

# Ashill Parish Council

## Minutes of an *informal* meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Monday 6 September 2021 at 7.30 pm

**Present :** Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), R Abel, A Crouch, A Knight, P Varney (*co-opted as of this meeting*), Mrs J Davidson (Clerk), County/District Cllr Vijeh, Mrs S Weatherall (Ashill PPLO) & 2 members of the public.

### **30/21 Apologies, Resignations & a Co-Option**

- a) The resignations of Cllr Clay with effect from 6 July 2021 & Cllr Freudenberg with effect from today were noted with regret. Appreciation was conveyed to both ladies for all of their time & commitment they had given to the Parish during their time as Councillors. A notice of the Casual Vacancies created by Cllrs Clay & Criddle (*minutes 5 July 2021*) had been displayed on the main Parish Council notice board near the School. The Clerk had confirmed with SSDC there had been no requests for the vacancies to be filled by an election - within the statutory 14 day period – & therefore these vacancies could be now filled by the Parish Council by co-option. A notice of the Casual Vacancy created by Cllr Freudenberg would be displayed on the main Parish Council notice board near the School.
- b) All other members of the Parish Council were present at the meeting.
- c) Mr P Varney – who had registered an interest since the last meeting of the Parish Council in becoming a member – was welcomed to this meeting. It was agreed to co-opt Mr P Varney to the office of Member of Ashill Parish Council. Prior to this meeting the Clerk had provided him with copies of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct & Good Councillor Guide. Cllr Varney completed the Declaration of Acceptance Office form & also the Declaration of Interests form

### **31/21 Public Participation**

Appreciation was conveyed to County/District Cllr Linda Vijeh for her regular monthly reports which are circulated to the members of the Council & posted on the Website by the Clerk. Cllr Vijeh brought attention to a conference for Town/Parish Councils - to be held on 7 October 2021 -to consider the principles on which Local Community Networks may be developed & to include asset & service devolution as required. Cllr Vijeh also advised the creation of the new 'One Somerset' Authority means that elections to the shadow authority will now be held in May 2022. Therefore SCC & the 'One Somerset' Team are asking for the views of Towns/Parishes as to whether the next ordinary elections - due to take place in May 2023 - & which would have coincided with the next District Council Elections should be moved forward to 2022 to reduce the cost to Towns/Parishes of holding separate contested elections. The Chairman responded he was of the opinion that moving the election forward would not impact on Ashill as historically the Parish Council elections are not usually contested.

### **32/21 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests**

None.

### **33/21 Highways / Footpaths**

- a) The Chairman brought the Highways / Footpaths item on the agenda forward to welcome Mrs Sandra Weatherall to the meeting who has recently volunteered with Somerset County Council as the Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPLO) for the Parish. Mrs Weatherall introduced herself & gave a brief outline of her role.
- b) Correspondence from a resident regarding the stiles along the footpath opposite the Flying Fish Inn which leads to near Venners Farm was received & noted by the Parish Council & Mrs Weatherall.
- c) The Chairman advised he would be attending the next briefing for the A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme on Wednesday 22 September 2021.
- d) Cllr Abel also brought attention to the replacement of a stile with a kissing gate on a section of the footpath close to the Church which was also noted by Mrs Weatherall.
- e) No other matters regarding Highways / Footpaths were tabled.

### 34/21 Minutes

It was agreed for the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 July 2021 to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### 35/21 Planning

The following planning applications which had been submitted to SSDC since the last meeting were received for consideration :

Application No.	21/01690/REM
Proposal	Reserved matters application for approval of the appearance, landscaping, layout & scale of the development following outline approval 17/04888/OUT for the erection of 3 No. dwellings
Location	Land adjoining Ashill Village Hall

It was agreed for the Chairman & the Clerk to be given the delegated authority to prepare a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

Application No.	21/02534/HOU
Proposal	Erection of a two storey extension & double tandem garage
Location	10 Windmill Hill, Ashill.

There were no observations/objections.

Application No.	21/02225/FUL
Proposal	Erection of agricultural barn for storage of animal fodder & machinery.
Location	Neuchatel, Stewley Lane, Ashill.

There were no observations/objections.

### 36/21 Playing Field

- a) The Annual Playing Field Inspection Report carried out by the Play Inspection Company & the monthly Playing Field Inspection report carried out by the Chairman was received & noted.
- b) The Chairman conveyed appreciation to Cllr Crouch for emptying the litter bin since the last meeting but it is now full again. The Chairman introduced a discussion as to whether it was felt the litter bin should be removed & replaced with a notice encouraging people to take their litter home to be correctly recycled. It was agreed that this should be done & appreciation was conveyed to Cllr Crouch who would remove the bin & to the Chairman who would sort out a notice.
- c) The order & terms & conditions for the Annual Playing Field Inspection to be carried out by July 2022 was received & approved.
- d) It was noted the Chairman has sorted out a notice regarding the use of the outdoor gym equipment & now needs to find a suitable metal frame so that it can be installed.
- e) No other matters regarding the Playing Field were tabled.

### 37/21 Health / Environment

- a) Further correspondence between RNAS Merryfield & the residents who had raised concerns at the last meeting of the Parish Council with regard to helicopter activity was received & noted. The residents have requested a meeting with RNAS Merryfield & are awaiting a response. The Chairman & the Clerk registered an interest in attending this meeting.
- b) Correspondence from a member of the Parish requesting a dog waste bin for Windmill Hill was received & considered. The Parish Council agreed it would be supportive of purchasing a dog waste bin for this area but only if SSDC would be able to empty it.
- c) It was noted with appreciation that Mrs S Freudenberg had offered to continue to carry out the monthly defibrillator check after stepping down as a Councillor.
- d) No other matters regarding Health / Environment were tabled.

### 38/21 One Somerset

It was noted the Local Government Secretary - Robert Jenrick,MP – has announced he has decided to implement - subject to Parliamentary approval - the proposal for a single unitary council for the whole of the existing administrative county of Somerset.

#### Correspondence

South Somerset District Council - Local Government Reorganisation briefing slides

**39/21 Village Hall**

The Chairman reported the Village Hall has reopened with effect from today & all users of the Hall will be provided with an updated hire agreement to include Covid-19 guidelines. The Village Hall Committee is currently exploring sources of grant funding for the replacement of the roof & so far a sum of £10,000 has been granted towards an estimated cost of £43,000.

**40/21 Church**

Cllr Knight reported a coffee & cake fund raising event is to be held at the Church in the morning & the Harvest Festival is to be held on 10 October 2021.

**41/21 Christmas 2021**

The Chairman reported the Church has asked as to whether the Ashill Christmas Tree Lighting Event could be brought forward a week from the usual date to 26 November 2021 – so as not to clash with the Broadway Event – & no objections were raised. The Chairman also reported that two sets of lights needed to be replaced & appreciation was conveyed to the Chairman who would go ahead with purchasing the lights.

**42/21 Finance**

- i) It was noted the Clerk now has access to be able to make payments - on behalf of the Parish Council - electronically.
- ii) It was noted confirmation has been received from the External Auditor that the notification of exempt status for 2020/21 has been received & logged. No further action is required to be taken by the Parish Council for the 2020/21 financial year.
- iii) It was agreed for the following payments to be approved :
 

Clerks' Salary & Administration Costs (July - September)	£679.88
Dell – Parish Council Laptop	£355.52
Playground Inspection Company – Annual Playground Inspection	£114.00
Mr P Lang – September Zoom Meeting/Snap Frame/Sign Lamination	£ 29.10

**43/21 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Budget 2022/23
- Meeting Times
- Christmas Arrangements 2021
- Casual Vacancies

**44/21 Date of Next Meeting**

The Chairman introduced a discussion as to whether it was felt the next meeting - to be held in November - should be face-to-face. It was agreed that – depending on the Covid-19 situation – face-to-face meetings should recommence from January 2022. It was therefore confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held remotely on 1 November 2021.

*The meeting closed at 9 : 40 pm*

Signed : ..... (Chairman  
1 November 2021