

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Ashill Village Hall on Monday 2nd September 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, B Pylle and R Batty.

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

36/24 Apologies

Apologies were received by Cllrs N Harvey (Personal) and J Crocker (Personal).

37/24 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman thanked Cllr Neil Harvey for chairing the last meeting whilst Cllr Varney was unable to attend.

38/24 Public Participation

No members of the public attending.

To Welcome and Receive reports from the Unitary Councillor.

Unitary Councillor Osborne reported the following:

- Somerset Council were currently circulating a consultation on their proposal to reduce the Council Tax Deduction.
- The Winter Fuel Allowance reduction was expected to have an impact in our rural areas.
- All commercial properties owned by Somerset Council would be sold to help balance the budget. This would fund the Capitalization Directive from Central Government.
- A Locality Officer had now been allocated to the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN. An Invitation to complete a survey by the LCN was being circulated. There were two working groups within the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN: Highways (in person in Crewkerne) and Active Travel (online). It was anticipated that LCN meetings would become quarterly meetings.
- Somerset Council's Planning Department was short of staff as planning officers were leaving. This may impact the speed at which planning applications were considered.

39/24 Declarations of Interests / Dispensation Requests

Cllr Fry registered an interest in the school as PTFA. Cllr Pyle registered an interest in St Mary's PCC.

40/24 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st July 2024 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

41/24 Planning

a) **The following planning applications / notifications were noted.**

Application No.	24/01723/DOC1
Location	Southtown Farm Thickthorn Lane Ashill Somerset TA19 9LS
Proposal	Discharge of Conditions No. 4 (Materials), No. 6 (Ecology), No.7 (Ecology) and No. 11 (Ecology) of Planning Application 22/02806/FUL.

Application No.	24/01722/DOC1 ** See planning decision notices
Location	Barns At Stowley Meadow Southtown Farm Thickthorn Lane Ashill, Somerset TA19 9LS

Proposal	Discharge of Conditions No. 4 (Landscaping), No. 6 (Parking & EVCP), No 7 (Construction Management - Traffic), No. 8 (Lighting) and No. 9 (BEP) of Planning Application 22/02813/FUL.
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b) To receive planning decision notices from Somerset Council.

The following applications were noted:

24/01722/DOC1 Barns At Stowley Meadow Southtown Farm Thickthorn Lane Ashill Somerset TA19 9LS

Discharge of Conditions No. 4 (Landscaping), No. 6 (Parking and EVCP), No 7 (Construction Management - Traffic), No. 8 (Lighting) and No. 9 (BEP) of Planning Application 22/02813/FUL.

Status: Conditions Discharged.

24/00740/HOU Hillcrest Windmill Hill Ashill Somerset TA19 9NX

Demolition of an existing single attached garage and the erection of a two storey extension to provide an additional Ensuite Master Bedroom Suite, Living Room, Family Room, Office space Store and WC. Including the erection of a storage barn in the garden.

Status: Approved

23/01102/OUT 2 Wood Road Ashill Somerset TA19 6NP

Outline Application with some matters reserved except for Access and Layout for the erection of one dwelling

Status: Approved

42/24 Playing Field

a) To receive the inspection report for the playing field

Cllr. Fry had received the official inspectors report, which suggested that our playground was a moderate risk. The findings were:

1. Algae on pathways. Cllr Fry would organize treatment/removal.
2. Significant gaps between pathway and grassed area which would allow a small foot to enter. It was noted that the weather had been very dry and once it rained again, the grass would swell and the gap would close.
3. Loose netball nets – Councillors noted that the netball nets were on wheels and by design were able to be wheeled to the area for use.
4. Signage of wheeled sports area for the skateboard ramp – A sign would be printed for display on the skateboard ramp and website.
5. Weeds and surface subsided – This would be investigated and resolved.
6. A drop in the play area – It was suggested that a rail could be installed. This would be investigated.
7. Paintwork peeling on the skateboard ramps – Councillors suggested asking the inspector what he would recommend the ramp to be painted with.

Cllr Varney suggested putting information regarding the play area on the website and Cllr Fry would organize two signs for the MUGA and skate ramp.

b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Playing Field.

Cllr Fry reported that the fixings had been replaced on the swing tyres and that a working party had been organised to cut the hedges. Cllr Varney voiced his thanks to Cllr Fry for organising and taking part in the work on the playing field.

43/24 Highways / Footpaths

To receive for consideration any matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.

It was noted that although the drain on Wood Road was now repaired, the pot holes had not been touched.

It was understood that a representative from Somerset Council had attended a meeting with a villager regarding the barriers around a hole near Ashill Cottage. Unfortunately, the Parish Council was not made aware of this meeting. The Clerk would contact highways and request an update.

44/24 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets

There were no updates.

45/24 Village Hall

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

Wessex Internet had been in contact with the Village Hall Committee as they had requested to put a junction box in the Village Hall grounds in order to supply super-fast broadband to the village. The suggested location was not ideal and a meeting had been arranged with the Village Hall Committee and Wessex Internet to agree a location.

To ensure that a speedy decision was made, the Parish Council **AGREED that they were in favour of Wessex Internet bringing super fast broadband to the village and AGREED IN PRINCIPLE to a box being located in the Village Hall Grounds subject to the Village Hall Committee agreeing the location.**

46/24 Church

a) Cllr Pyle to report any matters regarding the Church

Cllr Pyle reported:

- The church had held a successful flower festival. The topic had been the Olympics, which had been a challenging theme.
- A coffee morning would be held on 12th September in the village hall.
- A talk on Ashill Folk would be held on 11th October in the village hall.
- There would be a volunteer tidy of the churchyard on 19th October and Cllr. Pyle made a request for volunteers.
- All information regarding the events would be in the village magazine. Cllr. Varney offered to put the event information on the website.

b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Church.

None.

47/24 Communication

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

The annual report had been circulated and was noted.

The Highways meeting would be held on Thursday 5th September but nobody from Ashill Parish Council was able to attend.

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

A field had been offered for a bonfire to mark the VE day event.

All agreed that it would be a great opportunity to bring village groups together and mark VE day. Ideas included:

- The Church might like to organise tea and cakes and the Village Hall might offer a BBQ.
- A bar could be run and profits to go to charity. A Temporary Events Notice should be applied for.
- Portaloos should be hired.
- Cllr Fry had been quoted a price of £1200 for a Marquee as the area was not suitable for a gazebo.
- It was anticipated that approximately 100 people would attend.
- Parking would be available in a stable yard close to the field.
- The cost of a band and any fireworks should be covered by ticket sales.
- It could be a fundraiser for village assets along with a charity supporting military personnel such as The Royal British Legion or Help for Heros.

It was agreed that a grant could be applied for from SALC's health and wellbeing fund. Cllr. Fry would bring people together for an organising committee to take the idea forward.

21.01 Unitary Councillor Sue Osborne left the meeting.

c) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding communication / processes.

Cllr. Batty had attended a flooding resilience group meeting and reported that representatives from many villages attended. The theme was how to deal with flooding in local villages and the message from the meeting was to ensure that volunteers were trained to be able to work safely.

Cllr Varney would forward to the village hall the names of the contacts from Somerset Prepared who mentioned that village halls could apply for a grant if they became a village hub.

There would be a conference regarding "Somerset Prepared" in November.

48/24 Finance

- i) To receive the latest finance report.
It was noted that the money for the projector should not be listed under "S137". It was agreed to bring the £800 underspend from 2023 forward and move the projector under "Office Supplies".
It was agreed that a Finance Group meeting should be arranged October. The Clerk would organise this via Zoom.
- ii) To note that the VAT refund had been received at £1377.24
- iii) To note/approve the following payments:

Cost description	Total Value	Date Paid	Invoice Reference
Purple Cat Ltd	£692.40	04 07 24	46847
ICO	£35	11.07.24	DD
Astria Payroll	63.00	19 07 24	37403
EDF	34.10	26.07.24	DD
EDF	14.67	20 08 24	DD

49/24 To receive a first draft of a Biodiversity Policy for the Parish.
Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there was a duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. Following discussion, it was **AGREED to adopt the draft Biodiversity Policy for the Parish.**

50/24 Action Status Report
The report was circulated and noted. The following items were discussed:

- Movement of the Parish Council bank account to Lloyds: The Clerk confirmed that all signed paperwork had been given to Lloyds Bank, but they required updated confirmation of the Clerks address. The Clerk was in the process of updating her driving licence and this would be taken to a Lloyds branch.
- All actions from the play area inspection would be added to the report.

51/24 Date of Next Meeting
It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 4th November 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.24

Signed : (Chairman)
4th November 2024