

Ashill Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Monday 1 March 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present : Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), R Abel, L Clay, C Criddle, A Crouch, A Knight, County/District Cllr L Vijeh, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and no members of the public.

72/20 Apologies

It was **resolved** for apologies with reasons to be noted from Cllr Freudenberg.

73/20 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests

None.

74/20 Public Participation

None.

75/20 County/District Cllr Report / Future of Local Government in Somerset Consultation

The February County/District Cllr Report submitted by Cllr Vijeh was noted. In addition Cllr Vijeh spoke of the consultation for the Future of Local Government in Somerset which runs between 22 February 2021 and 19 April 2021. Two bids have been submitted as being :

- i) Stronger Somerset a joint bid for two unitary authorities - with an East/West split - submitted by the four districts www.strongersomerset.co.uk, and
- ii) One Somerset bid for a single authority submitted by SCC www.onesomerset.org.uk.

76/20 Minutes

It was **resolved** for the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

77/20 Planning

- i) To receive for consideration the following planning applications which have been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting :

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| Application No. | 20/03456/FUL |
| Proposal | Erection of two detached dwelling houses |
| Location | The Builders Yard, Ashill. |

The Parish Council was fully supportive of this proposal.

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| Application No. | 21/00338/HOU |
| Proposal | Erection of a greenhouse within the walled kitchen garden and the conversion of an existing open fronted barn to be utilised as an outdoor kitchen and dining area. |
| Location | Wood Court Farm, Wood Road, Ashill. |

No observations/objections.

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| Application No. | 21/00163/FUL |
| Proposal | Erection of an agricultural building. |
| Location | Hatchers Pond, Radigan Lane, Ashill. |

No objections/observations.

- ii) It was noted the following planning application had just been submitted to SSDC and it was agreed to set a date - for consideration of this proposal - of 10 March 2021 subject to it being convenient for representatives of Boon Brown Architects and Burrington Estates Ltd. who had already offered to attend such a meeting :

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| Application No. | 20/03697/REM |
| Proposal | Application for approval of appearance, landscaping and scale ('the reserved matters'), landscaping -ndition 9), cycle and footpath links (condition 16) and foul and surface water drainage (condition 20) pursuant to outline planning permission ref. 17/03800/OUT for the erection of 25 dwellings and formation of access. |
| Location | Land Os 3727 Part Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill. |

78/20 Playing Field – the Chairman reported the following :

- a) **Playing Field** - the playing field itself is looking clean and tidy. The inside hedge could do with being trimmed and it was agreed that the Chairman should ask Mr S Hewson for a price.
- b) **Tennis Court** - the installation of the new tennis posts, net and ground anchor has now been carried out by Mr King. The Tennis Court Health & Safety sign – as circulated prior to this meeting - has now been printed and will be placed in a waterproof frame to be put up before 29 March 2021 when the current Covid-19 national regulations allow for tennis courts to be re-opened. There is a lot of moss at the edge of the court and Mr King had recommended that this requires attention. The Chairman had sourced a suitable moss killer for tennis courts - which kills moss green mould and algae on any outdoor surface – at a cost of £15.95. The Chairman advised he would be happy to carry out this work which was agreed with appreciation. The tennis court water supply leak has been satisfactorily repaired and the invoice for this is yet to be received.
- c) **MUGA** – Mr King was asked to have a look at the MUGA and had advised it needs some attention. Mr King has therefore been asked for a quotation which can be compared with the one previously submitted to the Parish Council - by another contractor - dated 29 January 2020.
- d) **Adult Outdoor Fitness Equipment** – the July 2020 Play Inspection Company Ltd. includes a recommendation that the - 'Adult Outdoor Fitness Equipment should be installed a minimum of 25 metres away from a children's playground or separated/screened to discourage access to younger children'. The Chairman introduced a discussion with regard to what measures it was thought should be taken with regard to this and it was agreed that – in the first instance - the Clerk should be instructed to contact the contractor who supplied the Adult Outdoor Fitness Equipment to try to determine how this is being addressed by other organisations.

79/20 Highways / Footpaths

- a) **Radigan Lane** - correspondence from a resident was received and noted with regard to the condition of Right of Way off Radigan Lane – CH1/2 - which has become unpassable. The Clerk confirmed this issue had been reported to the Somerset County Council Right of Way Team Ref : 61710.
- b) **Wood Road** - the Chairman reported he had received confirmation from Highways that the work to replace the rotting wooden fence - adjacent to the stone bridge on Wood
- c) **Road, Ashill** - is to be carried out on 23 May 2021 and this work will require a road closure order to be in place.
- d) **Kenny Sign** - the Chairman reported the delay in reinstating the Kenny Sign had been due to the uncertainty of Highways as to whether this was a County or a Village sign. It has now been clarified by Highways that the sign is a County one and the sign has now been reinstated.
- e) **Kenny Bridge** – attention had been brought to there being four cracks on Kenny Bridge – these have been checked by the Somerset County Council Right of Way Team who have advised this is not part of the structure but anyone in the area has been asked to keep an eye on it.

- f) **Litter Pick** – it had been noticed with appreciation that a litter pick had been carried out since the last meeting by Somerset County Council in the area of Rapps, Thickthorn Lane and the A358 Carriageway.

Correspondence (*noted*)

Somerset County Council – Travel Links to Taunton

80/20 Health / Environment

- a) The Clerk reported she had received an email from a resident conveying appreciation for liaising with the Chard Post Office regarding the Windmill Hill post box. The repainted and polished box had been returned on 28 January 2021 and this was very much appreciated.
- b) It was noted with appreciation that Cllr Freudentberg had carried out the monthly checks of the Parish Defibrillator at the end of January and February.

81/20 Village Hall

The Chairman reported the installation of the new mains water pipe has now been completed. New curtains and curtain rails have been fitted and it is also planned for hand dryers and a kitchen extractor fan to be fitted. It is unlikely the Village Hall can be re-opened again until the Committee is comfortable that the Covid-19 post lockdown guidelines for Village Halls can be fully implemented.

82/20 Church

Cllr Knight reported the Church continues to be closed due to the Covid-19 national restrictions. However the proposed easing of the lockdown could allow for prayer services to be held in the churchyard at Easter - for groups of up to 6 people - which is being considered. The hedges are scheduled to be cut during 12/13 March 2021. The Isle Valley Parish Magazine had been only available electronically in February – and this will continue to be the situation for March and April - but it is hoped that paper copies could be available for distribution again from May.

83/20 Finance

- i) It was **resolved** to appoint Mr John Brunt to carry out the internal audit of the 2020/21 accounts subject to his availability.
- ii) It was **resolved** for the following payments to be approved :
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| Mr P Lang – March Zoom/Combination Padlock/Printing & Waterproof Frame/Patio Cleaner | £ 57.17 |
| Courtstall Services Ltd. – Tennis Posts/Net/Centre Band/Ground Anchor/Measuring Stick | £ 660.00 |
| Kings Courts – Tennis Posts/Net/Ground Anchor Installation | £ 100.00 |
| Clerks' Salary & Administration Costs (January – March) | £ TBD |

84/20 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Location of Adult Exercise Equipment
- Bus Shelter Roof

85/20 Date of Next Meeting

- a) It was noted the national legislation which allows for remote meetings to be held by Parish Councils currently expires from 7 May 2021;
- b) It was therefore confirmed that the next meeting - which will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - will be brought forward from the originally scheduled date of 10 May 2021 to be held remotely on 4 May 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
4 May 2021