

Ashill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 2 March 2020 in Ashill Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present : Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), L Clay, C Criddle, A Knight, S Freudenberg, Mrs G Midworth (Acting Clerk), County/District Cllr L Vijeh, and ?1 member of the public?.

83/19 Apologies

- a) It was resolved for apologies to be noted from the Clerk and to appoint Mrs Gillian Mldworth – Beercrocombe Parish Clerk - to act as the Clerk for the purposes of this meeting.
- b) It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Abel.

84/19 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests

None.

85/19 Public Participation

- Sarah Thorne was present as a representative of the Bridleways Association (she is also a resident of the Parish). She updated the meeting on the application to upgrade 4 routes in Broadway to Restricted Byways status. This application has been refused but efforts will continue to upgrade the routes. It is believed there is sufficient evidence of usage for the application to be eventually agreed. She did not wish for the Parish Council to do anything but just wanted the Council to be aware of the up to date position.
- A discussion took place regarding the deterioration of Windmill Hill Lane due to the use by HGVs despite the 'Not suitable for HGV' warning sign. One of the vehicles using the road regularly is the SSDC waste collection vehicle. Cllr Lang agreed he would contact Highways so that they are aware of the situation but clearly the dustbin lorry would still require access.
- It was confirmed regular the monthly reports submitted by County/District Cllr Linda Vijeh had been received and noted. Cllr Vijeh advised she had nothing further to add.

86/19 Minutes

It was resolved for the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2020 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

87/19 Planning

- i) The response made by the Clerk using delegated authority based on Members' observations was noted :

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

Concerns had been raised regarding the proposal to add a further 3 dwellings to the proposed 7 dwellings which had already been granted planning permission to be developed on this site - Ref : 12/00930/OUT. The proposed cul-de-sac arrangement had been considered to be not in keeping in the context of the linear development line of the existing bungalows in this area of Wood Road and there were now concerns that the proposal to create an additional 3 dwellings would represent overcrowding and overdevelopment of this site. There were also concerns with regard to the likelihood of there being an increase in visitor parking along Wood Road which would create a highway safety issue by further obscuring the T-junction making it more difficult for residents to safely pull out of their driveways and the new development. It was expected that the highway safety issue would be further exacerbated in the future because of the proposal to decrease the current number of junctions giving access to the A358 carriageway which would mean there would be the potential for a significant increase in the number of vehicles using Wood Road.

The Parish Council also wished to raise a question with regard to the 'old petrol station' which is currently being used as a car wash and as to whether it was proposed for this to still be operating during construction and after when the houses were built.

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

Application No.	20/00335/HOU
Proposal	Erection of a detached garage
Location	Clover Lea, Thickthorn Lane Ashill.

There were no objections or observations raised.

88/19 Playing Field

- a) **March Playing Field Inspection Report** – received and noted.
- b) **MUGA** - the Council received for consideration a quotation for the repair of the MUGA and it was agreed that it could not afford for this work to be carried out at the present time. Cllr Vijeh mentioned there were Community Grants available from SSDC for match funding of up to £12,500 and it was agreed that the Clerk should look into this possibility. A discussion was introduced as to whether to close the MUGA due to safety issues. One of the boards with a basketball hoop has fallen down and whilst the debris has been moved - to the side of the MUGA - large splinters still remain and children have been spotted climbing the fence which is now unstable. It was agreed that Cllr Lang would inspect the MUGA with Mr S Hewson and make a decision as to whether it was thought it was necessary to close the facility.
- c) **Any other matters** – no other matters were raised.

89/19 Highways/Footpaths

- a) **Handrail** – it was noted a new handrail had now been installed to replace the one which had been missing from the footpath behind Ashton Close. The Council was happy with the quality of the handrail and the payment was approved.
- b) **Any other matters** – no other matters were raised.

Correspondence

Somerset Bridleways Association – proposal for 4 routes in Broadway to become Restricted Byways – *see public participation.*

Highways England - A358 Taunton to Southfields Project Update - *Linda Vijeh commented that SSDC has no view on the proposed upgrade at present and detailed plans are awaited.*

Mott McDonald – A358 Ecology Surveys – *noted.*

90/19 Health / Environment

- a) **Green Ashill Community Group** – Cllr Freudenberg reported the litter pick had to be cancelled due to bad weather and is now scheduled to take place on Saturday 2 May 2020. The trees provided by SSDC have been planted in areas that are to be rewilded.
- b) **Better Lives Grant Funding** - it was noted confirmation has been received from SCC that the Better Lives Grant Funding of £500 awarded for the purchase of trees is to be credited to the Parish Council bank account.
- c) **Draft Tree Policy** -a policy was received for consideration and it was agreed for this to be adopted. One of the recommendations is that the policy is publicised on the website before formal adoption so this will need to be carried forwards as an ongoing agenda item.
- d) **Dog Waste Bins** – Cllr Clay reported a meeting has been arranged with an SSDC official to discuss the provision of dog waste bins. Enquiries will also be made to explore the possibility of having waste bins for recyclable plastics etc.at the Playing Field as at present all waste is put into the general bin on the site.
- e) **Any other matters** – no other matters were raised.

Correspondence

Devon & Somerset Fire Service – Flood Packs - *it was decided that these were not needed at present.*

91/19 Village Hall

- a) **Grant Funding** – it was noted confirmation has been received from SSDC that the £1,000 grant funding awarded towards the defibrillator purchase is to be credited to the Parish Council bank account.
- b) **Parish Defibrillator** – Cllr Lang reported the defibrillator is at Ilminster Ambulance Station. Once it has been collected he will arrange for an electrician to carry out the necessary wiring and once installed a demonstration on its use will be arranged.
- c) **Any other matters** – Cllr Lang. Cllr Lang reported that a meeting has been arranged with Wessex Water to check that the sewage from the hall is going where it should be.

92/19 Church

Cllr Knight reported there had been an attempted burglary at the Church during which a tombstone was dislodged and knocked over. It is believed the thieves were looking for lead and Ilton Church had also been targeted.

93/19 Finance

- i) It was resolved to appoint Mr J Brunt as the Internal Auditor for the 2019/20 Parish Council Accounts.
- ii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

Taunton Fencing Company - Handrail	£168.00
Mrs G Midworth – Acting Clerk for Meeting 2 March 2020	£ 40.00
Clerks’ Salary & Administrative Costs (January – December	£ TBD

Correspondence

County/District Cllr Vijeh – Neroche Parish Councils Precepts 2020/21 – *noted – Members found this information to be useful*

81/19 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- **Emergency Plan** – *to be an agenda item for a future meeting with a view to arranging a date for a special meeting to discuss this in detail.*
- **Community Led Plan** – *no further action as not considered to be appropriate for the Parish in view of time and cost involved.*
- **Appointment of Tree Warden** – *as the Tree Policy recommends that a Tree Warden should be appointed, this needs to be an agenda item for the next meeting.*
- **Excess water in Windmill Hill Lane** – *Cllr Lang to contact Highways regarding this.*

82/19 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 11 May 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
11 May 2020