled by co-option. An advertisement has been placed on the Notice Board near the School.

**10/18 Planning**

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

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Application No. | 18/00871/FUL  |
| Proposal        | External alterations to infill open sided west elevation of building. |
| Location        | Shrubbery Farm. Old A358, Horton, Ilminster.                          |

There were no objections or observations.

- ii) It was noted that amended plans had been received since the last meeting with regard to the following planning application and a response had been made by the Clerk using delegated authority on behalf of members' observations :

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Application No. | 17/04888/OUT                                |
| Proposal        | The erection of 3 No. dwellings (Outline)   |
| Location        | Land Adjoining Ashill Village Hall, Ashill. |

This planning application had been considered at a meeting of Ashill Parish Council held on 5 February 2018. In consideration of the plans the Parish Council had felt that some protection for the interests of the Village Hall was essential. It had also been felt there were significant issues of sustainability and need, a significant risk of increased vehicle movements onto a busy road, and further erosion of the green environment. However at the time it had been resolved that no comments regarding this planning application should be conveyed but to delay pending public response and the comments of the Planning Officer.

When the amended plans for the above application had been brought to the attention of the members of Ashill Parish Council and from what could be seen it had been understood the following two changes had been proposed :

- The two entrances shown on the early site plans had been reduced to one entrance; and
- The garage for the house farthest away from the Hall had been moved forward.

The ongoing concern for this application had been with regard to the future of the Village Hall's hiring activities which includes wedding parties, sometimes late into the evening, regular band practice and a number of other activities including children's parties. The Hall currently enjoys no complaints with the way it is operated and the worry going forward was that it could quite quickly start receiving them, examples being, late night music, the Hall's internal and external lighting throughout the winter being too bright, car noise late at night and cars parked along the road where the site entrance is being planned.

There had also been concerns with regard to highway safety. The car park which supports the Hall is not always big enough to take all of the cars and there is quite often an overflow onto the road with the majority of cars parking along the side where the entrance to the development site is being proposed. It was felt it could become extremely dangerous for anyone pulling out from the site into traffic which can travel very fast along this already dangerous road. Motorists quite often travel well over the speed limit of 40mph and - with the proposed changes to the A385 - it is anticipated that this already dangerous road would see even more traffic using the road through Ashill to get to the new proposed A358 Expressway Junction.

- iii) It was noted that the following planning application had been received since the last meeting and a response had been made by the Clerk using delegated authority on behalf of members' observations :

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Application No. | 18/00527/R3C                                |
| Proposal        | Retention of modular classroom E735TB.      |
| Location        | Ashill Primary School, School Lane, Ashill. |

There had been no objections or observations.

- iv) It was noted the following planning applications have been granted by SSDC since the last meeting :

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Application No. | 18/00527/R3C                                |
| Proposal        | Retention of modular classroom E735TB.      |
| Location        | Ashill Primary School, School Lane, Ashill. |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Application No. | 17/04888/OUT                                |
| Proposal        | The erection of 3 No. dwellings (Outline)   |
| Location        | Land Adjoining Ashill Village Hall, Ashill. |

**Correspondence** – received and noted :

SSDC Planning - the measures which will be taken this year to reduce the amount of paperwork sent to Parish Councils by SSDC Planning;  
 SSDC Director of Service Delivery - Major planning applications (10 or more dwellings).

**11/18 Highways / Footpaths**

- a) Correspondence from Donyatt Parish Council with regard to the possibility of purchasing and sharing the cost of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) with adjacent Parishes was received and considered. It was resolved to not explore this concept further and no further action should be taken with regard to the future provision of a SID.
- b) The Clerk reported she had received confirmation from the County Rights of Way Team that the missing handrail behind Ashton Close is recorded on the system as an issue which needs to be dealt with. However - as of yet - there is no indication as to when this matter would be dealt with.
- c) The Clerk reported she had received a response from County Highways with regards to the reported increasing number of large vehicles using Windmill Hill Lane and the wet, muddy and numerous potholes along this lane. It had been confirmed that an inspection would be carried out by Highways and any safety defects found would be marked for repair.
- d) Cllr Criddle reported she was of the opinion that Windmill Hill Lane was looking less muddy than it had been and perhaps the road sweeper might have been.

**Correspondence** – received and noted :

Somerset County Council - Temporary road closure notice for Stewley Lane, Ashill  
 Somerset County Highways - Speeding traffic at Rapps  
 Somerset County Highways – Windmill Hill Lane

**12/18 Environment**

A quotation for the repair of the bus shelter from Mr S Hewson was received and considered. It was resolved for the quotation to be approved and the Clerk was instructed to inform Mr Hewson.

**13/18 Notice Boards**

The Clerk reported she had found one of the doors of the new notice board at the end of Wood Road lying on the ground. She thought that the damage might have been caused by the wind after the door being not properly closed by someone putting up a Community Notice. The Clerk had rescued the door and would discuss this matter with Mr S Hewson who had installed the Notice Board.

**14/18 Village Hall**

Cllr Lang reported that the Village Hall would be closed for week commencing 25 June 2018 due to the refurbishment of the toilets. Lottery funding of approximately £7,000 has been awarded to the Village Hall to enable this work to be carried out.

**15/18 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

The Clerk presented a report with regard to the implications of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which come into force on 25 May 2018. It was resolved that the recommendations made by the Clerk should be put in place to ensure that Ashill Parish Council would become GDPR compliant.

**17/18 Finance / Insurance**

- i) The Clerk presented a report with regard to the changes to the external audit arrangements for accounts for the financial year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018;
- ii) It was resolved for Section 1 – Accounting Statements for ... ; and
- iii) Section 2 – Annual governance statement of the Audit Return for 2017/18 to be signed by the Chairman.
- iv) The arrangements for the Internal Audit were noted.
- v) It was noted the 2018/19 Parish Precept had been credited by SSDC to the Parish Council bank account in April.
- vi) The 2018/19 Section 137 Expenditure Limit of £7.86 was noted.
- vii) The 2017/18 asset register was considered and it was resolved that the figures provided by the Clerk should be approved.
- viii) A quotation for the renewal of the 2018/19 Parish Council Insurance was received and considered. It was resolved that the insurance should be renewed with Zurich to reflect the values of the 2017/18 asset register.
- ix) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :
 

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| St.Marys Church – Donation ( <i>Paid</i> )      | £500.00 |
| Vitaplay – Adult Gym Inspection ( <i>Paid</i> ) | £125.00 |
| WestCountry Payroll – Payroll Service           | £ 60.00 |
| Zurich – 2018/19 Insurance                      | £458.48 |
| Grant Thornton – Audit 2017/18                  | £240.00 |

**18/18 Dates of 2018/19 Meetings**

It was confirmed that the 2018/19 dates for the meetings of the Parish Council would be scheduled to be 2 July, 3 September, 5 November, 14 January, 5 March and 14 May (Annual Meeting).

*The meeting closed at 9 : 10 pm*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
2 July 2018