

Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 3 September 2018 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present : Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), C Criddle, A Crouch (*co-opted as of this meeting*), A Knight, County/District Cllr L Vjeh and 5 members of the public (*reduced to 1 member of the public after Item 38/18 i) Planning*).

33/18 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Abel, Cllr Lyons and Cllr Perryman.

34/18 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests

None.

35/18 Minutes

It was resolved for the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 July 2018 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

36/18 Casual Vacancy

Mr Andrew Crouch – who had previously registered an interest in becoming a member of the Parish Council by co-option – was welcomed to the meeting. It was unanimously resolved for Mr Crouch to be co-opted and a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was signed by Cllr Crouch and the Clerk. The Clerk would provide Cllr Crouch with the following documents :

- Register of Interests Form
- NALC Good Councillor Guide 2016
- Ashill Parish Council Standing Orders 2017
- Ashill Parish Council Financial Regulations 2017
- Ashill Parish Council Code of Conduct 2012

37/18 Public Participation

Admirals Field - four residents had attended this meeting to discuss the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Regulation Meeting which is to be held to consider the Admirals Field development proposal. The Chairman responded that this matter was included on the agenda for this meeting of the Parish Council and therefore - after presenting a summary of the situation so far – he would invite the residents to speak at his discretion as part of the agenda item.

38/18 Planning

i) Admirals Field

Application No.	17/03800/OUT
Proposal	Erection of 25 dwellings and formation of access (outline)
Location	Land OS 3727, Part, Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill.

- It was reported this planning application had been recommended for refusal at the meeting of the SSDC Area West Committee held on 15 August 2018. It had been refused on the basis of sustainability and landscape grounds. The Members had also considered that Ashill was not a sustainable location for this scale of development given its limited services and facilities. Concern had also been raised about the harmful landscape impact that would be caused. The Parish Council ratified that the Clerk had been instructed before this meeting to speak at the Area West meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr S Aspinall – Residents Group - and Ms Liz Payne – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) - had also attended this meeting and spoken against the proposal.

- On the basis of this being a major application it would now be referred to the SSDC Regulation Committee to make the final decision on a date yet to be notified. The residents attending this meeting of the Parish Council advised they were intending to attend the regulation meeting and to speak against the proposal. Cllr Vijeh advised she was also intending to attend the regulation meeting in order to speak against the proposal as the Ward Member. The Parish Council agreed that Cllr Lang should be given the delegated authority to prepare a statement and to speak against the proposal on behalf of the Parish Council. Therefore it was agreed that Cllr Lang would liaise with Cllr Vijeh and the residents in order to work as a team to consider the key points which it was felt should be raised and to avoid duplication. The Clerk would notify CPRE when the date of the meeting was known.
- ii) The following planning applications which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting of the Parish were received and considered :

Application No.	18/01912/FUL
Proposal	Construction of a 20 x 40m sand school/menage
Location	Hastings, Thickthorn Lane, Ashill.

No objections were raised with regard to this proposal as long as it was permitted with the conditions for there to be no external lighting (Paragraph 3.4 of the Planning Statement) and the proposed development would be for private use only (Paragraph 4.1 of the Planning Statement).

Application No.	18/02310/FUL
Proposal	The erection of a single storey side extension and a detached single storey workshop.
Location	The Cottage, Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill.

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

- iii) The following planning application which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting of the Parish Council - and the response made by the Clerk using delegated authority on behalf of Members' observations - was received and noted :

Application No.	18/01450/OUT
Proposal	Outline application for the erection of up to 4 dwellinghouses with access thereto
Location	The Builders Yard, Wood Road, Ashill.

This proposal had received support as it was considered that a small scale housing development on a brownfield site – which it was felt would enhance the appearance along this stretch of Wood Road – represented a positive contribution to the creation of new homes in the Parish.

- iv) **Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)** – consideration was given to Parish Council membership of the CPRE. It was resolved that as long as the annual fee of £36 was for 12 months from the receipt by CPRE by the payment then this membership should be approved.

39/18 County/District Councillor Report

- **Ilminster Division August & September 2018 County/District Councillor Reports**
Cllr Vijeh had emailed her monthly reports to the Clerk who had published these documents on the Parish Council Website.
- **Ashill Bus Service** – Cllr Vijeh spoke of the new shuttle bus service which had been launched today and how she had been the first person on the 10.15 this morning from Ashill.

- **Litter on the A358 & condition of the footpath off Stewley Cross** – Cllr Vijeh brought attention to this issue which had been included as an agenda item for this meeting.

40/18 Playing Field

- a) A playground report for October was not presented due to Cllr Perryman not being available to attend this meeting.
- b) It was noted the Clerk had produced two safety notices to be displayed in the playing field. It was agreed that Cllr Lang would explore a suitable place for these signs to be displayed as the Clerk had been unsure as to where would be the best place.

41/18 Highways / Footpaths

- a) Further 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. Cllr Vijeh had established with Highways that the figure quoted is an estimate with a slight contingency included for unforeseen issues. The sole reason for this project is due to 'resident request' as the average recorded speeds are below the requested limit. Somerset County Council can no longer afford such schemes due to austerities which are being faced and many speed limits are now being funded by the Parishes. It is likely that this project would not be considered to be viable as a small improvement scheme. The Parish Council agreed to defer a decision with regard to this matter until a more detailed route of the A358 has been released which is expected to be during the Autumn.
- b) Correspondence regarding the litter on the A358 from Stewley Cross to beyond the junction with Folly Drove and the poor condition of the footpath off Stewley Cross was received and considered. The resident concerned had met recently with – Mr Chris Cooper - the SSDC Environment Service Manager. Mr Cooper - as this issue is not usually within his remit of responsibility but as a goodwill gesture – had made arrangements for his team to carry out some litter clearance work and to cut back much of the overgrown bushes and grass from the edge of the footpath. Mr Cooper had also brought attention to the SSDC Parish Ranger Scheme as being a possible ongoing solution to the issue of overgrown paths, overhanging bushes obstructing the pathways, etc. and the resident had contacted the Parish Council with regard to as to whether it would give consideration to exploring this. The Clerk had sought further information from Mr Cooper with regard to this Scheme which was also received and considered by the Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to ask Mr Cooper as to whether he could provide a more detailed report with regard to the work (type, frequency, no. of hours, etc.) which would be required to keep on top of the concerns raised by the resident and similarly for the work which would be required to address a number of other issues. This information would then provide the Parish Council with a better understanding of what annual costs could be incurred.
- c) The Rights of Way Officer for Ashill had confirmed he was of the opinion that a handrail was not needed on the footway leading behind Ashton Close to the Church as it is a rural footpath with not too much of an incline. The Rights of Way Officer had made the suggestion that if the Parish required a handrail then it could install one itself. The Clerk was instructed to also explore this matter with – Mr Cooper - the SSDC Environment Services Manager.
- d) **Correspondence** : received and noted - Mr D Ellis – Rapps Speed Limit.

42/18 Ashill Bus Service

Information with regard to the NippyBus replacement bus service was received and noted. The Clerk had posted copies of the timetable on the Parish Council Notice Boards; information on the Parish Council Website and had sent the information to the Isle Valley News for inclusion in the October edition.

43/18 Ashill Village Hall

Cllr Lang reported the Ashill Village Hall AGM would be held on 11 September 2018 when the annual accounts from July 2017 to June 2018 would be presented for approval. The painting of the toilets has now been completed, the Village Hall doors have now been stained and the interior woodwork is scheduled to be stained on a date yet to be determined.

44/18 Ashill Christmas Tree

It was resolved that the Parish Council would provide funding and practical support for there to be an Ashill Christmas Tree in place for the Carol Singing 2018. It was also resolved that additional lights should be purchased for this year.

45/18 Finance

- i) A Payments/Receipts Report for September was received and noted.
- ii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

Clerks' Salary & Administration Costs (July-September)	£609.25
CPRE – 2018/19 Membership	£ 36.00

46/18 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- Ashill Christmas Tree
- Rapps Speed Limit (A358 information due Autumn)
- 2019 Meeting Dates

47/18 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Ashill Parish Council would be held on 5 November 2018.

The meeting closed at 9 : 25 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
5 November 2018