

Ashill Parish Council

Minutes of an *informal* meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Monday 7 March 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present : Cllrs P Lang (Chairman), R Abel, A Knight, P Varney, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk), District Cllr R Buckler, & 2 members of the public (*attended for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee item only*).

78/21 Apologies

It was agreed for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Crouch.

79/21 Public Participation

A by-election for the Neroche Ward had been held on 5 March 2022 due to the retirement of District Cllr L Vijeh. Cllr R Buckler (Horton Parish Councillor) who had been elected was welcomed & introduced himself to the meeting.

80/21 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

The Chairman declared a personal interest in item Environment / Parish Maintenance regarding the repair of the bus shelter roof.

81/21 Minutes

It was agreed for the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 January 2022 to be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

82/21 Planning

It was noted there had been no applications submitted to SSDC since the last meeting.

83/21 Playing Field

- a) The March Playing Field Inspection report carried out by the Chairman was received & noted.
- b) The Chairman reported he was of the opinion that the Playing Field was looking clean & tidy. The next task would be for the tennis court to be sprayed with weed killer which he would do when he thought the weather might be dry for 3/4 days.
- c) The Chairman advised the Vicar of the Baptist Church is moving on & has donated to the Parish a silver birch tree in a pot. The Chairman asked Councillors to consider whether they had any objections to a suggestion which had been made for the tree to be planted in the Playing Field. This was agreed as no objections were raised & appreciation was conveyed to the Vicar of the Baptist Church & Mrs H Hewson who had kindly offered to carry out the planting.

84/21 Highways / Footpaths

- a) The Chairman reported he is continuing to work with the neighbouring Community of Parishes (CoP) with regard to the A358 dualling proposal. A small team of its members would be meeting with Somerset CC, Taunton & West Somerset DC & SSDC representatives to discuss key issues. The team would comprise of the Chairs of Broadway PC, Ashill PC, Hatch Beauchamp PC, (Peter Greogory, Peter Lang & Christine Scott), Bob Burrough (Beercrocombe PC) & Martin Hills (CoP's Highways Adviser). This meeting was scheduled to be held on 21 March 2022.
- b) No other matters regarding Highways / Footpaths were tabled.

85/21 Environment / Parish Maintenance / Health

- a) The Chairman reported that following the concerns raised by a resident at the last meeting with regard to the level of surface water - which is collecting & failing to drain away from the carriageway of the Old A358 – he had met with representatives of Highways, Wessex Water, BT & Somerfield Developments (Old Orchard). It had been agreed that a drain would be installed leading from Wyatts Way to the White Cottages & then redirected over the road.
The Chairman did not take part in the discussion regarding the repair of the bus shelter roof.
- b) Three quotations for the repair of the bus shelter roof were received for consideration & it was agreed for the quotation of £900 from Mr C Lang to be approved.
- c) It was noted that Mrs S Freudenberg is continuing to carry out the monthly defibrillator checks & appreciation was conveyed.

86/21 Village Hall

The Chairman reported the Village Hall Committee had recently been awarded a Covid Recovery Grant Funding Payment of £2,677.

87/21 Church

Cllr Knight brought attention to the continuing incidents of dog fouling in the churchyard. A coffee morning is to be held in the Church between 10am & 12 noon on 17 March 2022 & a plant sale is to be held in the Village Hall between 10am & 12 noon on 23 April 2022.

88/21 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022

Mrs B Pyle & Mrs R Fry were welcomed to the meeting & invited to speak about plans for celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in the Parish. St Marys Church is planning to hold a Civic Church Service & also a Flower Festival which will be available for viewing during the whole week. The PTFA is planning a picnic to be held at the Playing Field on 5 June 2022 with the following activities :

- Decorated cake competitions with classes for both adults & children;
- Children’s fancy dress competition;
- Skittles;
- Fun Tug of War; &
- Raffle.

The Parish Council agreed it was fully supportive of these proposals & would provide funding for Jubilee decorations & competition prizes up to a sum of £100. The Chairman advised the Village Hall would be made available throughout the day in case it rained.

89/21 Finance

It was agreed for the following payments to be approved :

Mr P Lang – Zoom Meeting (March)	£ 14.39
WestCountry Payroll – Payroll Service Ashill Village Hall – ‘Drop In’ Electricity	£ 6.00
Clerks’ Salary (January-March)	£736.48

90/21 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Annual Meeting of the New Council

91/21 Parish & Town Elections / Date of Next Meeting

- a) It was noted that Parish / Town Council elections are to take place on 5 May 2022. Nomination packs are available from the Clerk & SSDC.
- b) It was confirmed the next meeting - which will be the Annual Meeting of the New Council - will be held on 9 May 2022 commencing from 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9 : 25 pm

Signed : (Chairman
8 June 2022