

**Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in
Ashill Village Hall on Monday 3rd November 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), A Crouch, R Batty, R Fry, N Harvey and S Hopkins.

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk), and 2 members of the public.

53/25 Apologies

None.

54/25 Casual Vacancy - to note the Parish Council has two Casual Vacancies to be filled by co-option.
Noted.

55/25 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

56/25 Public Participation

A member of the public asked if the Village Hall was using Wessex Internet as their internet provider. The Chairman confirmed that it was.
It was noted that there had been metal detectorists at Windmill Hill Farm recently; with the landowner's permission. It was agreed that it would be fascinating for the village to know of any interesting finds and Cllr. Varney suggested that information about finds could go on the Parish Council website.

57/25 Declarations of Interests

None

58/25 Co-option: To consider the applications to the Parish Council and vote by a show of hands.

Potential applicants did not attend.

59/25 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st September 2025.

It was RESOLVED for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st September 2025 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

60/25 Finance.

a) To receive latest finance report.

The Clerk reported that that cash in hand as of 30 September 2025 was £20,075.74

b) To note that 2nd Quarter bank reconciliations have been completed.

Noted

c) To agree to move all Parish Council monies to Lloyds Bank

It was unanimously agreed to move all funds from the Nat West bank account to the Lloyds bank account. The Clerk would organize this and open a second Lloyds bank account for reserve monies.

d) To consider the request from PCC of Ashill for £600 contribution towards the maintenance of Ashill's Churchyard (letter attached)

The Clerk confirmed that this amount had been included in the budget. Councillors agreed to contribute £600 to the PCC as per the request.

e) To consider the draft budget

Following discussion, it was agreed to apply a 4.6% increase to all budget lines, in line with inflation. Councillors agreed with the budget in principle but would wait for Somerset Council to issue the Tax Base for the parish, before confirming the budget.

f) To note the following payments made/due since the September meeting:

Date Paid	Payment type	Description	Total	Account Balance
19-Aug-25	PAY	Lloyds Service Charge	-4.25	989.38
01-Sept-25	FPO	Test payment back to PC Natwest Account	-10.00	979.38
19-Sept-25	PAY	Lloyds Service Charge	-4.25	975.13
17-Sept-25	DD	EDF Engergy	-42.90	12297.46
16-Oct-25	DPC	Ashill Village Hall	-16.00	12281.46
16-Oct-25	DPC	Clerks Salary 2Q	-569.48	11711.98
16-Oct-25	DPC	HMRC – Clerks NI&Tax	-142.40	11569.58
17-Oct-25	DD	EDF Energy	-18.90	11550.68
24-Oct-25	DPC	TEEC – website missed invoice 2024	-225.60	11325.08
24-Oct-25	DPC	Bradforbs Building Supplies (Top Soil)	-85.79	11239.29

The payments were noted and agreed.

61/25 Planning

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

25/02039/FUL Hastings Farm House Thickthorn Lane Ashill TA19 9LR

Conversion of existing outbuilding into a 3-bedroom dwelling

The Parish Council had no objections.

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

25/02390/NMA Herron Barn Thickthorn Lane Ashill Somerset TA19 9LS

Non Material Amendment to approved application 25/01126/S73 - Amendments to the windows and removal of rooflights on the west elevation. Removal of glazed doors and replacement with timber cladding to the south elevation.

Application Permitted

25/00374/FUL Herron Barn Thickthorn Lane Ashill Somerset TA19 9LS

Erection of a general-purpose agricultural barn for storage use

Approved

24/01710/DPO Land West Of School Lane Ashill Somerset

Application to modify S106 agreement between South Somerset District Council and Summerfield SD3 Ltd of 17th March 2023 Schedule Part 1 (20/01623/REM) relating to application for reserved matters following outline approval for the appearance, scale & landscaping for 10 new dwellings and parking. Alternative Phosphate Mitigation Scheme.

Application Permitted

62/25 Playing Field

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

Cllr. Fry reported:

- The problem with rabbits digging on the playing field was now being managed.
- The skatepark ramps had not yet been moved. but was being planned.
- The school had not yet requested a donation, but it appeared that they had stopped painting the white lines to mark the pitch.

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

None.

63/25 Highways

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

A small committee had been formed and Cllr. Varney presented a discussion paper with their proposals:

- There were many different sizes of gateways but costings were based on gateways that were 1300mm wide.
- There were five sites identified that were wide enough to take signs.
- Higher signs would be more obvious for drivers; however, visibility splays would need to be checked.
- There was a choice of dark oak, light oak or white. It was agreed that while white may be more visible to drivers it would need to be kept clean. No decision was made on the colour at this point.
- Any contractor installing signs on the highway should have a license, which would cost approximately £300.
- Although Wood Road, Stewley would benefit from having a gateway, there was possibly not enough space.

Following discussion, including the possibility of putting signs on just one side of the road, it was agreed to continue with the project and Cllr. Varney would request quotes for four signs, listed in priority order as follows:

- Windmill Hill from the south
- Windmill Hill from the north
- Ashill from the east
- Ashill from Kenny

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

64/25 Health Environment Assets

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

None

65/25 Village Hall

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

It was noted that the Village Hall had a new website and therefore the link on the Parish Council website should be changed.

66/25 Communication and processes

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

Cllr. Varney would attend the next highways meeting of the LCN, which would be online.

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

A letter and thank you had been received from the church, describing how the money from the VE event had been used to waterproof the tower.

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

None.

67/25 Action Status Report – Update on any outstanding actions.

Drains on Ashill Straight and old A358 blocked – it was noted that Somerset Council had recently cleared the drains. It was agreed to keep this item on the Action Status Report for notice.

Speed Indicator Device – Councillors discussed the possibility of renting a SID from a neighboring parish along with a Chapter 8 trained person to install and remove.

68/25 Matters of Report

Residents of Hastings had complained about subsidence on the lane. This had been reported via the Somerset Council Portal.

69/25 To confirm the next meeting would be held on Monday 5th January 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.04 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
5th January 2026

DRAFT