

# Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Ashill Village Hall on Monday 13 May 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 and J Crocker

**In attendance:** Unitary Councillor Sue Osborne, three members of the public and L Gowers (Clerk),

**01/24 Appointment of Chairman.**

It was proposed that Cllr. Varney be nominated to serve as Chairman.  
**The proposal was CARRIED unanimously.**

**02/24 Apologies**

None

**03/24 Casual Vacancies**

It was noted the Parish Council has one Casual Vacancy to be filled by co-option. Mr Roy Batty was attending as a member of the public and volunteered to join the council

**04/24 Chairmans' Opening Statement**

The Chairman welcomed Roy to the group and thanked him for agreeing to join the council. The formal co-option would be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

**05/24 Public Participation**

A representative from Wessex Internet introduced himself and spoke to make the Parish Council aware that full fibre broadband would be coming to some parts of Ashill. This was a contract that was backed by Central Government and was part of the "Connecting Devon and Somerset" project. It was hoped that the project would begin in October/November. Wessex Internet would arrange a village meeting.

Unitary Councillor Sue Osborne had sent her report which had been forwarded to all Councillors. She added:

- The contract between Somerset Council and Suez who were the new waste contractor was of concern as Suez had said that the contract was unable to be delivered at the price. The Chief Executive of Somerset Council was negotiating with Suez.
- There was still a shortage of Planners within Somerset Council which was still a concern.
- Quarter One figures would be available in July and would give an indication if a section 114 notice would need to be given at a future date.

**06/24 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.

**07/24 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

**08/24 Appointment of Representatives – to appoint representatives for the following roles :**

- Playing Field: Cllr Fry
- Village Hall: Cllr Fry
- Church: Cllr Pyle

- Environment / Parish Furniture: Cllr Harvey
- Monthly Defibrillator Checks: The Clerk would contact the volunteer currently checking the defibrillator to ensure they were happy to continue.
- Local Community Network: Cllrs Crocker and Varney
- Any other to be agreed

**09/24 Policies and Procedures** - To review and adopt the updated NALC Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Code of Conduct.  
All policies were reviewed and it was **AGREED to adopt all policies stated above.**

**10/24 Planning**

**a) To note planning applications / notifications received since the last meeting.**

The following applications were noted. The Parish Council had no comments on the applications.

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>24/00740/HOU</b>
<b>Location</b>	Hillcrest Windmill Hill Ashill Somerset TA19 9NX
<b>Proposal</b>	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.

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>24/00663/PAMB</b>
<b>Location</b>	The Builders Yard Wood Road Ashill Somerset TA19 9NP
<b>Proposal</b>	Prior Approval Notification for the conversion of barn to 5 (five) Smaller Dwelling houses, together with Parking and Garden area.

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>24/00439/FUL</b>
<b>Location</b>	Herron Barn Thickthorn Lane Ashill Somerset TA19 9LS
<b>Proposal</b>	Demolition of existing barn and erection of a single dwelling (to replace approved Class Q Prior Approval 21/02468/PAMB) with associated works to form garden, parking area and boundary treatments in addition to installation of solar pv panels in the adjoining grassed area.

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>24/00415/HOU</b>
<b>Location</b>	Cowslip Cottage Thickthorn Lane Ashill TA19 9LR
<b>Proposal</b>	Erection of two storey side extension to replace existing lean-to and erection of porch

**b) To receive and note planning decision notices from Somerset Council.**

The following were noted:

**24/00458/NMA Ashlea Windmill Hill Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NT**  
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.  
**Status: Application Permitted.**

**24/00321/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  
**Status: Conditions. Discharged.**

**23/02723/DPO Bryher Thickthorn Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9LU**  
Application for the discharge of the S52 agreement dated 1st March 1979 relating to the non-fragmentation of land following planning permission reference 782119 at Southtown Farm, Southtown, Ashill.  
**Status: Application Permitted.**

**24/00415/HOU Cowslip Cottage Thickthorn Lane Ashill Somerset TA19 9LR**

Erection of two storey side extension to replace existing lean-to and erection of porch

**Status: Approved**

**24/00331/HOU Kenny Lodge Old A358 Ashill Iminster Somerset TA19 9NH**

Proposed two storey rear extension, new front and side porches and car port.

**Status: Approved**

**24/00177/HOU Dairy House Windmill Hill Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset TA19 9NT**

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

**Status: Approved**

**23/02243/DOC1 The Lilacs Stewley Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset TA19 9NJ**

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.

**Status: Conditions Discharged**

**21/03188/FUL Sty Lodge, The Former The Piggery Southtown Farm Thickthorn Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset**

Demolish existing agricultural buildings and the erection of a new dwelling in place of prior approval (20/03611/PAMB) scheme approved in April 2021.

**Status: Refused**

**21/03187/FUL Hay House, The Former Hay Barn Southtown Farm Thickthorn Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset**

Demolish existing agricultural buildings and the erection of a new dwelling in place of prior approval (20/03610/PAMB) scheme approved in April 2021.

**Status: Refused**

#### **11/24 Playing Field**

a) To receive the inspection report for the playing field

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

- The handrail had not yet been replaced.
- One of the tyres from the tyre swing had sheared off the frame. It was agreed to remove the remaining tyre to ensure safety of children in the play area. Replacement brackets were £34.00 plus VAT each plus a delivery charge from Online Playgrounds. It was **AGREED to order the replacement brackets**. Cllr. Fry also noted that the timber was starting to split on the frame and reminded the meeting that CIL money should be received from the new houses being built at The Orchard. This would allow the whole piece of equipment to be replaced. Unitary Cllr Osbourne would investigate the situation with the payments and the Clerk would send information across.
- The Duke of Edinburgh students would organize pressure washing of PC assets and would also trim some hedges.

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

None

#### **12/24 Highways / Footpaths**

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

It was noted that:

- Cllr. Fry reported a successful day of volunteers clearing vegetation on the Ashill Straight
- Cllr. Fry had reported potholes and they had been repaired.
- Cllr. Crouch reported that some of the potholes were breaking up already. Along Wood Road there was a large hole/ subsidence at the edge of the road. The Clerk would report this to Somerset Council.

- The footpath had not been completed at Stewley Garage Corner which had been reported to enforcement. Cllr. Fry had received an email confirming it would be followed up.
- There was a concern that a septic tank was emptying into a stream at the old Ashill Garage site. The Clerk was requested to forward this to the Environment Agency.

**13/24 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets**

To consider the quote received for repair of the bus shelter

P Underhill had completed the repair. There had been additional damage to the other side of the shelter, which was also repaired. It was noted that this was a continual problem and that a bollard may be required to stop lorries backing into the bus shelter.

**14/24 Village Hall**

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

The Village Hall was currently getting quotes to paint the inside of the hall and were in the process of applying to National Lottery for a grant.

A recent cream tea had been held to celebrate installation of the new roof. £411.00 was raised.

**15/24 Church**

a) Cllr Pyle to report any matters regarding the Church

- A recent plant raised £411.00.
- Extended lighting was now complete which satisfied the Quinquennial Report.
- There was an additional leak on the roof which required work.
- A Teddybear Drop would be held on 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- The Coffee and Chat continued to be a success.
- The Annual General Meeting of the PCC would be held tomorrow and Parish Council members were invited to attend. The meeting would be at the Church at 1030 am.

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

None.

**16/24 Communication**

a) To receive any updates from the LCN meeting on Thursday 18th January 2024.

- Cllrs Varney and Crocker had attended. There had been a presentation from the Civil Contingency Team, which raised questions about how to prepare for an emergency.
- The Highways and Traffic Working Group wanted more support from parishes including the smaller parishes. The LCN would like representation from all parishes at the working groups, which may not be possible for a small council such as Ashill.
- There may be monies available for the village hall if the hall was nominated as a refuge. Cllr. Fry would follow up.
- Unitary Cllr Osborne reported that the number of LCN meetings may be reduced but that the working groups would report back to the LCN. There would be one Link Officer per LCN but there would be no support from Democratic Services or IT support going forward.

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

Cllr Varey reported that the Parish Council website was now more up to date and requested that any information for the website should be sent to him.

**17/24 Finance**

i) To note the arrangements made for the Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor used last year had not responded to emails and, following a conversation with Councillors, had contacted former Clerk, Jacky Davidson who had agreed to provide an Internal Audit service. This had been completed and the report received.

- ii) To complete Section 1 – Accounting Statements for ... and Section 2 – Annual governance statement of the Audit Return for 2023 24 (report to follow)  
The Annual Accounting Statement and the Annual Governance Statement were completed and approved.
- iii) To complete the Certificate of Exemption  
The Certificate of Exemption was completed and approved.
- iv) To note the 2024/25 Parish Precept has been credited to the Parish Council bank account  
Noted.
- v) To note the 2024/25 Section 137 Expenditure Limit is £10.81  
Noted
- vi) To receive and review the 2024/25 Asset Register  
Received.
- vii) To receive the latest finance report.  
There was £867.00 available at the end of the 23/24 financial year following monies allocated to earmarked reserves.  
Cllr Fry had spoken to Rebecca Vaughan at Highways regarding the cost of village entrances. They were very expensive so could not be financed from the surplus available..  
Cllr Varney suggested offering £500 to the Village Hall for a screen or projector which could be used for film nights and to hirers of the Village Hall, providing the Village Hall would match it. **It was Agreed to ring fence £500 towards a projector.**
- viii) To note that bank reconciliation reports for Quarters 3 and 4 have been checked by Cllr. Varney.  
Noted

Cllr. Pyle left the meeting at 20.59.

- ix) The Council acknowledged and approved the following payments:

Cost description	Total Value	VAT	Date Paid	Invoice Reference
P A Underhill	£420	-		
Ashill Village Hall	£32	-		365

**18/24 Action Status Report**

The report was circulated and noted.

**19/24 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm.

*The meeting closed at 21:17*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2024