

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held in
Ashill Village Hall on Monday 23 January 2023
at 7.30 pm



ASHILL
PARISH COUNCIL
Serving Ashill and Surrounding Hamlets

ASHILL, HASTINGS, KENNY, RAPPS, SOUTHTOWN, STEWLEY,
WINDMILL HILL & WOOD

Present : Cllrs P Varney (Chairman), R Fry, N Harvey, B Pyle, J Crocker, Mrs C Ball (Clerk), 0 members of the public and County Cllr S Osborne & District Cllr R Buckler

01/23 Apologies

Absence noted for Cllrs R Abel and J Crocker.

02/23 Casual Vacancies

It was noted the Parish Council has one Casual Vacancies to be filled by co-option. Cllr Fry has received interest from Mr A Crouch on returning to become a parish councillor. It was **resolved** the clerk would share information to Mr Crouch with regards to returning to Ashill Parish Council as a councillor.

03/23 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the 2022 / 23 Parish Council. Cllr Varney gave thanks to the Clerk for her work on the refreshed Ashill Parish Council website. He also gave thanks to Cllr Fry for obtaining two grant awards to support the refurbishment of the MUGA at the playing field.

04/23 Public Participation

- No public representation at the meeting.
- Clerk had received an email communication from a member of the parish with regard to the relevance of stone structure on the field to the left of A358 (towards Taunton) after Ashill exit. The council confirmed that the structure was erected for Clifford House Senior (personal memorial) and is approximately 15-20yrs old. It was **resolved** the clerk will provide this information by reply email.
- Cllr Crocker had received a letter from a member of the parish with regards to Speeding and traffic issues on Windmill Hill Lane – Cllr Osborne provided feedback on other traffic calming schemes that are under development in Donyatt and Chaffcombe. These schemes were supported by the relevant Parish councils but fund-raised and driven by members of the Parishes. Cllr Buckley also spoke about the mobile Speed Identification Devices (SIDs) that are due to be purchased by Horton Parish Council. Further feedback on neighboring schemes will be given at the next Parish Council meeting. In addition Cllr Osborne suggested that the local PCSO (John Martin) is invited to the next Parish council meeting. It was **resolved** that Cllr Varney will contact the PSCO to share the invite. Cllr Osborne also made reference to the OPCC community safety fund.
- Reports from S Osborne and R Buckler –
 - Cllr Buckler confirmed the A358 dualling project progress has paused – Highways England are now working on the environmental measures for the project. Cllr Buckler also requested that the clerk reviews if any CIL monies are owing to the Parish.
 - Cllr S Osborne provided an update on the newly proposed planning process for new unitary council. She also confirmed that Ashill parish is currently proposed to be in the LCN area 14 (Chard and Blackdowns) as opposed to area 11 (Ilminster). Cllr Varney will formally contact Cllr Osborne to object to this proposal.

05/23 Declarations of Interests / Dispensation Requests

Cllr Fry declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 ii) (Planning Application 22/03098/HOU). Cllr Harvey declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 iii) (Planning Application 22/03136/FUL).

06/23 Minutes

It was **resolved** for the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

07/23 Planning

The following planning application submitted to SSDC since the last meeting was noted:

Application No.	22/02806/FUL
Proposal	Change of use of stables and barn to ancillary use in connection with existing dwelling and the erection of a car port
Location	Southtown Farm Thickthorn Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9LS
Status:	No objections raised from APC councillors. Awaiting Decision

It was **resolved** the Cllrs confirmed have no comments on planning application number: 22/02806/FUL.

Application No.	22/03098/HOU
Proposal	Erection of single storey extensions to front and side of dwelling
Location	Hatchers Pond Radigan Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NL
Status:	No objections raised from APC councillors. Awaiting Decision

It was **resolved** the Cllrs confirmed have no comments on planning application number: 22/03098/HOU.

Application No.	22/03136/FUL
Proposal	Erection of Replacement Dwelling
Location	The Lilacs Stewley Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NJ
Status:	No objections raised from APC councillors. Awaiting Decision

It was **resolved** the Cllrs confirmed have no comments on planning application number: 22/03136/FUL.

08/23 Playing Field

- a) Cllr R Fry provided an electronic report of her inspection of the playing field for January 2023 and provided a summary of this report at the meeting. Cllr Fry requested funding for moss spray (£26.95) and smoke bombs (£24.24) – no objections raised to this request. Cllr Fry confirmed she has now switched off the tennis court and MUGA lights inside the meter box. It was **resolved** a fee should be charged for use of the lights for tennis court / MUGA. The clerk will investigate the possible hourly charge for use of the lights and confirm this information to the councillors. Once the chargeable rate is confirmed signage will be generated.
- b) Cllr R Fry confirmed that since the last council meeting Ashill Parish Council has been awarded 2 capital grants towards renovating the MUGA at the playing field – totaling £8,800. The additional funding will be provided from the ring-fenced playing field committee fund. The project is expected to start in March 2023 and finish by September 2023. The clerk confirmed the minimum threshold for 3 quotes is £200.
- c) The Clerk confirmed that the smart meter installation is scheduled for the playing field on 25th January 2023.

09/23 Highways / Footpaths

- a) Cllr Fry met with Sam Jackson (SSDC Footpath officer) on 30th November 2022 to discuss the installation of a handrail and the tarmac surface of the footpath behind Ashton Close. It has been confirmed that both projects will need to be taken up by Ashill Parish Council. It

was **resolved** Cllr Fry will obtain quotations for both works. In addition, SSDC footpaths confirmed that the stile on the footpath running from the churchyard up toward Windmill Hill should be replaced with a kissing gate. It was **resolved** Cllr Harvey would support progress of this activity alongside SSDC and the land owner.

10/23 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets

- a) Parish Defib training – Cllr Fry confirmed the training session was held on 20th January 2023 with 16 attendees from the community. The training was very well received. The Clerk noted the service contract we have for the defib covers annual training sessions. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would put the DRSABC leaflet provided during the defib training session in each of the parish noticeboards.
- b) Warm hubs – It was confirmed that the Parish council will sign post anyone enquiring about a warm hub to the Somerset Spark website. A link is provided on the APC website.
- c) The Clerk received information on on-street electric vehicle charging points from Char.gy for consideration. After discussion it was **resolved** that this topic would not be progress at this time. The clerk will provide this feedback to the contact at Char.gy.
- d) Millennium Pond – no further comments. It was **resolved** that the Millenium Pond can be removed as a standing agenda item for future meetings.
- e) Bus Shelter – Cllr Fry provided an update on the village book exchange. The exchange is working well and is being kept clean and tidy. There has been no further negative feedback received to the parish council.

11/23 Village Hall

- a) Roof update – Cllr Varney confirmed that the funding target has not yet been met for the village hall. To support the required planning application to replace the roof, it was **resolved** that the Parish Council will support biodiversity surveys (if required). Cllr Varney and Fry will provide this feedback to village hall committee.
- b) Hall Cleaner – a request for support to help with cleaning the washroom facilities was received from the Village Hall committee. This matter needs further discussion at the village hall committee.

12/23 Church

- a) Cllr Pyle gave an update on church activities. The church has received £500 from the Church of England (cost of living mission grant) and is hosting a weekly Coffee and Chat session in the village hall. The sessions are well attended with 18 in attendance at the latest session.
- b) Cllr Pyle confirmed the works on the Yew tree are scheduled for February 2024. The estimated cost of grass cutting has increased to £700 for 2023.
- c) Cllr Pyle confirmed that 148 copies of the Isle Valley News are now being distributed within Ashill Parish.
- d) Following a recent electrical inspection at the church it has been confirmed that there will be a notice placed on the electricity box for the space heaters, stating each one is to be turned on individually so as to avoid an electricity surge.

13/23 Communication

- a) Cllr Harvey confirmed the notice board upgrades are progressing. One wall mounted notice board is still to be installed at Southown Farm. The Perspex in the village notice board also needs to be replaced. It was **resolved** this will now be completed in 2023/24 financial year.
- b) The clerk confirmed the Ashill Parish Council Website transition was completed on 21st December 2023. Cllr Varney will contact TEEC to confirm the invoice costs. Councillors were reminded to use their Ashill PC email.
- c) The Clerk received some 'Do not knock stickers' that are free to any parish members. It was **resolved** that Cllr Pyle will have them available at the 'coffee and chat' sessions for anyone to take and display.
- d) Cllr Varney is progressing with the potential funding for a projector and screen to use for council meetings. Cllr Buckler has shared details of funding paths with Cllr Varney.
- e) Parish Social meeting will be the Coronation Picnic to be held at Ashill Playing field on Sunday 7th May 2023. It was **resolved** Cllr Fry to arrange the coronation celebration with a budget of up to £200 (section 137) to cover costs of bouncy castle and portable toilet hire. A raffle will be held on the day with proceeds to be split between the three village charities (Village Hall, Church and School).

14/23 Finance

- a) The December 2022 payments and receipts report was noted.
- b) Consideration was given to the proposed 2023/24 budget. The council voted in **favour** of the 2023/24 budget and to hold a general reserve of 6-12mths for 2023/24. It was **resolved** that the amount to be collected for parish purposes (precept) will be £6,708 for 2023/24. This equates to a 4% increase in the overall precept value and an increase of 1.68% per Band D property (£26.19 in 2022/23 to £26.63 for 2023/24)
- c) The clerk asked councillors to give consideration to the use of Ashill Parish Council business account and moving reserve funds into the account. There were no objections and it was resolved the clerk would move £6450 (12 mth reserve) and £6600 (grant award) into business account to allow accrual of interest on these monies.
- d) It was **resolved** for the following payments were approved:

• Clerk Salary (C Ball) – November to December 2022	£ 354.99
• Playing Field Electricity Standing Order (paid)	£ 21.00
• Mr P Lang – Christmas Light Batteries	£ 20.00
• Mr P Lang – Christmas Lights	£ 19.49
• Minchinhampton Christmas Trees	£ 42.00

15/23 Staffing / Training:

- a) Clerk training sessions booked / attended:
 - The Essential Clerk - Part 1: Powers & Duties – 16th January 2023
 - The Essential Clerk - Part 3: Finance & Audit – 30th January 2023
 - The Code of Conduct Explained for Officers – 1st March 2023
 - Preparing for Audit – 8th March 2023
 - VAT for unregistered councils (VAT126) – 30th March 2023

- b) Councillor training sessions booked / attended:

Councillor:	Event Name / Date:
Phil Varney	Roles & Responsibilities - Councillor Essentials Training Part 1 – 30th January 2023
	Finance & Governance - Councillor Essentials Training Part 2 – 6th February 2023
Neil Harvey	Roles & Responsibilities - Councillor Essentials Training Part 1 – 20th January 2023
	Finance & Governance - Councillor Essentials Training Part 2 – 27th January 2023
Rosanne Fry	Roles & Responsibilities - Councillor Essentials Training Part 1 – 20th January 2023
Jason Crocker	Roles & Responsibilities - Councillor Essentials Training Part 1 – 30th January 2023

16/23 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Meeting schedule for June 2023 to May 2024
- Defibrillator replacement funding strategy
- Future of Ashill Playing Field Bank Account
- Acceptance of Local Government Authority (LGA) code of conduct.
- Planning feedback – planning committee to be arranged.
- Village shop options and next steps.

17/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 06 March 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 22:06 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
06 March 2023