

Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 20 January 2020 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present : Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), R Abel, L Clay, A Crouch, A Knight, S Freudenberg, Mr P Davidson (Acting Clerk), County/District Cllr L Vijeh, and 3 members of the public.

68/19 Apologies

- a) It was resolved for apologies to be noted from the Clerk and to appoint Mr P Davidson as Acting Clerk – at no additional expense to the Parish – for the purposes of this meeting.
- b) It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Criddle.

69/19 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests

None.

70/19 Public Participation

- A member of the public who is a resident of the Parish and qualified as a First Responder introduced himself to the meeting.
- A resident asked about what is happening about the proposed reinstatement of the handrail which had gone missing from the footpath leading to the Church and also spoke of the deteriorating condition of this footpath. The Chairman replied he is meeting with a representative of the Taunton Fencing Company on Wednesday to progress the replacement of the handrail and would also try to speak with a contractor with regard to the feasibility of patching up the footpath.
- The Chairman thanked County/District Cllr Linda Vijeh for her monthly reports which are forwarded to Members of the Parish Council and also published on the Parish Council Website by the Clerk. Cllr Vijeh spoke of the ongoing discussions between the District Councils and Somerset County Council regarding the proposal made by SCC to become a unitary authority. Cllr Vijeh also confirmed the Ashill bid to the SCC Improving Lives fund for a sum of £500 to be used for tree planting had now been approved.

71/19 Minutes

It was resolved for the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2019 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

72/19 Planning

- i) The following planning application which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting of the Parish Council was received for consideration :

Application No.	19/03418/FUL
Proposal	Erection of 10 No.dwellings with garages & ancillary parking
Location	Stewley Cross Caravan Park, Wood Road, Ashill.

After a short discussion it was agreed that Cllr Crouch would discuss this planning application with the neighbours of this site and send any comments to the Chairman and the Clerk who would formulate a response offline. Cllrs were also asked to advise the Chairman and the Clerk if they thought of any observations which they might like to raise after this meeting which could also be included in the response.

- ii) The response made by the Clerk using delegated authority based on Members' observations was noted with regard to the following planning application which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting :

Application No.	19/03068/FUL
Proposal	The formation of a new vehicular access and the erection of 4 No.detached dwelling houses & 4 No.detached double garages
Location	Paddock Adjoining the Flying Fish Public House, Windmill Hill, Ashill.

The Parish Council had objected to the proposal to build an additional three houses - to the one which has already been approved - Planning History References 15/03256/FUL – 16/05090/FUL – 17/03294/FUL – and made observations which were summarised under the following headings :

- LvW Highways Statement / Windmill Hill & Windmill Hill junction on to Wood Road
- Impact on the area and surrounding properties

The Parish Council had also made the request for representatives from the Highways and Planning Authorities to visit this site before making a decision with regard to determining planning permission for this proposal.

73/19 Playing Field

- January Playing Field Inspection Report** – The Chairman & Cllr Crouch had inspected the playing field and were of the opinion the appearance of the field was good. The condition of the MUGA was of concern and it was agreed that the Chairman should obtain a quotation from the Taunton Fencing Company for the work which is required. The Chairman spoke of the dated state of the play equipment and Cllr Vijeh pointed out that grant funding may be available from the SSDC Community Grant Fund but this does require match funding.
- Playground Inspection Actions** – it was noted that Mr Hewson had now carried out the repairs to the tennis court bench; had sanded and stained the bench near the top gate; and had repaired the bench by the swings.
- Annual Playground Inspection** – it was resolved to approve the completion of the repeat order form for the Playground Inspection Company to carry out the Annual Playground Inspections until further notice.

74/19 Highways/Footpaths

- Highways England preferred route for the dualling of the A358 between Southfields Roundabout and the M5** – the Chairman & Cllr Clay reported they had attended a recent meeting with representatives of neighbouring Parishes and agreed they would meet in order to prepare prior to when the next meeting is to be held.
- Missing handrail on the footpath behind Ashton Close** – this matter had already been discussed during the Public Participation item.
- Wooden fence adjacent to the stone bridge in Wood Road** – the Chairman had reported to Highways that the wooden fence adjacent to the stone bridge in Wood Road is rotten - Ref : 560820.
Correspondence (noted)
Somerset County Council – response to query with regard to speed limit along the Old A358
Mr M Warriner – Rapps Mobile Speed Camera

75/19 Health / Environment

- Defibrillator** - it was noted the Clerk had placed an order for the defibrillator just prior to Christmas and it has now arrived and is available to be collected from the Ilminster Ambulance Station. The Chairman agreed he would collect the unit and make arrangements with the electrician for it to be installed. Once it is in place then arrangements will be made with the NHS to hold a training session in the Village Hall.
- Emergency Plan** – a discussion was introduced with regard to progressing the preparation of an Ashill Emergency Plan which is required to be done as a condition of some of the funding which has been awarded for the defibrillator. A thought was aired that an Emergency Plan might have been prepared during the time when Mr S Aspinall had been the Clerk and it was agreed that this should be explored with Mr Aspinall.

- c) **Parish Environment Champion** - It was resolved to appoint Cllr Freudenberg as the Parish Environment Champion for Ashill.
- d) **Green Ashill Community Group** - Cllr Freudenberg reported she had organised a Parish litter pick to be held on 9 February 2020. Cllr Freudenberg also outlined other initiatives that the Group would like to explore introducing such as a clothes repair café; a clothes recycling shop; a refill station; a Youth Club and a daytime group to build community spirit.

Correspondence (noted)

Chard Delivery Office – Windmill Hill Lane Post Box

76/19 Village Hall

The Chairman reported there had been a good turnout for the Ashill Christmas Event held on 6 December 2019. It had been found that the batteries for the lights had required frequent recharging.

77/19 Church

Cllr Knight reported the toilet installation work in the Church has now been completed.

78/19 Communication

- a) A discussion was introduced regarding the introduction of a Parish Facebook page. Cllr Freudenberg advised she had set up a Facebook page for the Green Ashill Community Group and would be happy to set one up for the Parish. Cllr Clay volunteered she would be happy to act as the co-administrator and appreciation was conveyed to both Cllr Freudenberg and Cllr Clay for taking on these roles.
- b) Correspondence from Mr S Hewson was received and noted regarding the left hand door of the Stewley Notice Board which had blown open and torn itself loose. Appreciation was conveyed to Mr Hewson who had kindly repaired it at no cost to the Parish.
- c) The Chairman introduced a discussion regarding what steps could be taken to introduce better communication around the Parish. Cllr Freudenberg made the suggestion that a flyer could be produced to be delivered to all properties in the Parish.

79/19 South Somerset District Council Correspondence (noted)

Future of Local Government in Somerset – Next Steps

Services and Facilities Audit Survey 2020

Great Parish Tree Giveaway – Cllr Freudenberg would write to land owners to seek agreement
Somerset Health Walks

80/19 Finance

- i) A Payments/Receipts report dated 3 January 2020 and revised 2020/21 Draft Budget was received and noted. It was resolved to set the 2020/21 Precept for Parish Purposes at the sum of £6,120.
- ii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved:

Mr P Lang – Christmas Tree, Lighting & Refreshments	£ 114.04
Ashill Village Hall – Meeting Room Hire 2019/20	£ 72.00
Mr S Hewson – Playground repairs	£ 500.00
Clerks' Salary (October – December)	£ 606.84

81/19 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Dog Waste/Rubbish/Recycling Bins
- Community Led Plan (May 2020)

82/19 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 2 March 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
2 March 2020