

# Ashill Parish Council

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

**Present :** Cllrs P Lang (Acting Chairman), R Abel, C Criddle R Perryman (*left after paragraph 88/17 i) Planning*), Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

## **83/17 Apologies**

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Knight.

## **84/17 Casual Vacancy**

The resignation of Cllr Hewson with effect from 6 February 2018 was received and noted. The Notice of the Casual Vacancy has been displayed on the Parish Council notice boards and if there are no requests for the vacancy to be filled by election - within the statutory 14 day period - the Clerk would receive notification from SSDC that it can be filled by the Parish Council by co-option. Anyone who would be interested in joining the Parish Council was encouraged to contact any member of the Parish Council - or the Clerk - for further information

## **85/17 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests**

None.

## **86/17 Minutes**

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

- Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2018; and
- Meeting of the Parish Council Planning Committee held on 5 February 2018.

## **87/17 Public Participation**

**Admirals Field** - the following key points were raised with regard to the amendments to this proposal :

- It was considered that objections which had been raised with regard to the original planning application had not been addressed;
- Opinion was expressed that there should be no development in Ashill until there is an understanding with regards to the implications of the proposed new A358 Expressway;
- It was questioned as to how the proposed drainage system would be sustainably managed;
- It was questioned as to how the boundary hedge and the visibility splays would be managed;
- The proposal to create an entrance to the site directly opposite Jeffries Close – so close to the Windmill Hill Lane/Old A358 Junction - was considered to be unsatisfactory due to concerns regarding safety;
- Concerns were raised with regard to the road safety of children when leaving the Playing Field via the footway leading on to Windmill Hill Lane.

**Handrail behind 5 Ashton Close** – a member of the public asked for an update regarding the handrail which is still missing from the footpath directly behind 5 Ashton Close. The Clerk reported this matter had been reported to the County Rights of Way Team but would chase this up now that she had been made aware that the handrail has still not yet been reinstated.

**Bus Service** – it was questioned as to whether anything was yet known about the cancellation of the Ashill bus service. The Clerk advised that she thought Cllr Vijeh had been looking into this matter and therefore would ask Cllr Vijeh about this.

**Windmill Hill Lane**- attention was brought to the increasing number of large vehicles using Windmill Hill Lane. Attention was also brought to the wet, muddy and numerous potholes along this lane. The Clerk advised that she would bring this matter to the attention of Highways and Cllr Vijeh.

**County/District Councillor** - apologies were received and noted from Cllr Vijeh due to being unable to attend this meeting. Cllr Vijeh provides a written report at the end of each month and these are displayed on the Parish Council website.

**88/17 Planning**

- i) Additional information received since the last meeting with regard to the following planning application was received and considered:

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

The amendments to be commented on were :

**Revised layout**

It was noted the revised layout - particularly that overlooking Windmill Hill Lane – attempts to mitigate the need to create fewer breaches in the existing hedge but it was felt that turning the houses around to back on to Windmill Hill Lane would make them look even more out of character, overbearing and not neighbourly in the context of this location and with regard to the houses opposite. It was also considered there is not enough provision made for there to be adequate parking within the curtilage of the site to service the needs of 25 houses and this would inevitably lead to parking on Windmill Hill Lane. It had not been clarified as to how the hedge was to be sustainably managed which would be important in order to maintain the visibility splays. The junction of Windmill Hill Lane / Old A358 creates a blind bend which is already very dangerous as cars regularly swing around this corner at speeds up to 50 mph and therefore Ashill Parish Council objected to the proposal for there to be an entrance to a housing development – so near to this corner - directly opposite Jeffries Close. The Parish Council objected to the proposal for there to be three access points to the Playing Field on the grounds of safety, security and privacy and also objected to the proposal - on the grounds of safety - for there to be a sloping footway leading away from the playing field where there could be the possibility of children running into Windmill Hill Lane without being seen by approaching vehicles.

**Additional information in response to lead flood authority comments**

The topography of the site is sloping and not ‘relatively flat’ as described in the Drainage Statement dated 17 December 2017. Surface water does run down to Venners Water and this has historically caused a direct impact on incidents of flooding and drainage issues in the Parish of Ashill. The Drainage Statement states that the ‘proposed development would be designed to minimise the adverse surface drainage risk’. The Parish Council was of the opinion that minimising risk was unacceptable and there should be no adverse surface drainage risk. It had not been clarified as to how the proposed wildlife pond to be located at the north east of the site – which now may be incorporated to be a balancing pond – and the proposed SuDs Drainage System was to be sustainably managed and maintained. It was noted that as of 16 February 2018 the Somerset County Council Flood Risk Officer had not commented on the Drainage Statement provided by the Planning Consultant.

**Number of dwellings reduced to 25**

The Parish Council referred to its comments which had been conveyed to SSDC dated 18 October 2017 and 20 November 2017 and unanimously resolved that the reasons for objecting to this proposal had not changed. Having given consideration to the proposed Revised Layout and the Additional Information with regard to Lead Flood Authority Comments it was unanimously resolved to continue to **object** to this proposal.

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

Application No.	17/04519/FUL
Proposal	The erection of first floor extension to dwelling
Location	1 Ashton Close, Ashill.

Application No.	17/04862/FUL
Proposal	The erection of an extension to agricultural building
Location	Shrubbery Farm, Old A358, Horton, Ilminster.

Application No.	17/04867/FUL
Proposal	Extension to commercial premises for the manufacture & storage of shepherds huts
Location	Blackdown Shepherd Huts, Shrubbery Farm, Old A358. Horton, Ilminster.

Application No.	17/04868/FUL
Proposal	Alterations to include the conversion of outbuilding to annexe & formation of pitched roof
Location	Hunters Cottage, Wood Road, Ashill.

- iii) Correspondence – noted ::  
Mrs B Pyle – Admirals Field

#### 88/17 Playing Field

- It was noted VitaPlay Ltd. had confirmed the requested operational inspection and any general maintenance that may be required for the existing Adult Gym Equipment and Safety Surfacing was scheduled to be carried out during this week.
- A discussion was introduced regarding the condition of the Play House and as to whether consideration should be given to having the safety surfacing cleaned. The Clerk was instructed to ask Mr S Hewson for a quotation to be considered at the next meeting.

#### 89/17 Highways / Footpaths

- It was noted a Parish Council briefing meeting had been held by Highways England on Friday 18 February 2018 in the Broadway Village Hall for the A358 Consultation. The response which had been made on behalf of the Parish Council with regard to this consultation was received and noted.
- The County Highways Speed Indicator Device ((SID) reports for Ashill Parish Council taken on the Old A358 (near Harvey Way) between 9 January and 23 January 2018 were received and noted.
- Confirmation had been received from Highways that the contribution required from Town/Parish Councils for each SID installation - should a revised SID programme operate after March 2018 – would be £100. The Parish Council agreed to give a bit more thought to this matter and to make a decision at the next meeting.
- Correspondence noted :  
Mr & Mrs C Harper – A358 Consultation  
Mrs R Coleman – A358 Consultation

#### 90/17 Consultations – received and noted :

- Somerset Libraries Service Consultation 2018 from 29 January 2018 to 22 April 2018**
  - A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme from 26 January 2018 to 9 March 2018**
- It was resolved that no further action should be taken with regard to these consultations.

#### 91/17 Announcement

The Members and the Clerk of Ashill Parish Council were sad to note that Mr Maurice Brunt had passed away on 28 February 2018. Mr Brunt had served as a member of Ashill Parish Council for over forty years and had been much missed after he had retired from his role in January 2017. It was the wishes of the family for donations to be made in memory of Maurice and it was resolved that a donation should be made on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Criddle and Cllr Knight would be attending the funeral service to be held at St. Mary's Church, Ashill on Friday 9 March at 2.30pm.

#### 92/17 Finance

- The Clerk reported she had not received a copy of the Webinar training event - held on 23 January 2018 - as requested and was currently In the process of carrying out her own research regarding the new audit arrangements for the 2017/18 accounts. In the meantime it was assumed that the accounts would still need to be internally audited

and it was therefore resolved to ask Mr John Brunt - who had carried out the Internal Audit of the 2016/17 accounts - if he wished to carry out this role for 2017/18.

- ii) It was resolved to appoint Cllr Criddle and Cllr Lang as new signatories for the Parish Council and Playing Field bank accounts;
- iii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

Somerset Association of Local Councils – Affiliation Fees	£146.93
Ashill Village Hall – Meeting Room Hire	£ 36.00
Clerks’ Salary & Administration Costs	£704.23
Mr Maurice Brunt – Donation	£ 50.00

**93/17 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- GDPR
- Playground Repairs
- Adult Gym Report
- Speed Indicator Device
- Asset Register
- Insurance
- 2017/18 Accounts

**94/17 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council - which would be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - would be held on **Monday 1 May 2018.**

*The meeting closed at 9 : 05pm*

Signed : ..... Chairman)  
1 May 2018