

# Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Ashill Village Hall on Monday 04 March 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, B Pyle., J Crocker

**In attendance:** L Gowers (Clerk),

## 119/23 Apologies

Unitary Councillor Sue Osborne

## 120/23 Casual Vacancies

It was noted the Parish Council has one Casual Vacancy to be filled by co-option.

## 121/23 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March meeting and congratulated Peter Lang on the project management of the replacement village hall roof.

## 122/23 Public Participation

None

## 123/23 Declarations of Interests / Dispensation Requests

Cllr Fry and Cllr Crocker registered an interest in the school as PTFA treasurer and related to Head of School, respectively. Cllr Pyle registered an interest in St Mary's PCC.

## 124/23 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

## 125/23 Planning

a) The council noted the following planning applications received for review since the last council meeting held in January 2024

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Application No. | 24/00458/NMA                                                                                                                                                             |
| Location        | Ashlea Windmill Hill Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NT                                                                                                             |
| Proposal        | <u>Non Material Amendment to approved application 23/02923/HOU to remove the workshop from the approved plans. The proposal would be just to build the 3-bay garage.</u> |

No comments

|                 |                                                                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Application No. | 24/00331/HOU                                                                 |
| Location        | Kenny Lodge Old A358 Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NH                      |
| Proposal        | Proposed two storey rear extension, new front and side porches and car port. |

No comments

|                 |                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Application No. | 24/00321/DOC1                                                                                                                                    |
| Location        | Land West Of School Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset                                                                                               |
| Proposal        | Discharge of conditions No.19 (Tree and Hedgerow Protection Measures), 20 (Tree and Shrub Planting Scheme) of planning application 17/04328/OUT. |

No comments

|                 |                                                                   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Application No. | 24/00177/HOU                                                      |
| Location        | Dairy House Windmill Hill Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NT |

|          |                                                                                                |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proposal | Demolition of an existing single-storey extension and replacement with a two-storey extension. |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

No comments

b) The following Planning Decision Notices had been received from Somerset Council.

**23/02923/HOU Ashlea Windmill Hill Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NT**

3-bay garage plus 1-bay workshop. Widening of driveway access.

**Approved**

**20/02902/FUL Paddock Adjoining The Flying Fish Windmill Hill Ashill TA19 9NX**

The erection of three detached dwellings and associated parking (Re-submission of withdrawn application 20/01419/FUL)

**Refused**

**126/23 Playing Field**

a) To receive the inspection report for the playing field

Cllr. Fry had updated the inspection report and noted the following:

- The Fumigator had been used to repel the moles.
- The hedges would need to be cut by hand.
- The handrail had not yet been replaced.

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

None

**127/23 Highways / Footpaths**

a) Cllr Varney to give an update on the A358 dualling project.

There was no further update.

b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.

It was noted that:

- Cllr. Fry had reported the damaged bridge at the bottom of the footpath opposite The Flying Fish
- Cllr. Fry had reported the condition of the roads and potholes by Southtown Farm.
- Cllr. Varney had reported the potholes at Butts Lane and had met the Highways representative there recently. Butts Lane had been put on the list for resurfacing, but it would take some time to reach the top of the list.

**128/23 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets**

a) To consider the quote received for repair of the bus shelter

Quotes had been received from Phil Underhill at £410 and Grinters at £450 + VAT. All agreed that Phil Underhill should be asked to complete the work. Cllr. Fry had removed the book exchange as the drawers had become weak and was storing the books elsewhere until a new container was purchased. There was an equivalent storage container for £17 from The Range however, it was suggested that a moulded plastic garden storage container may be a better option and it was agreed to research suppliers and order.

b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.

None.

**129/23 Village Hall**

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

- It was noted that the roof repairs were now complete. The re-opening of the village hall was delayed as extra work had been required.
- There was a village hall meeting next week and Peter Lang planned to resign as Treasurer.
- The 100 Club Flyer was to be given to every house in the village.
- The village hall should have a new cleaner starting imminently.

**130/23 Church**

a) Cllr Pyle to report any matters regarding the Church

- The Quinquennial report highlighted the need for the replacement of lighting inside the tower.

- A new heating system was required at a cost of £1200.
  - Easter services were planned.
- b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Church.  
None.

### 131/23 Communication

- a) To receive any updates from the LCN meeting on Thursday 18th January 2024.  
Cllr Crocker reported that the last few meetings of the LCN had been dominated by finance issues from Somerset Council. It appeared that many Parish Councils were going to wait to see which services Somerset Council would cut and the cost of replacing the services before including them in their precept. Town Councils had increased their precepts to enable them to take some services on. Cllr Crocker was concerned that although the LCN had goals it would be difficult to achieve them without a budget and Somerset Council had no funding for the LCNs. The Highways Ranger scheme could be potentially useful as some services were being withdrawn. A highways committee was being set up, but required one person from each parish council to attend so there was a question of how different to the LCN this would be. Cllr Crocker would attend the next meeting but may not attend any further. Cllr Varney would attend the next meeting.
- b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding communication / processes.  
Cllr Fry reported that the email system works much better if it goes through an outlook email account. This was outlined on the original email.

### 132/23 Finance

- i) To receive the latest finance report.  
Following discussion, **it was resolved to keep twelve months running costs in the Business Reserve account at the start of the new financial year. It was also agreed to hold £2500.00 from the playing field account in the Business Reserve account, ring fenced for the Playing Field.**  
A meeting had been arranged in April for the finance committee to meet and Cllr Varney would let all Councillors have the time and date.
- ii) To receive the bank reconciliation reports for Quarters 3 and to note that bank reconciliation reports for Quarters 1 and 2 have been checked by Cllr. Varney.  
Noted.
- iii) The Council acknowledged and approved the following payments:

| Cost description         | Total Value | VAT | Date Paid | Invoice Reference |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----|-----------|-------------------|
| HMRC – Clerks tax and NI | £125.40     | -   | 12/02/24  |                   |

### 133/23 Action Status Report

The report was circulated and noted.

### 134/23 Website: To consider a Parish Council 'mission statement' for landing page.

Cllr Varney had researched mission statements and would create some copy for the landing page of the website.

### 135/23 Annual Parish Meeting: To consider a date for the APM between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

Following discussion, It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be run on the evening of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and offer tea and cake. Each Councillor should have a table and a topic for discussion. The Clerk would research the availability of the village hall and include as an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

### 136/23 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Updated standing orders (using most recent NALC model)
- Updated financial regulations (using most recent NALC model).

### 137/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm.

*The meeting closed at 21:17*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
13 May 2024