

Ashill Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 May 2017 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present : Cllrs H Hewson (Chairman), C Criddle (*co-opted as of this meeting*), A Knight, P Lang, R Perryman (*left the meeting at 8.25pm*), Mrs J Davidson (Clerk), County/District Cllr L Vijeh and 5 members of the public.

1/17 **Appointment of Chairman**

It was proposed and seconded for Cllr Hewson to be the 2017/18 Parish Council Chairman and it was unanimously resolved for Cllr Hewson to be appointed.

2/17 **Declaration of Acceptance**

Cllr Hewson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form which was also signed by the Clerk.

3/17 **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

It was proposal and seconded for Cllr Lang to be the 2017/18 Parish Council Vice-Chairman and it was unanimously resolved for Cllr Lang to be appointed.

4/17 **Apologies**

None.

5/17 **Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests**

None.

6/17 **Casual Vacancies**

- i) Mrs Claire Criddle who had registered an interest in the Casual Vacancy since the last meeting was welcomed. It was unanimously resolved that Mrs Criddle should be co-opted to be a member of the Council with effect from today. Mrs Criddle completed the Declaration of Interests form and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form which was also signed by the Clerk.
- ii) It was noted the Parish Council has still one vacancy due to the retirement of Cllr M Brunt which needs to be filled by co-option.

7/17 **Minutes**

It was resolved for the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2017 to be signed as a true record.

8/17 **Public Participation**

- **Ashill Community Primary School** – Mrs J Woodman (Headteacher), Mrs J Price (Clerk to the Board of Governors) and Mrs L Hadley (Governor) were welcomed to this meeting. Apologies were conveyed on behalf of Mr T Blackshaw (Chair of the Board of Governors) as he was unavailable to attend this meeting. Mrs Woodman spoke of the challenges being faced by schools due to the economies which are having to be made by Local Authorities. The Governing Body of Ashill Primary School has been exploring other ways of how a quality education in a small rural school could be continued to be sustained. The Governing Body believe an alternative approach would be to convert to Academy status and is to make a formal approach to The Redstart Learning Partnership (TRLP) to become part of TRLP by 1 September 2017. TRLP currently has 4 schools in Somerset including The Redstart Primary School, Chard and St Mary C of E School both of whom already work closely with Ashill through the Chard Area Family of Schools.
- **Highways** – a request was made as to whether the grass verge on Wood Lane - opposite Walnut Cottage - could be tarmaced as it is becoming damaged due to being used as a car parking area.
- **District/County Council** - congratulations were conveyed to Cllr L Vijeh who had been re-elected as the Ilminster Division County Councillor on 4 May 2017. The March 2017 & April 2017 Reports from District/County Councillor Linda Vijeh were received and noted.

9/17 Playing Field

- a) The 2016/17 Payments/Receipts Report and bank reconciliation for the Ashill Playing Field Trust was received and noted.
- b) Cllr Perryman presented the May Playing Field Inspection Report :
 - The adult gym equipment is considered to be in good order;
 - The mole problem has been resolved;
 - The field has been rolled.
- b) A discussion was introduced regarding whether it was felt tennis court membership fees should be charged for the 2017/18 financial year. It was resolved that fees would not be charged during this financial year and the padlock would be removed. This new arrangement would be monitored and reviewed later towards the end of the year.
- c) The 2017 SSDC Annual Playground Inspection Offer and Playground Risk Assessment Service was received and considered. It was resolved to instruct SSDC to carry out the 2017 Risk Assessment.

10/17 Appointment of Representatives

Representatives for roles were agreed as follows :

Ashill Playing Field Trust – Cllr Perryman, Cllr Criddle, and Mr P Underhill (an interest was also registered by Mrs L Hadley)

Village Hall - Cllr P Lang

Millennium Pond – Mr S Hewson

11/17 Planning

- i) The following planning application which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting was received and considered :

Application No.	170/1246/FUL
Applicant	Mr C Speke
Proposal	Change of use of agricultural buildings to Use Class B2 for the assembly and manufacture of shepherds huts (retrospective). Re siting of and alternations to vehicular access, provision of parking and turning
Location	Blackdown Shepherd Huts, Shrubbery Farm, Old 358, Horton, Ilminster.

No objections/observations were made regarding this proposal.

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

Application No.	17/00541/FUL
Applicant	SE And RM Fry
Proposal	The erection of an apex steel framed building to cover existing cow yard
Location	Hatchers Pond, Radigan Lane, Ashill.

- iii) It was noted the following planning application has been withdrawn since the last meeting :

Application No.	16/03363/FUL
Applicant	Mr & Mrs Gardiner
Proposal	The conversion of existing detached garage into ancillary accommodation or holiday let.
Location	Brookside, Old A358, Ashill.

- iii) The following notification of a proposed change of use was noted :

Application No.	17/00269/PAMB
Applicant	Mrs J Speke
Proposal	Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural buildings into 1 No.dwelling
Location	Whitehouse Farm, Rapps Road, Ashill.

- iv) The procedure for dealing with planning applications during 2017/18 was considered and reviewed.

It was agreed that when the Clerk receives notification from SSDC that a planning application has been submitted then :

- a. the Clerk would e-mail the information regarding the application to all members of the Parish Council; and
- b. the paper copy would be provided for circulation .

It was also resolved that in the eventuality of there not being a scheduled meeting of the Parish Council before a planning consultation deadline then either :

- a. a meeting of a Planning Committee comprising of all members of the Parish Council would be convened at the request of any member; or :
- b. members would e-mail any comments to the Clerk who would have the delegated authority to be able to respond to small scale planning applications on behalf of member's observations.

12/17 Highways / Footpaths

- a) The Highways England A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Public Consultation: 28 March - 20 May 2017 was received and considered. It was agreed that a response, taking into account the key points of the impact this proposal could have for the Parish of Ashill should be formulated. It was also agreed that it may be a good idea to work in partnership with neighbouring parishes when the next stage of this consultation is introduced. Cllr Lang registered an interest in being involved with this initiative.
- b) Speed Indicator Device reports for Ashill (Old A358 near Harvey Way), taken between the 14th February 2017 and the 28th February 2017 were received and noted.
- c) It was reported that attention had been brought, during a meeting of Broadway Parish Council, to a footbridge over a river (or ryhne in full spate) which has started to collapse (located at the second hedgerow in when walking ch 2/14 heading North) probably due to what is thought could be a tracked digger working on the nearby trees going too close. It had been thought the bridge could be in the Parish of Ashill and this has been reported by the Clerk to Highways on behalf of Ashill Parish Council.
- d) The surface of the Old A358 which is considered to be unusually smooth had been brought to the attention of Highways. Highways has confirmed the surfacing had been done in a high stone content material which is a recognised and approved material - with a PSV (polished stone value) of 60 - the skid resistance of the road. The stone is exposed by traffic wearing the bitumen surface off the stone and it may be there has not been as much wearing as of yet. Mr C Weeks – Assistant Highways Service Manager – inspected the road on the evening of 7 March 2017 and advised that the visual appearance and the skid resistance from hard braking was as expected. There are formal methods to test the skid resistance but this would have to be evidence based on recorded incidents in normal weather conditions. Frosty roads are not classed as normal conditions. If there are any incidents involving skidding in normal conditions they need to be reported so that Highways can assess the data and action as necessary.
- e) Attention was brought to the condition of the bus shelter on Wood Lane and it was agreed that this matter should be discussed with Mr P Underhill.

13/17 Environment

- a) The Clerk reported she had obtained an example of prices for a wooden bench to be possibly located in the area of the pond. A two seat bench would cost - £90 and a three seat one- £108. It was agreed to defer further consideration regarding this matter.
- b) It was reported that the letter box near the Ashill Inn was in need of repainting.

14/17 Website / Notice Boards

- a) The outcome to the application made by the Clerk to DCLG for Transparency Code grant funding was noted. The Parish Council has now received, via SALC, a cheque payment of £1,813.01 which has been paid into the current account.
- b) A discussion was introduced regarding the poor condition of the three wooden notice boards which are located at Rapps, Windmill Hill Lane and Thickthorne Lane. It was agreed that Cllr Lang would explore the refurbishment/replacement with a local joiner.

15/17 Village Hall

- c) Cllr Lang reported there would be no increase to the Village Hall hire fees for the 2017/18 financial year.
- d) It was reported the Christmas tree which had been located at the front of the Village Hall had been taken down earlier today.

16/17 Finance / Insurance

- i) It was noted there are no changes to existing external audit arrangements for accounts for the financial year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. and returns should still be sent to the current external auditor. New external audit appointments will become effective for the five year period in relation to accounts for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2017.
- ii) The 2016/17 Annual 'Report was received and noted. It was resolved for :
 - a) Section 1 – Accounting Statements for ... ; and
 - b) Section 2 – Annual governance statement of the Audit Return for 2016/17; to be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- iii) It was noted the 2017/18 Parish Precept of £4,500 and the Council Tax Support grant of £30 has been credited to the Parish Council bank account by SSDC.
- iv) The 2017/18 Asset Register, Insurance Policy Schedule and Policy Document were received and considered. It was resolved that no changes were required to be made and the insurance should be renewed with the same provider – Zurich Municipal - as 2016/17. The insurance renewal pack had been e-mailed later than in previous years, due to the Insurance Premium Tax increase from 10% to 12% which comes into effect from 1 June 2017.
- v) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

Zurich Municipal – 2017/18 Insurance	£504.05
--------------------------------------	---------

17/17 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- A358 Consultation Response
- Governance (September)
- Tennis Court Membership Fees (November)

28/17 Dates of 2017/18 Meetings

It was confirmed the 2017/18 dates for meetings of the Parish Council will be 3 July, 4 September, 6 November, 15 January, 5 March and 14 May (Annual Meeting).

The meeting closed at 8 : 55 pm

Signed : (Chairman
3 July 2017