

Ashill Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in Ashill Village Hall on Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present : Cllrs P Varney (Chairman), R Abel, R Fry (*co-opted as of this meeting*), N Harvey (*co-opted as of this meeting*), B Pyle, District Cllr R Buckler, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) & 3 members of the public.

1/22 **Appointment of Chairman**

It was proposed & seconded for Cllr Varney to be the Parish Council Chairman for the 2022/23 council year & it was unanimously **resolved** for Cllr Varney to be appointed.

2/22 **Apologies**

All members of the Parish Council were present at the meeting.

3/22 **May 2022 Election / Casual Vacancies**

It was noted SSDC had not only received enough nominations for an actual poll to take place for Ashill Parish Council, on 5 May 2022, but had also not received enough nominations for the Parish Council to be quorate. Therefore a second nomination period had been run by SSDC between 13 May 2022 & 26 May 2022. This time enough nominations for Ashill to be able to form a Council had been received leaving a remaining four Casual Vacancies to be filled by co-option. Mr N Harvey & Mrs R Fry, who had registered an interest prior to this meeting, were welcomed & it was unanimously **resolved** for Mr Harvey & Mrs Fry to be appointed. The Clerk would provide the new members with copies of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct & Good Councillor Guide

4/22 **Acceptance of Office / Register of Interests**

Cllrs completed Declaration of Acceptance of Office & Register of Interest forms.

5/22 **Chairmans' Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting & conveyed appreciation to all of the Cllrs who had served on the Parish Council during the 2019/22 council term.

6/22 **District Councillor Report**

District Cllr Ray Buckler (Neroche Ward) was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Buckler had won the council by-election, held in March, following the retirement of County/District Cllr Linda Vijeh. After introductions had been made Cllr Buckler spoke of a number of topics which were summarised as :

- **A358** – the latest consultation regarding the A358 dualling proposal ends on 26 June 2022;
- **Drains** - blocked drains causing road flooding should be reported directly online at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/.../report-a-blocked-drain-on...> ;
- **Phosphates** – it is anticipated the phosphate issue will not be resolved until the next year; &
- **Planning** – as SSDC no longer send out paper copies of planning applications to Parish Councils there may be some grant funding available for Parish Councils to be able to purchase any necessary technology (eg projector, screen, laptop, broadband, etc) to enable applications to be viewed during meetings.

7/22 **Public Participation**

No matters were raised by members of the public present at this meeting.

8/22 **Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests**

None.

9/22 **Minutes**

It was **resolved** for the following to be approved :

- Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 March 2022; &
- Minutes of the informal meetings of the Parish Council held remotely between 11 May 2020 & 10 May 2022.

10/22 Appointment of Representatives

Representatives were agreed as follows :

A358 Dualling	Mr P Lang Cllr P Varney	
Church	Cllr B Pyle	Report to be presented at each meeting of the PC
Communication	Facebook Notice Boards Parish Magazine Website	Cllr R Fry Cllr N Harvey Cllr R Fry Cllr P Varney
Defibrillator Check	Mrs S Freudenberg	Monthly Report
Parish Path Liaison Officer	Mrs S Weatherall	
Playing Field	Cllr R Fry	Report to be presented at each meeting of the PC

11//22 Policies and Procedures

Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct & any other relevant policies & procedures were noted.

12/22 Planning

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

Application No.	22/01242/FUL
Proposal	Southtown Farm, Thickthorn Lane, Ashill.
Location	Change of use of land to allow for the siting of a shepherds hut for tourist accommodation, provision of parking and turning facilities and access thereto, and installation of package treatment plan.

No objections/observations.

Application No.	22/00863/HOU
Proposal	Southview, Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill.
Location	Single storey extension to the rear of property.

No objections/observations.

13/22 Playing Field

- a) The Playing Field Inspection Report carried out on 7 May 2022, by Mr Peter Lang was received & considered. It was agreed a meeting of a Working Group comprising of all members of the Parish Council should be held to discuss the report in more detail.
- b) Communication from the Chard RFC Mini & Juniors regarding the possibility of being able to occasionally use the playing field pitches for the September 2022/May 2023 Season was received & considered. It was agreed there were no objections to the request & the Clerk was instructed to convey this back.

14/22 Highways / Footpaths

- a) The Clerk reported she had received correspondence regarding a member of the Parish who had slipped at the Wood Road end of the public footpath, CH1/11, where there is a bit of a slope. The Clerk had brought this matter to the attention of the Parish Path Liaison Officer. The PPLO had since walked the path & had found it to be dry at the moment but had conveyed that during wet weather the footpath can get muddy & therefore would have another look after the next spell of wet weather.
- b) No other matters regarding Highways / Footpaths were tabled.
Correspondence (attached)
SCC - Temporary Closure of Footpath CH 1/11 (part) and CH 1/22

15/22 Environment

No Environmental matters were tabled.

Correspondence (noted)

Somerset Bus Partnership - Bus meeting for new Councillors
FWAG South West - Somerset Water Forum 2022

16/22 Church

Cllr Pyle spoke of financial challenges faced by the 12th Century Grade II listed Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Correspondence (noted)

St Mary's PCC – Grant Funding

17/22 Finance

- i) The 2021/22 Payments/Receipts Report was received & noted.
- ii) It was **resolved** for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 2 Section 1 – Accounting Statements for ... ; &
- iii) Section 2 – Annual governance statement of the Audit Return for 2021/22 with the Certificate of Exemption to be signed by the Chairman & the Clerk.
- iv) It was noted the 2022/23 Parish Precept of £6,450 had been credited to the Parish Council bank account by SSDC on 9 April 2022.
- v) The 2021/22 national salary award agreed by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services was received for consideration & it was **resolved** to approve the salary adjustments for staff on the basis of the NJC recommendations
- vi) It was **resolved** for the following payments to be approved :

Mrs R Fry – Jubilee Decorations/Prizes	£ 99.40
Zurich – 2022/23 Insurance	£476.15
St.Marys Church – Donation	£600.00
Clerks’ Salary & Administrative Costs	£736.48

17/22 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Communication
- Bank Signatories

18/22 Dates of 2022/23 Meetings

The dates for the 2022/23 meetings of the Parish Council were confirmed as being 5 September, 7 November, 16 January, 6 March & 8 May (Annual Meeting).

The meeting closed at 9 : 45 pm

Signed : (Chairman
5 September 2022