

**Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in  
Ashill Village Hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 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, A Crouch and R Batty.

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

**01/25 Appointment of Chairman – to appoint a Chairman for the Council year of 2025/26.**

It was proposed that Cllr. Varney be nominated to serve as Chairman.

**The proposal was CARRIED unanimously.**

**02/25 Appointment of Vice Chair for the council year of 2025/26.**

It was proposed that Cllr. Harvey be nominated to serve as Vice Chairman.

**The proposal was CARRIED unanimously.**

**03/25 Acceptance of Office/Register of Interests – Councillors to complete Acceptance of Office (Chairman) & Register of Interest forms (All councillors).**

Cllr Varney signed the Acceptance of Office of Chairman. All Councillors confirmed there was no change to existing Register of Interest forms.

**04/25 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Neil Harvey (personal).

**05/25 Casual Vacancy - to note the Parish Council has two Casual Vacancies to be filled by co-option.**

The member of the public present expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council but wanted to watch the meeting before committing. At the end of the meeting the member of the public, Susan Hopkins, confirmed that she would like to join the Parish Council. The Clerk would include co-option on the next agenda.

**06/25 Chairmans' Opening Statement**

Cllr Varney thanked the Parish Council for their participation and organization of the VE Day Event, particularly Cllr Fry. It was agreed that it was a very well attended event and was a very good celebration.

**07/25 Public Participation**

No one wished to speak. Unitary Councillor Osborne did not attend.

**08/25 Declarations of Interests**

None

**09/25 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.**

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

**10/25 Appointment of Representatives – to appoint representatives for the following roles:**

The following roles and appointments were agreed:

- Playing Field – Cllr Fry & Cllr Crouch
- Village Hall – Cllr Fry & Cllr Varney
- Church
- Environment / Parish Furniture
- Monthly Defibrillator Checks – The Clerk would contact the volunteer currently checking the defibrillator to ensure they were happy to continue.
- Local Community Network – Cllr Varney & Clerk

- Any other to be agreed

**11/25 Policies and Procedures - To review the NALC Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Code of Conduct.**

All policies were noted

**12/25 Finance**

**i) To note the arrangements made for the Internal Audit**

The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit arrangements were the same as last year.

**ii) To complete Section 1 – Annual governance statement and Section 2 - Accounting Statements for ... of the Audit Return for 2024 25.**

**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 give consideration and confirmation of the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights for 2024/25 to commence on: Tuesday 3 June 2025 and end on: Monday 14 July 2025.**

Noted

**v) To note the 2025/26 Parish Precept of£ 8023 has been credited to the Parish Council bank account.**

Noted

**vi) To note a CIL payment of £1323.34 has been credited to the Parish Council bank account.**

Noted. The Clerk confirmed that the payment was the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment for development on land west of School Lane, Ashill.

**vii) To note receipt of the grant from Somerset Community Foundation: £1400**

Noted

**viii)To note the 2024/25 Section 137 Expenditure Limit is £11.10 per person.**

Noted

**ix) To receive and review the 2025/26 Asset Register**

Councillors reviewed the Asset Register and asked if depreciation should be calculated on the assets. The Clerk confirmed that depreciation was not calculated on Council assets but would take advice and confirm.

**x) To receive the latest finance report.**

Received and Noted

**xi) To note that bank reconciliation reports for Quarters 3 and 4 had been checked by Cllr. Varney.**

Noted

**xii) To note the following payments made since the March meeting:**

Cost description	Total Value	VAT	Date Paid	Invoice Ref
Clerks salary 4Q	£502.04		01 04 25	
HMRC – Clerks tax and NI	£125.60		01 04 25	
Ashill Village Hall	£16.00		01 04 25	445
Neil Harvey Expenses (materials for noticeboard)	£28.83		01 04 25	
Victoria Haste. Remainder of payment for VE Day event	£200.00		02 05 25	
SALC – Training Cllr R Batty	£25.00		02 05 25	1847
SALC – Affiliation Fees	£253.44		02 05 25	1757
EDF – Standing Charge (6 months)	£265.89		02 05 25	DD
Laura Gowers Expenses (Disposable cups for VE Day event)	£16.19			
Laura Gowers Expenses (Wrist bands for VE Day event)	£13.59			

The payments were noted and expenses for the Clerk were approved.

**13/25 Planning**

- a) To note planning applications / notifications received since the last meeting along with any further applications available on the Somerset Council Planning Portal.  
None
- b) To receive the following planning decision notices from Somerset Council.

**25/00727/NMA Herron Barn Thickthorn Lane Ashill TA19 9LS**

Non Material Amendment to approved application 24/00439/FUL to improve the scheme by streamlining the choice of building materials, redesigning the layout, and enhancing the internal space.

**Refused**

**25/00467/HOU Leverets School Lane Ashill TA19 9LY**

Removal of existing conservatory - Construct a new conservatory with solid pitched roof.

**Approved**

**24/02935/HOU Hastings Gate Thickthorn Lane Ashill TA19 9LR**

Replacement Garage/Store

**Approved**

**14/25 Playing Field**

- a) To receive an inspection report for the playing field.  
Cllr fry reported that rabbits were continuing to cause problems at the playing field. The bolt had loosened on the cross bar on the monkey bars. Cllr Crouch would investigate the problem and recruit help to resolve it.
- b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Playing Field.

**15/25 Highways / Footpaths**

To receive for consideration any other matters regarding Highways / Footpaths. Councillors were concerned about the height of overgrowth on verges, particularly the turning from the A358 towards Kenny. The Clerk would request a schedule of verge cutting works from Somerset Council for Ashill Parish.

A response from the Highways Engineer had been received, regarding the size of recycling lorries and large traffic using Windmill Hill Lane. She had confirmed that very little could be done to restrict the size of traffic on this road, but that she would contact the recycling contractor with the concerns of the Parish Council. Cllr. Fry shared a photograph of a road sign in Wales showing a Satnav and no lorry sign. The Clerk would send it to the Highways Engineer for comment.

**16/25 Health / Environment / Parish Assets**

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

The Clerk reported that Somerset Council were no longer providing a free litter and dog bin waste removal. It was noted that the bin by the Church was not a litter bin as it was a normal household waste bin, therefore the Parish Council should not pay for the collection. The quote from Somerset Council for removal of waste from the two dog bins was £6.50 per week each and it would be collected each week. The Clerk had requested information from Somerset Council regarding how full the bins were on each emptying, to understand if they could be emptied fortnightly. Cllr Varney suggested removal of the dog waste bins completely, however others wanted to keep them. It was suggested that if the Parish Council was to debate the removal or not of dog bins then notices should be put on the village Facebook site and noticeboards to encourage villagers to let us know their thoughts. The Clerk would chase an answer from Somerset Council regarding timeframes for emptying the bins and include this item on the next Parish Council Agenda.

**17/25 Village Hall**

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

The Village Hall had been painted inside and out. The next job will be to raise the height of the lights inside and improve the sound quality in the hall.  
It was noted that the Village Hall is now 90 years old.

**18/25 Communication and processes**

- a) To receive any updates from the most recent LCN meeting or working groups.  
There were no updates.
- b) To receive any update regarding the event to mark VE Day 80 in May 2025  
All agreed that it had been a very positive event for the village and one hundred and fifty tickets had been sold. Cllr. Fry would forward a spreadsheet to the Clerk showing all income and expenditure. It was noted that not all the grant money from Somerset Community Foundation was spent, therefore it should be returned. Cllr. Fry would confirm the amount once all invoices had been received. Cllr. Fry had received lots of thanks from people who attended, including thanks to the Parish Council for organizing the event. It was agreed that the profits from the event would be split between the Village Hall and the Church. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to the British Legion.
- c) To receive an update regarding matters from the Church.  
An update had not been received, however, it was known that there were issues with the roof which needed investigation.
- d) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding communication / processes.  
Cllr. Varney reminded those present that he was happy to add news/events or village information to the website.

**19/25 Action Status Report – Update on any outstanding actions.**

The following items were discussed:

Lloyds Bank – Cllr. Varney still did not have access to the online account. The Clerk and Cllr. Varney would meet and ring Lloyds for advice.

Blocked drains in the Parish – it was noted that Somerset Council had cleared some drains but not all. The drain at Ashill Straight was blocked between the farm gate and the A358 but contractors did not have the equipment to clear it. They assured Cllr. Batty that they would return.

Speed Mitigation in the village – The rules and regulations for Speed Indicator Devices had been received from Highways. The Clerk would investigate costs and bring to a future agenda. It was noted that CIL money should have its own budget line on the account's spreadsheet.

**19/25 Next Meeting – to confirm the next meeting is to be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

The meeting closed at 21.27pm

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2025