

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Ashill Village Hall on Monday 4th November 2024 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, A Crouch, N Harvey and R Batty.

In attendance: Somerset Councillor S Osborne and L Gowers (Clerk),

52/24 Apologies

Apologies were received by Cllr J Crocker (Personal).

53/24 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman reported that Brenda Pyle had recently resigned from the Parish Council and thanked her for her help. All agreed that she would be missed on the Parish Council.

54/24 Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

A member of the public had made two complaints to Councillor Fry regarding a person walking their dogs on the playing field. Councillor Fry had posted a message on the village Facebook group to remind residents that dogs were not allowed on the playing field. The dog owner then apologised to Councillor Varney via email and suggested that signage at the playing field regarding dogs was not clear.

55/24 To Welcome and Receive reports from the Unitary Councillor.

Unitary Councillor Osborne reported the following:

- The A358 dualling scheme had been confirmed as cancelled. There would be a closing out period and the road would be handed back to Somerset Council.
- Somerset Council had sent an email recently advising the local plan consultation period had been extended to the end of November.
- All the vacant planning positions had now been filled at Somerset Council. They hoped to reduce locum placements so the Planning Department was still under pressure.
- There would be a boundary commission review which would run until mid-January. There would be ninety-six new Councillor wards agreed which would be a reduction in Unitary Councillors. The Boundary Commission would expect the wards to have a similar number of people per Councillor.
- A planning application had been received for the development of 150 houses on the Horlicks site in Ilminster. Ilminster Town Council would be consulted at their meeting on Tuesday 5th November.
- Somerset Council was undertaking a compulsory redundancy consultation. This would end just before Christmas. This may affect 450 members of staff. This was in addition to staff that had taken voluntary redundancy.
- The Rights of Way team had sent all parishes an email regarding parish rights of way. They would like Parish Council's to take more responsibility for cutting undergrowth. It was possible that Somerset Council may eventually ask Parish Councils for a contribution for signs and stiles on rights of way. Any of the work that Parish Council's accept from Somerset Council was discretionary rather than statutory and therefore not subject to double taxation.

- A price list for the highways scheme that Parish Councils could buy in to had been circulated.
- The Somerset Prepared conference was held on Wednesday 30th November. This was an annual event and was well attended.

56/24 Playing Field

- a) To receive the inspection report for the playing field
- Cllr. Fry reported that the new signs for the muga and play area were now in place.
 - Cllr. Crouch reported that the electric cabinet had been left unlocked. He would install different bolts to secure the cabinet.
 - The football team had been using the lights had paid £45 to Cllr. Crouch. This was handed to the Clerk to bank.
 - There was graffiti on the muga. Cllr. Fry would add some words to the village "Green Page" requesting that it stops. Unitary Cllr. Osborne suggested reporting the graffiti damage to the police via 101 which Cllr. Fry agreed to do.
 - The netball hoops required securing and the handrail was not yet replaced.
 - A member of the public had thanked Cllr. Crouch for mending the tennis nets.
- b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Playing Field.
None

57/24 Highways / Footpaths

To receive for consideration any matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.

The dualling of the A358 was cancelled by Government.
The footpath on the left of the millennium pond was overgrown. The field belonged to local farmer and he would cut back the hedges on the field, but not necessarily the lane.
There was a report of a missing stile on the footpath. Cllr Fry would walk the path as she was unsure of the location.

58/24 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets

There were no updates.

59/24 Village Hall

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

Wessex Internet had installed the box at the front of the Village Hall. There was a slight delay rolling out the superfast broadband.

60/24 Church

- a) Cllr Pyle to report any matters regarding the Church
As Brenda was not present at the meeting it was agreed that this item would be removed.
The Clerk would email Brenda to ask for a report from the Church for future meetings.
- b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Church.
None.

61/24 Communication

a) To receive any updates from the most recent LCN meeting or working groups

There was no Update.

b) To Consider an event to mark VE day 80 in May 2025

Funding for a community event was being investigated.

c) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding communication / processes.
Cllr. Varney had made some changes to website and was updating content. He noted that downloaded documents are titled Silverdale PC and asked the Clerk to go to the properties of the document to check and change.

62/24 Finance

- a) To receive the latest finance report.
There had been a meeting of Finance Group recently and the first draft of the budget had been compiled. This was an agenda item following.
- b) To note receipt of insurance payment of £320 to claim for damage of the bus shelter
Noted.
- c) To note/approve the following payments:
The payments were approved.

Cost description	Total Value	Date Paid	Invoice Reference
EDF Energy	£18.24	17 09 24	DD
Ashill Village Hall	£16	01-10-24	391
Teec – Parish Council Website	£225.60	01-10-24	4789
Ashill PCC	£600	01-10-24	Grant
Ashill Primary School	£750	01-10-24	Grant
Play Inspection Company	£156	01-10-24	71637
Laura Gowers Clerks - 2Q salary	£502.04	14-10-14	
SALC – Membership	£169.14	14-10-24	1160
HMRC Cumbernauld – Clerks tax & NI	£125.60	14-10-24	
EDF Energy	£17.58	17-10-24	
Rosanne Fry – Expenses	£89.42		Instaprint 11142802 & AW Décor (paint for bus stop)

63/24 To consider the first draft of the 2025-2026 budget –

Following discussion of the budget, it was agreed that another Finance Working Group should meet in December, or once Somerset Council have confirmed the Tax Base for the year. The budget would need to be agreed at the January meeting of the Parish Council

64/24 To consider the first draft of a Safeguarding Policy.

After discussion, It was agreed to adopt the Safeguarding Policy with the telephone numbers of Adult and Children’s Social Care added.

65/24 Action Status Report

The report was circulated and noted. The following items were discussed:
Red barriers over hole in road – The hole was now filled and the barriers removed. This item would be removed from the Action Status Report.
Health & Safety signs for play area – The signs were now in place and the website updated. This item would be removed from the Action Status Report.

66/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.24

Signed : (Chairman)
6th January 2025