



**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in  
Ashill Village Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 at  
7.30 pm**

**Present :** Cllrs P Varney (Chairman), A Crouch, N Harvey, R Fry, S Hopkins and R Batty.

**In attendance:** L Gowers (Clerk) and 10 members of the public

**87/25 Apologies**

None

**88/25 Casual Vacancy** - to note the Parish Council has one Casual Vacancy to be filled by co-option.  
Noted.

**89/25 Chairmans' Opening Statement**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also confirmed that he would not be standing as Chairman from the May meeting onwards, but would continue to represent the Parish Council and would be happy to take the role of Vice Chairman from May onwards.

**90/25 Public Participation**

A member of the public raised a concern regarding the application for Barwind Farm, although this now had been withdrawn. The resident wanted to understand the Parish Council's position on a potential new application and how the Parish Council would ensure that the Planning Officer received the Parish Council's comments.

This was due to a concern that the objection to the retrospective planning application for a gateway was not received by the Planning Office due to human error.

Cllr. Varney responded that the error with the email address for the Planning Officer had been amended and the Clerk assured the meeting that emails would be double checked. The resident confirmed to the Parish Council that the carnival floats were now in situ and expected them to be worked on from May.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Somerset Council Enforcement Officers as the site would still be classed as agricultural.

A second member of the public spoke regarding a planning application at Mill Cottage for glamping pods. The resident claimed that the planning application was unacceptable for the following reasons:

- The glamping pods were sited approximately 11 metres from the neighboring property without any effective screening, therefore undermining privacy of the property.
- The floorplans showed that the three glamping pods could sleep up to six people. Each unit stands 3.3 metres high and 9 metres high.
- There would be an increase in vehicle movements. The track was an unmade up road and there wasn't any assessment included from Highways.
- There would be an environmental impact as the site was known to have orchids and bats. The ecological surveys had been undertaken outside of the flowering season.

The applicants for the glamping pods then spoke. They suggested that the application would support the tourist industry in Somerset. They intended to install the first pod in September / October. The second would be 9–18 months later and the third approximately 1 month following that.

The applicants assured the meeting that there would be a maximum of two people in each pod and children and pets would not be accepted on any bookings.

They confirmed there was a county wide occupancy rate of 60%, and as a result they anticipated that the pods would be use 4 nights out of 7.

A third resident spoke regarding Windmill Hill Lane and its use by HGVs. The banks of the lane were being decimated and it was requested that the Parish Council ask Highways if the lane could be declassified on Sat Nav.

**100/25 Declarations of Interests**

None

**101/25 Co-option:** To consider the applications to the Parish Council and vote by a show of hands.

**Potential applicants did not attend.**

**102/25 Minutes** – to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**It was RESOLVED for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to be approved.**

**103/25 Finance.**

**a) To note the following payments made/due since the January meeting:**

**NatWest Business Current Account**

Date Paid	Description	Total	Account Balance
21/02/2026	Transfer to Lloyds Account	9,666.00	0.98
16/02/2026	Ashill Village Hall	16.00	9,666.98
05/01/2026	Play Inspection Company	165.00	9,682.98
05/01/2026	SALC	25.00	9,847.98

**NatWest Business Reserve Account**

21/02/2026			6,825.15
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**Lloyds Community Account**

21/02/2026	Transfer from NatWest	9,666.00	10,580.81
17/02/2026	Lloyds Service Charge	4.25	914.81
17/02/2026	EDF Energy	19.53	919.06
20/01/2026	EDF Energy	19.54	938.59
19/01/2026	Lloyds Service Charge	4.25	958.13

The payments were noted and agreed.

**104/25 Planning**

**a) To note planning applications / notifications received since the last meeting along with any further applications available on the Somerset Council Planning Portal.**

**26/00211/FUL Barwind Farm Windmill Hill Ashill TA19 9NU**

The erection of a new steel portal framed agricultural machinery store and formation of a short access track.

Please Note: This application has been withdrawn. The Planning Officer has noted that the wrong type of development has been applied for and the applicant should re submit the application under a Sui Generis use as it connected with the storage and maintenance of carnival floats, submitted on behalf of a local carnival club.

**26/00171/FUL Glenhaven Thickthorn Lane Ashill**

Proposed demolition of a single storey dwelling and proposed replacement two storey dwellinghouse, detached double garage and plant room - Self Build.

There were no comments from the Parish Council

**26/00067/FUL Land at Mill Cottage Windmill Hill Lane Ashill**

Application for the change of use of land for the siting of 3 No. glamping pods to provide holiday accommodation

It was noted that the neighbours at Dairy House had sent their objection through to Somerset Council.

The Parish Council recognised the concerns of the neighbouring properties to the applicants and it was agreed to ask the Planning Officer to investigate and respond when considering this application.

In addition, the Parish Council would like to ensure that the floor plan accurately reflected the business plan as currently there was a discrepancy between the design/layout of the pods and the marketing plan. The applicants had specified that the maximum capacity would be two adults, no children or dogs, however the pods were manufactured as able to sleep 4-6 people. The Parish Council would like to see a clause in any decision to specify a maximum of two people in a pod.

It was also agreed that the pods were very large and would have an impact on the neighbouring property as there was no boundary hedge and the pods would be close to the boundary and Dairy House. The planting/use of hedges and natural barriers would help mitigate privacy loss. There had been an agreement between the applicants and Windmill Hill Equestrian to locate the pods slightly further back on the site. The Parish Council would like to ensure that any revised location for the pods was acceptable to all neighbouring properties and reflected in any decision.

The Parish Council would ask the Planning Officer to consider the size of the area and layout. Consideration should also be made regarding parking for the pods, as the lane was narrow and parking would be inadequate when contractors visit the telephone mast.

**b) The following planning decision notices from Somerset Council were noted.**

**26/00038/FUL Barwind Farm Windmill Hill Ashill Ilminster TA19 9NU**

Formation of a new Agricultural Vehicular Access onto the existing highway (Part Retrospective)  
Approved.

**25/02939/COL Rowlands Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9LE**

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the Proposed Use of land for wedding receptions for up to 28 days in any one calendar year.  
Approved

**25/00374/FUL Herron Barn, Thickthorn Lane, Ashill, Ilminster, TA19 9LS**

Discharge of Condition No. 04 (Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan) of planning application  
25/00374/FUL  
Discharged

**105/25 Playing Field**

**a) To receive an inspection report for the playing field.**

- Cllr. Fry reported that she and Cllr. Crouch had inspected the play equipment to ensure there had not been any changes. Cllr. Fry had met the representative of the Play Equipment Company to discuss potential costs of new equipment and removal of the old.
- A working party would be convened to clean the tennis courts. A large pressure washing machine may need to be hired.

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

None.

**106/25 Highways**

**a) To receive an update from Cllr. Varney regarding the installation of Village Gateways and consider any proposals there-in.**

The village gateways had been ordered and would be delivered direct to Woodram Construction who were installing them.

Payment would be made once the CIL money had been received from Somerset Council. However, the Clerk assured the Council that payment could be made prior to the CIL money being received should it be required earlier.

**b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.**  
None

**107/25 Health Environment Assets**

**To receive for consideration any matters regarding Health / Environment / Parish Assets.**

Cllr. Crouch reported that the drain had been repaired on Wood Road but the road had flooded twice since the repair.

The area of flooding at Rapps had been investigated and repaired.

**108/25 Village Hall**

**To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.**

At a recent meeting of the Village Hall Committee it had been suggested that the handpainted map at the front of the hall be replaced and the Parish Council may fund this from Section 137 monies.

Councillors agreed that this could be considered but required a formal request from the Village Hall Committee.

**109/25 Communication and processes**

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

The Somerset Association of Local Councils was offering Planning Training. Cllrs. Varney and Harvey expressed an interest in attending.

The Clerk would book places on the course.

It was also agreed that a meeting with Planning Officers at Somerset Council would be useful following the training.

**b) To receive an update regarding matters from the Church.**

None

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

None.

**110/25 To Consider a request for grant funding from Citizens Advice**

Following discussion, it was agreed to allocate £50 funding to Citizens Advice.

**111/25 To Consider a request for grant funding from Crimestoppers**

Councillors agreed not to fund Crimestoppers.

**112/25 Action Status Report – Update on any outstanding actions.**

All items were still ongoing.

**113/25 Matters of Report**

Cllr. Varney reiterated that he would stand down as Chair at the next meeting.

**114/25 To confirm the next meeting would be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

The meeting closed at 21.15

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2026