

# Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 4 November 2019 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

**Present :** Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), L Clay, A Crouch, A Knight, S Freudenberg (*co-opted as of this meeting*), Mr P Davidson (Acting Clerk), County/District Cllr L Vijeh, and 2 members of the public (Mr S Hewson & Mrs H Hewson).

## **51/19 Apologies**

- a) It was resolved for apologies to be noted from the Clerk and to appoint Mr P Davidson as Acting Clerk – at no additional expense to the Parish – for the purposes of this meeting.
- b) It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Abel & Cllr Criddle.

## **52/19 Casual Vacancy**

It was resolved to co-opt Mrs S Freudenberg to the office of Member of Ashill Parish Council. Prior to this meeting the Clerk had provided her with copies of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Good Councillor Guide. Cllr Freudenberg completed the Declaration of Acceptance Office form which was witnessed by the Acting Clerk and also the Declaration of Interests form.

## **53/19 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests**

None.

## **54/19 Public Participation**

- Mr Hewson asked what progress the Parish Council had made in finding a Volunteer Footpath Warden. The Chairman advised the Ramblers had been approached but - to date - no interest had been received. Mr Hewson stated that - as he walked the footpaths every day - he would be happy to help.
- The Chairman thanked County/District Cllr Linda Vijeh for her monthly reports which are circulated to Members of the Parish Council and regularly published on the Parish Council Website by the Clerk.

## **55/19 Minutes**

It was resolved for the minutes of the following meetings to be agreed and signed as a true record :

- Parish Council held on 9 September 2019; and
- Ashill Parish Council Planning Committee held on 23 October 2019.

## **56/19 Planning**

- i) Consideration was given to the following planning application which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting :

Application No.	19/02812/OUT
Proposal	Outline application with all matters reserved save for access for the erection of No. 2 dwellings
Location	The Builders Yard, Wood Road, Ashill.

Cllrs agreed there were no objections to this proposal and therefore it should be fully supported.

## **57/19 Community Led Planning / Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman introduced a discussion with regard to the differing aims of a Community Led Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that - for Ashill - a Community Led Plan was more appropriate and had merit. Cllr Lang suggested that this would make an appropriate focus for discussion in the Spring and this was agreed.

#### **58/19 Playing Field**

- a) It was noted the Clerk had asked Mr Hewson to review the list of tasks which at the last meeting of the Parish Council - held on 9 September 2019 - it had been agreed should be undertaken. Mr Hewson advised he had sprayed the weeds by the steps and was about to start on the work on the benches.
- b) The Chairman pointed out the playing field equipment was getting old and in need of replacement. This view was supported by Cllrs and County/District Cllr Vijeh advised that some grant funding could be available through SSDC but this would require some match funding.

#### **59/19 Highways / Footpaths**

- a) **Highways England preferred route for the dualling of the A358 between Southfields Roundabout and the M5** – the Chairman reported he had attended a meeting of the A358 Community Liaison Forum on 24 September 2019. The Chairman also reported another meeting with neighbouring Parishes is to be arranged and he had asked Cllr Clay to support him. The Chairman is working closely with the Chairman of Broadway Parish Council with regard to this matter.
- b) It was reported that some hedge cutting had been carried out around the Parish since the last meeting of the Parish Council.
- c) Cllr Clay asked about the possibility of reducing the speed limit along the Old A358 through Ashill from 40 to 30 mph. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Somerset Highways in order to seek guidance with regard to this matter.

##### **Correspondence**

Highways England – A358 Taunton to Southfields  
Highway Matters – Winter Service 2019/20  
SCC - Temporary Road Closure - Old A358 Rapps & Rapps Lane, Ashill.

#### **60/19 Defibrillator / Emergency Planning**

- a) The Acting Clerk reported the Clerk had secured funding for the purchase of a defibrillator but some of the funding was contingent upon the Parish Council putting in place an Emergency Plan. The Acting Clerk advised Crewkerne Town Council had recently developed an Emergency Plan which might prove useful as a starting point for the production of an Emergency Plan for Ashill. Cllrs agreed on this approach and the Chairman thanked the Acting Clerk for his support. It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed with placing an order with the NHS for the unit.
- b) The Chairman reported there is now a First Responder living in the village.

##### **Correspondence**

Somerset Prepared – Emergency Planning

#### **61/19 Environment**

- a) Cllr Freudenberg reported an application had been submitted to Somerset County Council Improving Lives Grant Scheme– via County/District Cllr Vijeh – to be used for the purchase of 10 mature trees native to the area. Cllr Vijeh advised she had received the grant application from the Clerk - but needed to be able to edit it - so had sent the Clerk a copy of the form to complete in a Word format which the Clerk had done and resent to Cllr Vijeh. Cllr Vijeh had noted the application was for 10 trees @ £50 each but suggested the trees may well cost less than this so it would be useful to broaden the scope of the grant application to include other related village initiatives to top up the request to £500.
- b) Cllr Freudeberg summarised the intent of a Green Ashill Group which was fully supported by Cllrs. She was proposing to kick off the initiative by holding a public meeting in the Village Hall in early December. The Acting Clerk reported a similar project was underway with Crewkerne Town Council and provided Cllr Freudenberg with the details.
- c) Cllrs emphasised the lack of dog waste bins in the village and that a new rubbish bin was required for the park. Cllr Clay asked as to whether a second village rubbish bin could be provided to be possibly located on Windmill Hill Lane. Cllr Freudenberg pointed out that new rubbish bins would be better to be recycling bins. It was agreed that dog waste/rubbish/recycling bins should be included as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**Correspondence**

SSDC – Christmas Tree Recycling

**62/19 Village Hall**

Cllr Lang reported the 2018/19 Village Hall Accounts - which reflected a positive year -had been presented at the AGM held on 22 October 2019.

**63/19 Church**

Cllr Knight reported the School Carol Service would to be held on 17 December 2019 commencing from 6pm.

**64/19 Christmas Arrangements**

- a) The Chairman reminded Cllrs the Christmas Event is to be held on 6 December 2019 at the Village Hall commencing from 6pm and had costed up the purchase of a Christmas Tree, Lights and a Battery Pack at £87.49. Cllrs all agreed they were content for the Chairman to proceed with these purchases and Cllr. Freudenberg recommended that rechargeable batteries should be purchased.
- b) Cllr. Freudenberg referred to the SSDC correspondence with regard to Christmas tree recycling and asked whether this option could be introduced in Ashill. The Chairman responded that the Parish does not own a suitable site where the trees could be stored prior to collection. The Ashill Village Hall car park is not an option due to the fire risk of storing trees adjacent to a wooden building.

**65/19 Finance**

- i) A Payments/Receipts report dated 5 October 2019 and 2020/21 Draft Budget was received and noted. A discussion was introduced with regard to future upgrading of the play equipment and the Acting Clerk advised that - if Cllrs wished to give serious consideration to this - then it would be strongly advisable for a provision to be made in the budget in order to build up the level of reserves. Cllrs supported this view and asked the Acting Clerk to ask the Clerk to prepare an amended budget - to reflect this - to be presented for consideration at the January meeting of the Parish Council.
- ii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved:

UK2 – Website	£ 257.76
NHS - Defibrillator	£2160.00

**66/19 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Christmas Feedback
- Defibrillator / Emergency Planning
- Social Media
- Dog Waste/Rubbish/Recycling Bins
- 202/21 Budget
- Community Led Plan (May 2020)

**67/19 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 20 January 2020.

*The meeting closed at 9.10 pm*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
20 January 2020