

Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 2 July 2018 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present : Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), R Abel, K Lyons (*left the meeting at 8.55pm*), A Knight, R Perryman, County/District Cllr L Vijeh and 30 members of the public.

19/18 Apologies
None.

20/18 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests
Cllr Lyons declared a personal interest with regard to paragraph 26/18 a) – Rapps Speed Limit.

21/18 Minutes
It was resolved for the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 May 2018 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

**22/18 Public Participation
Rapps Speed Limit**

Mrs Pauline Ellis spoke of how concerned the residents of Rapps were about the size, volume and especially the speed of traffic travelling through Rapps which is an issue which has become gradually worse over the past ten years. Mrs Ellis had written to the Parish Council in March asking for answers to questions which had been forwarded to Somerset County Highways as this is the governing authority and therefore has the expertise with regard to Highways matters. Mrs Ellis reported that Mr Gary Warren – Somerset County Council Traffic Engineer – had provided her with answers to questions and possible options regarding the speeding and lack of speed signs through Rapps. Highways had now agreed to support the introduction of a 40mph speed limit and would fund the Transport Regulation Order (TRO) costs which are usually in the region of £3,000. Additional costs of approximately £1,500 for the civil works (signs/posts/roundels etc) would need to be found elsewhere and therefore Mrs Ellis had written to the Parish Council with a request as to whether it would give consideration to providing the required additional funding. A number of residents of the Parish reinforced the concerns of Mrs Ellis and spoke of road safety issues which they had experienced and were aware of along this carriageway. A member of the Parish supported an increase in the precept if this would be required to be able to facilitate projects such as this.

Ashill Orchard

The following key points were summarised with regard to the amendments to this planning proposal :

- The original proposed layout of properties adjacent to existing properties had not been changed and therefore it was felt the concerns raised in response to the first consultation with regard to the layout had not been taken into account;
- The original proposed layout of some garages and driveways being at the rear of the properties -which could encourage parking adjacent to the old A358 carriageway.- had not been changed;
- It was mentioned the proposed formation of vehicular access to serve an existing bungalow had been removed
- Concerns were raised with regard to the proposed Drainage Strategy;
- It was questioned as to whether there is a need for this proposal, and
- Mr House – the applicant - advised that the proposed revised layout had been submitted in order to mitigate the concerns regarding the Church setting adjacent to this development.

County/District Council

Councillor Linda Vjeh brought attention to the following :

- **Ilminster Division June 2018 County/District Councillor Report** – this had been e-mailed to the Clerk on 1 July 2018 and the Clerk would publish the document on the Parish Council Website.
- **January 2018 ‘Somerset Guide of Recycling and Rubbish’** – this was brought to attention and the Clerk would provide a link on the Parish Council Website to this information.
- **Ashill Bus Service** - the Transporting Somerset Public Transport Manager had confirmed that after the collapse of the NippyBus last year – Buses of Somerset had been approached by Transporting Somerset about the possibility of Service 30 being diverted through villages along the A358 – but Transporting Somerset is unable to force a commercial operator to change commercial route and Buses of Somerset had taken a commercial decision to not do this . First had recently undertaken a review of its wider network and introduced a fare increase in order to stabilise its operations in Somerset and therefore it is believed to be unlikely that First will divert from any of their main routes at this time.
- **SSDC Planning Service** – it is hoped the alternative arrangements for contacting the planning service which had been put in place with effect from 25 June 2018 – to allow the team to catch up with the backlog of planning applications – will be a temporary measure.

23/18 Planning

- i) Amendments made by the applicants with regard to the following planning application were received and considered.

Application No.	17/04328/OUT
Proposal	Erection of 21 dwellings and associated works including the formation of 2 No. accesses and car park (outline).
Location	Land West Of School Lane, Ashill.

The amendments to be commented on were :

- **Drainage Strategy**
 The Drainage Strategy for the proposed Development at Ashill Orchard, Ashill was received and considered. The Parish already has critical drainage problems and the proposed Drainage Strategy does not consider how the proposed water surface management of the site could impact downstream and elsewhere. The Drainage Strategy states the existing site is classified as greenfield which is currently 100% permeable and this proposed development would create an impermeable area of 23%. The Environment Agency (EA) flood map indicates the site is deemed to lie within Flood Zone 1 – low probability of flooding in any year - but the hamlet of Kenny which is designated by the EA as Flood Zone 3 - high probability of flooding in any year - lies within a distance of 500 metres away and is located on lower ground than the proposed development. There have been incidents of serious damage being caused to properties in Kenny after being flooded due to surface water from higher ground running down to the watercourse known as Venners Water and causing it to overflow. The Drainage Strategy suggests it should be possible to achieve an attenuation scheme for the site with levels of the proposed new development designed to fall away from buildings and storm water being stored for gradual discharge to the local watercourse. However it is not made clear how this could be achieved by the proposed Drainage Strategy with a pond being located higher up than approximately half of the new development. The Drainage Strategy also acknowledges that a failure to have in place a programme of maintenance work could lead to a failure of the system but it is not made clear how the scheme could be sustainably maintained. The topography of the site slopes towards the Old A358 which in turn slopes down towards the dip of Kenny and already - at times of heavy rainfall – surface water flows down the Old A358 carriageway and accumulates in the dip. The Parish Council is of the opinion that a detailed and robust surface water drainage strategy should form part of the outline planning application to ensure that not only is the drainage strategy

sustainably viable for the site itself but also for the properties which are located downstream and elsewhere.

- **Revised Layout**

The proposed reduction in the number of units from 26 to 21 was noted but the revised layout has not changed with regard to the original proposed layout of properties adjacent to existing properties and the original proposed layout of some garages and driveways being at the rear of some of the properties. It was also noted the amended plans still show the development joining into the public footpath through the Church to the School which causes concern with regard to the potential increase of use and the implications of the wear on and adjacent to the footway. The Parish Council was of the opinion that the proposed revised layout and the drainage strategy failed to address the principle concerns raised in the response made by the Parish Council dated 30 November 2017, those raised by members of the community at meetings of the Parish Council and submitted to SSDC.

Ashill Parish Council therefore unanimously resolved to continue to **object** to this proposal.

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

Application No.	18/01380/FUL
Proposal	The erection of a first floor extension to dwelling and the erection of a detached annexe ancillary to the main house
Location	Woodlands ,Old A358, Ashill,

There were no objections or observations raised with regard to this proposal.

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

Application No.	17/04901/FUL
Proposal	The erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling
Location	Orchard Poultry, Cad Lane, Ashill.

- iii) It was noted the following planning application has been granted by 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.

- iv) **Correspondence** – noted :

SSDC – alternative arrangements for contacting the planning service which have been put in place with effect from 25 June 2018

24/18 Playing Field

- a) The July Playing Field Inspection Report from Cllr Perryman was received and noted. The grass had been cut earlier today and the running track white lining has been re-done.
- b) The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Lang had met with Mrs Woodhams – Head Teacher of Ashill Community Primary School & Mrs Pitkin - Administration Officer – to discuss the request which had been made by the School as to whether the Parish Council would give consideration to taking over some - or all - of the funding for cutting the playing field grass. The School would continue to pay for the white lining as and when required. The School had been asked to provide a report regarding the School grass cutting expenditure. This report has not yet been received and it was therefore agreed to defer this matter until the information has been received.

- c) It was noted that confirmation had been received from SSDC that the Annual Playground Inspection would take place over the summer and the report would be expected to be sent out during September.

25/18 Casual Vacancy – it was noted the Parish Council still has one Casual Vacancy which needs to be filled by co-option.

Cllr Lyons did not take part in the discussion or the vote with regard to paragraph 26/18 a).

26/18 Highways / Footpaths

- a) Consideration was given to the request which had been made for the Parish Council to work in partnership with Highways by providing funding of £1,500 towards the costs of introducing a 40mph speed limit through Rapps. It was also noted the scheme would require residents to confirm they would be willing to carry out a community speed watch. There were some reservations with regard to the effectiveness of additional signage and the introduction of a community speed watch. There were also concerns as to the accuracy of the quotation, the reason why Highways would not provide all of the funding for this project and as to whether this would establish a precedent for the future. It was resolved (2 votes 'for' : 2 votes 'against' plus the Chairman having an additional casting vote 'for') that further consideration would be given to this project after the following had been explored :
- Cllr Vijeh would establish whether the quotation of £1,500 would be likely to be the final figure, why a safety issue could not be fully funded by Highways and confirm this project would not meet the criteria for a Small Improvement Scheme;
 - As no provision has been made in the 2018/19 Parish Council budget for a road improvement scheme – the Clerk was instructed to prepare a September 2018 Payments/Receipts Review – the Clerk would also explore how long the TRO process would take.
- b) It was noted that confirmation had been received from Highways that the potholes on Windmill Hill Lane have now been repaired. With regard to the HGV issues reported on Windmill Hill Lane – a response had been received that if these vehicles were requiring legitimate access then there would be nothing that could be done – Highways had expressed surprise if this carriageway was being used as a 'rat run' and asked whether there was any information available with regard to numbers.
- c) The Clerk advised she had received notification from the Somerset Rights of Way Team that the report with regard to the missing handrail on the footpath leading to the Church had now been closed by the Ashill Rights of Way Officer who had determined that no hand rail was required. The Clerk had asked for the reason why this decision had been made and is awaiting a response. This matter was brought to the attention of - and noted by - Cllr Vijeh.

27/18 Environment

There were no matters to bring to attention with regard to the Parish Environment.

28/18 Village Hall

Cllr Lang reported the Village Hall had been closed during week commencing 25 June 2018 due to the scheduled toilet refurbishment work being carried out. Some painting work still needs to be done and this will be carried out over the next few weeks.

29/18 Local Government Boundary Consultation – it was noted the final recommendations for South Somerset have now been published and it had been recommended that no changes to the current arrangements for the Neroche Ward should be made. The Clerk was instructed to put a link to the report on the Parish Council Website.

30/18 Finance

- i) Correspondence was received and considered from the 1st Ilton and Broadway Scout Group making a request as to whether the Parish Council could award some grant funding to be used towards the purchase of a number of badges for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. It was unanimously resolved that no grant funding towards this project should be awarded on this occasion.

- ii) It was noted that the 2018/19 national salary award has been agreed by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. The potential salary adjustment for the Clerk - taking account of the NJC recommended pay award – was considered and it was resolved that the NJC recommendations should be implemented.
- iii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :
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|--|---------|
| Mr S Hewson – Wendy House/Bus Shelter Repairs (Paid) | £450.00 |
| Mr J Brunt – Internal Audit | £ 75.00 |
| Clerks’ Salary (April – June) | £586.30 |
- iv) It was resolved for the SALC – Affiliation Fee of £145.87 - to not be approved and therefore Ashill Parish Council would not be a member of SALC for 2018/19.

31/18 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- September Financial Review
- Rapps Speed Limit
- Ashill Christmas Tree

32/18 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Ashill Parish Council would be held on 3 September 2018.

The meeting closed at 9 : 25 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
3 September 2018