



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Ashill Village Hall on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30 pm

This meeting replaced the meeting due to be held on Monday 5th January, which was postponed due to weather.

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

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk).

70/25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Hopkins (Personal) and R Batty (Illness).

71/25 Casual Vacancy - to note the Parish Council has one Casual Vacancy to be filled by co-option.

Noted. The agenda stated two vacancies, which was incorrect.

72/25 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year. He then reported that he would not stand again as Chairman in May but would be very happy to step back to the position of Vice Chair to support the new Chairman.

73/25 Public Participation

None

74/25 Declarations of Interests

None

75/25 Co-option: To consider the applications to the Parish Council and vote by a show of hands.

Potential applicants did not attend.

76/25 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 3rd November 2025.

It was RESOLVED for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2025 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

77/25 Finance.

a) To receive latest finance report and note that Q3 bank reconciliations have been completed.

Received and noted. The Clerk reported that that cash in hand as of 31 December 2025 was £17,655.18

b) To consider the draft budget

Following discussion, it was AGREED to accept the budget at £9,395 which was an increase of 14.4% and equivalent to £4.40 annually on a band D property.

Councillors asked that it was noted that the increase was due to the Parish Council now being charged by Somerset Council for the emptying of dog bins in the Parish, and now should contribute towards any election costs in the Parish.

Cllr. Fry noted that the playing equipment had reached a point where work would be required to maintain it and possibly replace equipment that had reached the end of its life. It was agreed to continue to maintain it safely this financial year but to investigate funding to allow the equipment to be replaced.

c) To note the following payments made/due since the November meeting:

Date Paid	Payment type	Description	Total	Account Balance
18/11/2025		EDF Energy	19.53	11,219.76
16/12/2025		EDF Energy	18.90	11,200.86
19/12/2025		Village Hall	16.00	11,184.86
19/12/2025		Laura Gowers	569.48	10,615.38
19/12/2025		HMRC Cumbernauld	142.40	10,472.98
28/12/2025		Ashill Church	600.00	9,872.98
03/01/2026		SALC	25.00	
03/01/2026		The Play Inspection Co.	165.00	

19-Oct-25		Lloyds Service Charge	4.25	970.88
19-Nov-25		Lloyds Service Charge	4.25	966.63
19-Dec-25		Lloyds Service Charge	4.25	962.38

The payments were noted and agreed.

78/25 Planning

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

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.
Council had no comment

Late application

26/00038/FUL at Barwind Farm Windmill Hill Ashill

The planning application for a gateway

The Parish Council objects to the retrospective planning application for a new gateway due to limited visibility towards the gateway from the direction of the Flying Fish pub. The Parish Council had been in contact with the Highways Engineer previously regarding the speed of traffic travelling along this road and there was a genuine concern of an accident happening due to slow moving carnival floats moving in and out of the gateway during carnival season - October onwards. There would be increased traffic on and off the farm site as it would be used by members of the carnival club entering and leaving the site, to work on the carnival floats.

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

25/02579/HOU Popehayne Ashill Ilminster Somerset TA19 9NE

Proposed Store Building

Approved

25/01668/NMA Land West Of School Lane Ashill Ilminster Somerset

Non Material Amendment to approved application 20/01623/REM for alterations to elevations of plots 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10 and omission of treatment plant

Decided

79/25 Playing Field

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

Cllr. Fry reported:

- The rabbit population was being managed effectively.
- The latest report had been received from the Play Inspection Company. There was a medium risk for the wooden timbers on the climbing frame and swing as the timber was splitting and water could enter and cause rotting. It was noted that all the wooden play equipment and surfaces were coming to the end of their lives. It was agreed to address the medium risk with a short term fix, but a substantial revamp would be required within the next 3-4 years. An action plan would be brought forward.

- All lights had been tested.
- The skateboard ramp had been adjusted to minimize contact with the rough edge.

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

None.

80/25 Highways

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

Cllr Varney presented the pricing for 4 gateways in the village. Two quotes had been received and the Parish Council chose to accept the quote from Woodram. The total cost would be £7256.38. CIL payments had been received totaling £2600 and a last payment was due in March/April of £3900. It was agreed to use the money towards the village gateways and the shortfall would come out of reserves. This was approximately £600. However Cllr. Varney would not go ahead until the last CIL payment was received.

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

Cllr. Crouch reported that it appeared that the road around the surface water drain on Wood Road had collapsed once again.

81/25 Health Environment Assets

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

None

82/25 Village Hall

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

Cllr Fry noted that the village hall was 100 years old this year. It was subsequently noted that the village hall was 90 years old this year, rather than 100.

83/25 Communication and processes

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

A new LCN Link Officer had been appointed and a regular newsletter would be sent.

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

Cllr Fry noted that the Church was still in need of a Church Warden.

c) To agree the Parish Council meeting dates for the year.

The dates were agreed and would be posted on the noticeboards.

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

None.

84/25 Action Status Report – Update on any outstanding actions.

All items were still ongoing.

85/25 Matters of Report

The Clerk reported than an email had been received from a resident regarding flooding on the road coming into Rapps by Ilton Halt. There was a permanent flood on the bend at Rapps since the wet weather had begun. This had been reported to Highways by the resident but their response was that it was the landowner's responsibility to clear the ditches. This flooding was felt to be dangerous especially with the lower temperatures and as it was on a blind bend.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Highways and Cllr. Varney agreed to speak with the landowner.

86/25 To confirm the next meeting would be held on Monday 2nd March 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.20 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
2nd March 2026