

Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 5 November 2018 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present : Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), C Criddle, A Crouch, A Knight, K Lyons and 5 members of the public (2 left after Paragraph 52/18 – Highways/Footpaths and 2 left after Paragraph 53/18 Planning).

48/18 Apologies

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

49/18 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests

Declaration of Interest – Cllr Lyons – Paragraph 52/18 i) Rapps Speed Limit;
Dispensation Request – Cllr Lyons to speak but not vote - Rapps Speed Limit.

50/18 Minutes

It was resolved for the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 September 2018 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

51/18 Public Participation

- Mr Chris Cooper from South Somerset District Council (SSDC) was welcomed to the meeting who spoke about his role as the Environment Services Manager and the Parish Ranger Scheme.
- County/District Cllr Linda Vjeh had conveyed her apologies due to being unable to attend this meeting. Cllr Vjeh had emailed her September and October reports and these have been made available on the Parish Council Website by the Clerk.

52/18 Highways / Footpaths

- a) Consideration was given to the Parish Ranger Scheme and it was agreed that this could be of benefit to the Parish. Councillors agreed they would individually compile a list of tasks they think residents would like to see being done and then – prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held in January – would seek to obtain an estimate from Mr Cooper as to what the cost to the Parish could be.
- b) A further discussion was introduced with regard to the introduction of a speed limit at Rapps. Two residents who had attended this meeting to discuss this matter were invited by the Chairman to be included in this discussion. The proposed A358 Expressway and the proposed connection to/from Ashill and Ilton via Rapps was reviewed. Councillors came to the conclusion that the choice to introduce a 40mph speed limit through Rapps should not be associated with the issue of the three A358 proposals - currently awaiting a decision – as the proposed Ashill / Ilton junction is a feature of all three options. The Parish Council therefore unanimously resolved that in principal it did support working in partnership with Somerset Highways to provide a 40mph speed limit through Rapps. However there was a caveat in that consideration would need to be given as to how it could be funded along with two other possible road safety schemes – Old A358 and Wood Road – and other Parish issues such as the Parish Ranger Scheme - which also ideally need to be looked at by the Parish Council. The Chairman advised that currently – and historically – the amount paid per household for Ashill Parish purposes is amongst the lowest in the County. This is – and has been - achieved by careful financial management to carry out the statutory functions of the Parish Council and some minor projects. Larger projects have been accomplished by obtaining external grant funding - available at the time - and have covered the greater part - if not all - of the costs.
- c) The Clerk reported that SSDC has raised a ticket to look at replacing the handrail which went missing last year from the footpath behind Ashton Close. This work will not be authorised by the Parish Council until a price has been agreed. Mr Cooper noted this matter has not yet been progressed since the ticket was raised.

- d) A discussion was introduced about whether it was thought anyone would be interested in submitting a Parish footpath report from time to time. It was agreed that Councillors would explore the feasibility of this with people who they know regularly walk the network.

Correspondence (*circulated*)

Mr M Warriner – Speed Limit at Rapps
 Mrs P Ellis – Speed Limit at Rapps
 Mr D Ellis – Freedom of Information
 Mott MacDonald - A358 Ashill / Rapps Interchange
 Somerset County highways - Winter Service 2018 / 19

53/18 Planning

- i) The following planning applications submitted to SSDC since the date of this agenda were received and considered :

Application No.	18/02632/FUL
Proposal	Erection of a Steel Portal Framed building to cover an existing Agricultural Manure Store.
Location	Southtown Farm, Thickthorn Lane, Ashill.

No objections or observations were made.

Application No.	18/02633/FUL
Proposal	The erection of a steel portal framed building to cover an existing outside agricultural concrete yard used as a cattle feed area.
Location	Southtown Farm, Thickthorn Lane, Ashill.

No objections or observations were made.

Application No.	18/03199/HOU
Proposal	Alterations, erection of an extension and the conversion of existing domestic storage to living accommodation ancillary to the main dwellinghouse.
Location	Hastings, Thickthorn Lane, Ashill.

No objections or observations were made.

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

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

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.

- iii) It was noted the following planning application was recommended for approval at the SSDC Regulation Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2018. Statements against the proposal were made at the meeting by Councillor L Vijeh as the Ward Member, Councillor P Lang as the Chairman of Ashill Parish Council, four Ashill residents and a representative from CPRE. Correspondence about the planning and decision making process with regard to this planning application has been sent to SSDC by Cllr Vijeh, the Parish Council and Mr S Aspinall - on behalf of the residents group – and responses are being awaited.

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

54/18 Playing Field

- a) A playground report for November was not presented due to Cllr Perryman not being available to attend this meeting.
- b) Consideration was given to the minor issues as identified in the SSDC Annual Playing Field Report. The Clerk was instructed to e-mail the report to Mr S Hewson with a request for him to provide a quotation for the tasks to be carried out.
- c) Consideration was also given as to whether some additional cosmetic work should be carried out around the playing field. It was agreed that Cllr Lang would compile a list of the tasks he thinks should be looked at and then this would be sent to Mr Hewson for a quotation. There is not an obvious site for the safety notices to be put up and therefore Mr Hewson would also be asked for a quotation for a little notice board to be provided.
- d) Cllr Crouch advised Ilminster Force Football Club has registered an interest in using the playing field for 1 hour every Wednesday evening and are happy to pay a fee. This request was unanimously supported and Cllr Crouch would convey this back to the Team with the contact details of the Clerk.

55/18 Pond

Mr Hewson had advised he gave the pond area a good clean up a couple of weeks ago and all is OK with the pond but the picnic bench is in a poor condition. He had asked whether the Parish Council would want it to be removed to prevent any injuries. Appreciation was conveyed to Mr Hewson for his help and the Clerk was instructed to ask him to remove the bench. It was agreed to defer a discussion about replacing the bench until the March meeting of the Parish Council.

56/18 Ashill Village Hall

Cllr Lang advised he had no relevant matters to bring to attention with regard to the Village Hall this month.

57/18 Ashill Christmas Tree

Cllr Crouch advised he has a conifer tree in his garden that is getting too big and - if arrangements could be made for it to be cut down in time - he would like to offer it to be the Parish Christmas Tree in return for a donation to be made to St. Margaret's Hospice. It was resolved that – subject to the tree being suitable - a donation of £50 would be made. Cllr Lang would decide with Cllr Crouch as to whether the tree could be used – otherwise they would source a tree from somewhere else – and arrange for it to be in place no later than 8 December 2018 for the Ashill Christmas Carol Singing Service which starts at 6pm. The lights are stored with Mrs H Hewson and the Clerk would make arrangements for these to be collected.

58/18 Somerset Libraries Service Consultation 2018

The recommendation made to retain 19 existing library buildings was received and noted. The 19 libraries where services are recommended to remain the same are : Bridgewater Town Centre; Burnham-on-Sea; Chard; Cheddar; Crewkerne; Dulverton; Frome; Glastonbury; Ilminster; Langport; Martock; Minehead; Shepton Mallet; Taunton Town Centre; Wellington; Wells; Williton; Wincanton & Yeovil Town Centre. For the remaining 15 buildings Somerset County Council would seek to develop Community Library Partnerships where local groups would support the buildings in partnership with the County Council.

59/18 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

It was resolved for the following documents to be approved :

- Website Privacy Notice
- Data Protection Policy
- Records Management Retention Policy
- Document Retention Policy

60/18 Finance

- i) The Clerk presented a payments/receipts report and bank reconciliation dated 5 October 2018. A draft budget for 2019/20 was also presented for consideration. The draft budget shows that if the total forecasted payments are spent and the total amount collected for Parish purposes is kept the same as for 2018/19 then there would be a significant shortfall in receipts in relation to payments. It was agreed the Councillors would review the numbers – taking into account the issues and options – and would submit any comments / amendments to the Clerk prior to the January meeting when the budget needs to be agreed.
- ii) It was resolved for the Annual Audit 2018 Certificate of Exemption to be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- iii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

SSDC – Annual Playground Inspection	£ 57.60
Clerks' Salary & Administration Costs (October – December)	£702.65
Ashiill Village Hall – Meeting Room Hire	£ 72.00
St. Margaret's Hospice – Christmas Tree Donation	£ 50.00

Correspondence

SSDC - 2019/20 Council Tax Setting Town/ Parish Workshop – 19 November 2018

61/18 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Parish Ranger Scheme
- Footpath Warden
- Pond Picnic Bench (March)

62/18 Dates of 2019 Meetings

- a) The Chairman introduced a discussion as to whether the Parish Council should hold a Parish Meeting after the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 13 May 2018 and before 31 May.2018. It was resolved that a Parish Meeting should be held and Councillors would submit proposals to the Clerk for a date - and suggestions for Parish Meeting topics – before the January meeting.
- b) It was confirmed the 2019 meetings of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 15 January, Monday 11 March, Monday 13 May (Annual Meeting), Monday 1 July, Monday 2 September and Monday 4 November. The Clerk conveyed her apologies for the January meeting but advised that Mr P Davidson had offered to Clerk the meeting - on her behalf - at no additional cost to the Parish. The Parish Council approved this proposed arrangement with appreciation.

The meeting closed at 9 : 55 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
15 January 2019