

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in
Ashill Village Hall on Monday 6th January 2025 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, J Crocker, A Crouch, N Harvey and R Batty.

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk),

69/24 Apologies

Somerset Councillor Sue Osbourne

70/24 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and reminded Councillors that the budget must be agreed tonight.

71/24 Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

72/24 Declarations of Interests

None

73/24 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 4th November 2024.

The minutes were unanimously approved

74/24 a) Planning – To consider the following planning application:

24/02783/AGN

Land Rear of Thickthorn Cottage, Thickthorne Lane, Ashill TA19 9LU
Notification of intent to Erect an Agricultural Barn

Councillors noted that the planning application had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.

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

24/02225/PAMB Herron Barn Thickthorn Lane Ashill TA19 9LS

Prior Approval Notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to 2 dwellinghouses with associated parking and garden areas.

Approved

24/00439/FUL Herron Barn Thickthorn Lane Ashill TA19 9LS

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.

Approved

75/24 Playing Field

a) To receive the inspection report for the playing field

Cllr Fry reported the following:

- There was an ongoing list of minor jobs.
- The skate ramp required servicing. There was also new graffiti on the ramp.
- Moles and rabbits were causing problems on the playing field.
- There was a gap in the gates due to wind damage.
- There was moss and algae on the tennis court and under the play equipment. The surface should be pressure washed prior to the moss killer being applied and Cllr Fry hoped to recruit volunteers to undertake this work.
- The climbing frame was being monitored.

- There was soft tarmac under the swings.
- Cllr Crouch confirmed he would repair the meter box once evenings were a little lighter. He will also add a new padlock.

- b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Playing Field.
None

76/24 Highways / Footpaths

To receive for consideration any matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.

Cllr Batty reported that the drains had not been cleared on the old A358. All agreed that many drains and ditches had been left and Cllr Crouch noted that part of the drain had collapsed on the old Ashill straight. It was also noted that Somerset Council were aware of the collapsed drain.

It was agreed that individuals should continue to report issues on the road using the Somerset Council website. It was also agreed that the Clerk would compile a list of issues and send to Highways. The Clerk would also note the date of the next LCN Highways meeting and ensure Cllr Varney was aware.

77/24 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets

The Noticeboard at Rapps was blown over in the last storm; it had snapped at the base. Cllrs Harvey and Crouch would mend and re-install the noticeboard

Cllr Crouch noted that Wessex Internet had put the mole though for cables across his property but without any notification. Cllr Varney would contact Wessex Internet to ask for clarification of where and when cables would be installed.

78/24 Village Hall

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

Cllr Fry confirmed that the village hall committee had received a grant for £5000 to enable the outside of the hall to be painted.

79/24 Communication

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

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. It was noted that the working group meetings were being pushed as the place where decisions and actions were more likely to be agreed.

- b) To Receive any update regarding an event to mark VE day 80 in May 2025

The recent grant application made by Cllr Fry to The Somerset Fund had been approved for £1400. This would be used to hold an event to celebrate VE Day in May. A meeting was planned with volunteers to discuss how the event should run.

The Clerk would check with the Council's insurance provider to ensure the event would be covered by insurance.

- c) To receive an update regarding matters from the Church

An email had been received with the following update:

In October the inaugural Autumn Spruce Up was held. A number of local people gave up their time to tidy the churchyard and clean the church. They cleared some of the overgrown areas which would make mowing easier next Spring and the interior saw a visible improvement. It was hoped to follow up with a Spring Clean.

Also, in October there was a talk on 'Ashill Folk' in the Village Hall, describing some of the villagers who were remembered in the Church. This drew a wide circle of current Ashill folk. The Church would like to extend its thanks to the Parish Council for providing the presentation equipment.

The Church had also held its annual Christmas Fayre and would continue with the fortnightly Coffee & Chat mornings, which provide a meeting place for villagers.

- d) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding communication / processes.
None

80/24 Finance

- a) To Note receipt of the CIL payment from Somerset Council for £1323.34
The payment was noted.
The Clerk was asked to check if there was a deadline for use of the money and to confirm if any further payments would be due from Somerset Council. The Clerk would also confirm if the CIL money could it be used to purchase a Speed Indicator Device.
- b) To note/approve the following payments:
The payments were approved.

Cost description	Total Value	Date Paid	Invoice Reference
EDF Energy	£4.11	19 11 24	DD
Ashill Village Hall	£16	23-12-24	411
Staple Farm	£40	05-12-24	0491
Laura Gowers Clerks - 3Q salary	£502.24	23-12-14	
HMRC Cumbernauld – Clerks tax & NI	£125.40	23-12-24	

81/24 To consider the second draft of the 2025-2026 budget

Following discussion, it was Resolved to accept the budget at £8023 which was an increase of 5.84% and equivalent to £0.86 annually on a band D property.

82/24 To ratify approval of the second draft of a Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Policy was approved unanimously, and the Clerk would organise training.

83/24 Action Status Report

The report was circulated and noted.

84/24 Matters for Report

Cllr Fry asked the Council to consider if they wished to continue with the Christmas tree this year. The tree had been expensive for Christmas 2024 and the lights had broken and would need replacing.

85/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.31

Signed : (Chairman)
3rd March 2025