

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Ashill Village Hall on Monday 06 November 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, A Crouch, N Harvey, B Pyle.

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

85/23 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Crocker (personal).

86/23 Casual Vacancies

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

87/23 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chair welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Varney welcomed the new Clerk, Laura Gowers.

88/23 Public Participation

Revd Philip Albrow introduced himself as the Rector of the Ile Valley Benefice which consisted of seven parishes, including Ashill. A breakdown was given of the church as an integral part of the community, which included pastoral care, baptisms and weddings. There were future plans for the Church to work with the local School.

89/23 Declarations of Interests / Dispensation Requests

Cllr Fry registered an interest in the school as PTFA treasurer, Cllr Pyle registered an interest in St Mary's PCC and Cllr Harvey registered an interest in Agenda item 7, planning application 23/02243/DOC1, The Lilacs Stewley Lane Ashill. TA19 9NJ

90/23 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th September to be agreed & signed as a true record.

91/23 Planning

a) The council noted the following planning applications received for review since the last council meeting held in September 2023.

Application No.	APP/R3325/W/23/3321160
Location	Stewley Cross Caravan Park, Wood Road, Ashill. TA19 9NP
Proposal	Appeal against the decision of planning application 19/03418/FUL for 10 dwellings.

Application No.	22/01242/FUL
Location	Southtown Farm, Thickthorne Lane, Ashill. TA19 9LS
Proposal	Change of use of land to allow for the siting of a shepherds hut for tourist accommodation, provision of parking and turning facilities and access thereto and installation of package treatment plant and planting.

Application No.	23/02723/DPO
Location	Southtown Farm, Southtown, Ashill. TA19 9LU
Proposal	Application for the discharge of the S52 agreement dated 1 st March 1979 relating to the non-fragmentation of land following planning permission reference 782119 at Southtown Farm.

Application No.	23/02374/DOC1
Location	Forest Farm Wood Road Ashill. TA19 9LP
Proposal	Discharge of Conditions 6 (Sample panel) and 7 (Samples) and 8 (Eaves and RWGS) of planning application 23/00311/S73A

Application No.	23/02243/DOC1
Location	The Lilacs Stewley Lane Ashill. TA19 9
Proposal	Discharge of Conditions No. 3 (Landscape Scheme), No. 4 (Closure of Access), No. 5 (Materials), No. 8 (Part) (Landscape Implementation), No. 9 (Ecology), No. 10 (Bats) and No. 11 (Bats) of Planning Application 22/03136/FUL.

Application No.	23/02642/S73A
Location	Hermans Well, Folly Drove, Ashill. TA19 9NW
Proposal	S73A application to vary conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) to change tiled pitched roof over new side porch to flat roof with glass balustrade around, providing a balcony for the main bedroom. In relation to planning approval 23/00974/HOU for removal of existing conservatory to rear and erection of two storey front and rear two storey extensions and single storey side porch.

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

23/02061/NMA Land West Of School Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset

Non Material Amendment to approved application 20/01623/REM for the inclusion of attached car ports.

Decided: The alterations as set out in the application, do not amount to material changes to the approved plans. The proposed changes can therefore be treated as a non-material amendment to the approved scheme and the submission of a formal planning application is not required.

23/01867/DOC1 Land West Of School Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset

Discharge of conditions No.19 (Tree and Hedgerow Protection Measures), 20 (Tree and Shrub Planting Scheme) of planning application 17/04328/OUT

Refused

23/01843/DOC1 Land West of School Lane, Ashill, Ilminster Somerset

Discharge of Condition Nos 8 (Sustainable Drainage Scheme), 9 (Foul Water Drainage), 11 (Surface Water Disposal), 12 (Plans and Sections) and 16 (Street Lighting Scheme) of planning application 17/04328/OUT

Conditions 11 & 12 Discharged.

23/00857/DOC1 Land West of School Lane, Ashill, Ilminster Somerset.

Discharge of Condition Numbers 2 (Parking and Turning Spaces) and 3 (External Materials) of planning application 20/01623/REM

Conditions Discharged.

92/23 Playing Field

- a) Cllr Fry gave a verbal report of the playing field. A hole had appeared in the tarmac and as this was considered urgent, Cllr Fry had arranged for this to be filled immediately.
- b) The tennis courts were covered in moss which needed to be cleared. Cllr Fry had been approached by a Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteer who had offered some volunteering within the parish, so it had been suggested that the volunteer could pressure wash the tennis courts.
- c) It was noted that the email address should be changed on the Health & Safety signs and the football nets were in a bad state of repair. It was estimated that these cost would be £240. Cllr Fry reported that there was still £500 available from the £8000 grant received for the MUGA.

It was **RESOLVED** that new aluminum signs and football nets should be purchased from the leftover grant money.

Cllr Crouch reported that Donyatt Football Club had expressed an interest in using the MUGA for training. Dates were to be confirmed. Prices had been previously agreed at £10 per hour for use of the MUGA and lights.

93/23 Highways / Footpaths

- a) Cllr Varney reported that Ashill Parish Council had been invited to a meeting with National Highways regarding a position statement of the Parish Council regarding the proposed work to dual the A358. Cllr Varney had attended and had used the Summary of Concerns raised by the Community of Parishes. He had, however, requested that National Highways find a solution to the issue of extra traffic pushed through the village due to the closure of 16 junctions on the A358. The response to National Highways was that the Parish believed National Highways traffic figures were incorrect and that the increase of traffic would be significant due to the closure of the 16 junctions and a safer junction at Ashill was requested. Cllr. Varney had circulated his report on the meeting.
- b) It was noted that:
- the pavements along Ashill Straight were overgrown and therefore pedestrians were walking in the road.
 - There was grass growing along the old A358 from the Village to Stewley Cross, the drains required clearing and that this was causing excess water at Kenny.

It was requested that the Clerk contact Highways to understand the work that Highways could undertake at this time, or to explore an option for locals to undertake the works.

94/23 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets

- a) The works to replace the noticeboard at Southtown Farm were still to be completed. Cllr Harvey would update the Parish Council at a future meeting.

The Clerk had received correspondence regarding the ownership of the telephone box and post box in the village. It was confirmed that the Parish Council did not own either asset and that the telephone box was owned by the old public house.

95/23 Village Hall

- a) To consider the quotation of £910 including VAT, from Somerset Council for Building Regulation fees towards a full plan submission for the roof of the village hall.

Following a discussion, it was confirmed that the Parish Council had previously agreed to budget £2000 towards the Village Hall roof. An amount of £300 had been paid to cover the costs of the survey of the roof. The outstanding amount of £1700 had not been used. It was therefore **RESOLVED to cover the cost of £910 to cover Building Regulation fees.**

- b) There would be changes within the Village Hall Committee as there was a new Chairman and the Treasurer would be retiring in April 2024.

96/23 Church

- a) Cllr Pyle reported that the coffee and chat mornings continued to be successful. A recent defibrillator training session had been very successful and 27 people had attended.
- b) There were many Christmas events planned, including the switch on of the Christmas Tree lights. These were all listed in the parish magazine.

97/23 Communication

- i. Upcoming LCN meeting on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7pm.
Cllr Crocker had attended the previous meeting of the Local Community Network and had forwarded a report of the meeting.
- ii. Community Review Project.
Following discussion, it was agreed that this would be a large project for the parish. However, the Clerk would request more information regarding the work involved.
- iii. To consider a request from Citizens Advice for grant funding.

The Parish Council considered the request from Citizens Advice but could not offer any funding at this time due to budget constraints.

iv. Conserving Biodiversity Policy – for information

The Clerk would draft a simple Biodiversity Policy to bring forward to a future meeting. This should take into account the rural location of the village.

v. To consider adopting an Action Status Report for each meeting.

The Clerk would draft an Action Status Report and this would be included in future agendas.

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

There was discussion regarding the lack of ease of delivery of the Councillor Parish Council emails.

98/23 Finance

i) To receive the 1st draft of the budget for 2024 25

Following discussion, it was agreed that although the Parish Council wished to keep the precept low, there would be a necessary increase. The Clerk was awaiting the Tax Base for the Parish from Somerset Council and this would help to inform the budget.

ii) To receive the finance report for October 2023

The Clerk apologised for not bringing the finance report to the meeting. As the new Clerk she wished to go through all previous reports in order to understand the Parish finances thoroughly.

iii) To approve a direct debit payment to the ICO for £35.00 annually.

It was **RESOLVED that Ashill Parish Council would pay a data protection fee to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) of £35 per year.**

iv) Cllr Fry and Cllr Varney to give an update on online banking status and to consider moving banks if appropriate.

Previous trustees of The Playing Field Account had been located and Cllr Fry would make contact. The Clerk would write a cheque for their signature, to transfer the funds into the Parish Council bank account. The funds would be ring fenced for the playing field. The Clerk was requested to investigate moving the Parish Council bank accounts to Lloyds Bank.

v) The Council acknowledged and approved the following payments:

Cost description	Total Value	VAT	Date Paid	Invoice Reference
Information Commissioners Office annual subscription via direct debit	£35.00	-		
Astria Precision Payroll – re-declaration of compliance	£25.00	-	27/10/23	Invoice no: 34861
TEEC – Web hosting	£176.00	£35.20	28/09/23	Invoice no: 4659

99/23 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Updated standing orders (using most recent NALC model)
- Updated financial regulations (using most recent NALC model).
- Defibrillator replacement funding strategy. It was noted that the defibrillator cost was rental only. This would be added to the budget.
- Review of bank account signatories
- Options for Donations for playing field

100/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm. The Village Hall would not be available therefore, the meeting would relocate to the school on this occasion.

The meeting closed at 21:59 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
08 January 2024