

ASH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

Editor: Caz Halfhide email: ashnewsletter@aol.com

CORONAVIRUS ASH COMMUNITY HELP REGISTER

Following the flyer that was recently distributed to every household in the Parish we would like to thank those of you who have already come forward with offers of help. We can never have enough volunteers so if you haven't already volunteered but would like to do so please email Ash Parish Council at ashalertemails@gmail.com or make contact with any one of our Parish Councillors, see phone numbers below.

We now need to identify people living within the Parish who are vulnerable or have self-isolated and need help now as well as those who are currently being helped by family, friends or neighbours but who might need additional help in future. By knowing who you are and how you can be contacted we can stay in touch and you will know clearly how to ask for help when you need it.

WAYS TO REGISTER TO RECEIVE HELP NOW OR IN FUTURE

Telephone one of the Ash Parish Councillors listed below giving your name, address and phone number.

or

Email your name, address and phone number to Ash Parish Council at ashalertemails@gmail.com

Someone will then contact you to understand the help you need more fully.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Jack Parker 01935 823924 or 07855 818588

Cllr Nick Bluck 01935 822818 or 07545 786532

Cllr Roger Coombes 01935 825536 or 07771 628051

Cllr Gayle Defries 07795 411970

Cllr Antoinette Groves 01935 825020

Cllr Jonathan Mock 07484 701140

Cllr Hugh Thomson 01935 829360

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

To the wonderful people of the Parish of Ash, I know what amazing community spirit we have and the dreadful and frightening situation around the world is making it difficult for any of us to look forward with positivity.

I could have produced the usual Newsletter with 'cancelled' 'postponed' or closed all over it – we all know this and we know the reasons why.

We have just started the amazing season of Spring, where Mother Nature works her magic.

So, I am asking you all to help me find some beauty and positivity in the form of images / photographs for the next Newsletter.

They can be photographs of things awakening in your gardens or out on solitary walks. Anything, that shows and reminds us of some of the beautiful things that are happening.

Please also do ensure that if needed, you ask for the Community Help on offer. It is genuine and there are a lot of volunteers who want to help.

Keep Safe
Caz



VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE
www.ashpcsomerset.com

EVENTS

A New Tree Policy

Many of you may be aware of the ever-growing volume of law and policy on environmental issues. Although this includes the natural world generally there is a great deal of emphasis not only on protecting but also enhancing our store of woodlands, hedgerows and veteran trees.

The tree stock here in South Somerset falls below the national average - South Somerset District Council says our woodland cover is 4% district wide, compared to a national average of 12% - though this may be explained by the fact that we are still largely a farming county. Nevertheless, trees help with the quality of our air, contribute to our food supply and our rural economy and support our health and well-being.

It's no surprise that in this case the District Council's Environment Strategy is aiming to increase our tree stock through the combined efforts of the Council, Parish and Town Councils, volunteers and residents.

Ash Parish Council has responded by consulting with the District Council and local parishioners on the terms of a draft Tree Policy. This Policy has now been finalised and was adopted at the March meeting of the Council. It reflects similar policies adopted across the County by other parish and town councils. A copy of the Tree Policy may be found on the Parish Council website here:

<http://ashpcsomerset.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Ash-Tree-Policy-as-adopted-by-the-Parish-Council-2Mar2020-No1.pdf>

and other copies will be available at The Pavilion and the Village Hall.

In the next few months the Parish Council will be looking at various measures to roll out the new Tree Policy. We will keep you posted but the success of this new Policy will largely depend on each of us thinking about how we can not only preserve but also how we can enlarge our fund of hedges, woods and trees.

We can all work together to keep our Parish green and make a positive contribution to the environment.

16 March 2020

ASH BOOK EXCHANGE

In the absence of advice to the contrary the book exchange is remaining open. Common sense says "wipe the covers with disinfectant and then wash your hands when taking a new book" and "if you suspect that you are infected DON'T RETURN THE BOOK".



SPONSORSHIP REQUEST



The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance Coast to Coast cycle ride is a 56 mile challenge. It is an undulating route from Watchet on the Bristol Channel Coast to West Bay on the English Channel Coast. With some very steep climbs & all worth the effort for such an amazing charity that saves so many lives.

I was looking for sponsorship large or small to help these wonderful people continue to carry out their vital work. Every pound would have helped to keep me pedalling.

Due to the current situation, this has now been cancelled.

However Peter and I will ride the distance including hills from home feeding ourselves. No date as yet.

I hope you feel able to support us raising funds for this wonderful charity.
Yours in anticipation from a very grateful Nicky & Peter Vaughan xx



<https://www.dsairambulance.org.uk/Fundraisers/nicky-vaughan-cycling-for-dorset-somerset-air-ambulance>

VE DAY 75th CELEBRATIONS CANCELLED

Due to current Governmental guidelines it is with regret that Ash Parish Council has had to take the decision to cancel the planned celebrations on 8th and 9th May 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe in 1945.

ASH W.I

March Meeting

Lorraine welcomed Ross Atkins to speak about a subject very close to his heart: Dawes Twine Works, and the canvas which was produced there. Hemp and flax have been grown in Coker since the 14th century and there were 5 twine works in the area.

In Nelson's day, Coker canvas was the most sought-after fabric for sails. Indeed, part of HMS Victory's top foresail can still be seen at Portsmouth Dockyard. It was 80 ft wide and 54 ft high and 7,000 ft of twine was used to make it! Our area is ideal for growing the flax and hemp whose fibers are used to make twine and rope, and one reason that Coker canvas was so strong is that it has a double warp (the threads that run north to south) when woven. Peter the Great came to this country to learn sail making and his fleet too used Coker canvas. We heard about North Coker- born William Dampier, and also Vice-Admiral Hardy, (both of whom attended Crewkerne School) who had seafaring careers.

The Industrial Revolution reached Coker in the 1870s as steam ships took over from sail and machinery became more widely used. The large number of twine works buildings could no longer be sustained. They needed to be at least 100 yards long to minimize the number of joins (Chatham's is 1/4 mile long!), and, gradually, they fell out of use. Dawes is the last surviving Victorian Twine Works which still has its original machinery. It finally closed in 1968, derelict and near collapse. A local volunteer group raised funds and put in a lot of effort to restore it as an original twine works factory. There is now Heritage Lottery funding to complete the work by building a Visitors Centre.

Business: Roseanne asked for donations of jewelry to be sold at the hospital in aid of Breast Cancer Yeovil.

***DUE TO COVID-19 ALL FUTURE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE***

PLEASE KEEP SAFE EVERYONE

SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY, ASH FEBRUARY 2020

COVID -19 CORONAVIRUS.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have suspended all Church Services until further notice. The letter said that where practical, churches could remain open as places of prayer for the community, but social distancing recommendations must be observed. If possible services should be conducted by clergy and live streamed.

However, Funerals may still go ahead in accordance with the social recommendations mentioned above.

A notice on the church door from the Area Dean reads:

**Keep Praying
Keep Sharing
Keep Caring**

**Ken Witcombe
Chair of the P.C.C.**

ASH ALERT EMAILS

If you are not already registered for the Ash Alert email system, please consider registering at ashalertemails@gmail.com to receive the latest information from the Parish Council. If you haven't already done so now would be a good time to do it. Just email ashalertemails@gmail.com and ask to be added. Alternatively, you could make your request via the Sign up form on the Ash Alert page or the Contact Us page on the village website www.ashpcsomerset.com If you already receive Ash Alert Emails we would kindly ask you to encourage more of your friends, family and neighbours living in the parish to sign up to the service. The more people able to receive Ash Alerts the better placed we will be to communicate more quickly to more parishioners enabling us to better coordinate help should the need arise.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Monday 2nd March 2020, Ash Pavilion at 7.30pm

Councillors Present:

Jack Parker (Chairman)

Antoinette Groves, Roger Coombes, Jonathan Mock, Nick Bluck,

Gayle Defries Hugh Thomson

In attendance: The clerk and 4 members of the public. **7.30pm – Meeting opened**

20/01. To receive any apologies for absence. C. Cllr Bloomfield and D. Cllr Clarke.

20/02. To receive any declarations of interest. Cllr Mock declared an interest in minutes reference 20/06 – Planning, 19/03224/HOU as a neighbour.

20/03. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2020.RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

20/04. Matters to report from previous meetings.Cllr Bluck asked the clerk to follow up the request for information regarding the omission of an Ecologist consultation on a previous planning application for 23 Back Street, Ash, relating to the presence of great crested newts on the site.

ACTION: Clerk 20/05. District & County Councillors reports. No reports had been received.

20/06. Planning.a) To note decisions on earlier applications.

i) 19/03167/FUL, Lavenoak House, Burrough Street, change of use and construction of a ménage. **Approved.** Noted.

ii) 19/03160/REM, Barton Court Farm, Martock Lane, Outline application for residential development of 1 dwelling. **Approved.** Noted.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

iii) 19/03224/HOU, 23 Back Street, Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear and single storey side extension and driveway alterations. **Approved.** Noted.

b) To consider new applications. i) 20/00108/HOU, 5 Back Street, Removal of existing single storey extensions and the construction of new two storey rear and side extension, replacement porch, new detached garage and relocation of driveway access point.

Cllr Mock left the room while the parish council considered the application. After much discussion and having taken into account neighbours objections already lodged on SSDC website, the parish council voted to object to the application for the following reasons:

i) Excessive sized development for the plot. ii) Overlooking and loss of privacy for neighbour. iii) Effect on the streetscene and sets a precedent of large

developments bordering the highway. iiiii) Lack of sufficient visibility splays affecting the safety of

pedestrians.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to object to the planning application for the reasons as discussed. ACTION: Clerk

c) Other planning matters of report. None.

20/07. Parish Council Administration.

a) To agree and adopt Ash Parish Council Financial Regulations.

The increases in spending with delegated authority, from the previously adopted regulations were highlighted and discussed, and it was agreed that these were acceptable.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Ash Parish Council Financial Regulations.

b) To review Ash Parish Council Register of Fixed Assets. The Asset Register was presented as a consolidated list from the 2 existing asset registers with some amendments noted. Cllr Parker requested that all Cllrs consider the register and pass any further amendments to the clerk so that it can be agreed at the next PC meeting. **ACTION: All Cllrs**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

20/08. Finance.

a) To consider payments for authorisation.

The following payments were presented for approval and signature

J Ferguson - Clerks Salary and expenses £464.41 HMRC - PAYE £ 107.40 JAF Yeovil Ltd – CPR and AED Training £120.00 SSDC – Christmas tree stand installation & materials £311.37

SALC – Clerks training (1/4 share with clerks other PCs - £21.25) £85.00

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed for the payments presented to be approved and signed.

b) To approve the cashbook and bank account reconciliation to 31 Jan 20.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the cashbook and bank reconciliation as presented.

c) To consider a grant request from Citizens Advice South Somerset.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to make a grant payment of £50 to Citizens Advice South Somerset (6 for/1 against).

20/09. Parish Matters and Environment. a) To consider items for the Parish Ranger.

Cllr Thomson reported on work that had been carried out by the ranger on the last visit and identified further work that he would like to instruct the ranger to carry out on future visits. Cllr Groves asked the clerk to request that the ranger be trained in spraying so that slippery paths could be treated in the future.

ACTION: Clerk

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

b) To report on the meeting with SSDC regarding the grass cutting contract.

Cllr Bluck summarised the meeting that had taken place between members of the PC and SSDC environment team. SSDC had acknowledged that certain items had not been carried out as per the contract and agreed to amend the invoice proportionally. The clerk reported that she had not yet received the invoice for this years maintenance contract.

c) To consider acceptance of SSDC quotation for Ash ground maintenance for 2020/21.

The quotation was considered acceptable to all Cllrs and the clerk was instructed to negotiate a 3yr deal with SSDC. **RESOLVED: It was agreed to accept the SSDC quote for Ash ground maintenance for 2020/21.**

ACTION: Clerk

d) To consider adoption of Ash Tree Policy to include public comments on draft policy.

Cllr Thomson reported that he had received a number of comments on the draft tree policy, broadly supportive. Cllr Bluck suggested that the next steps should be to contact all landowners in the Parish to enlist their support and also to speak to SSDC regarding their role in promoting the Government incentive. It was agreed that communication within the village was an issue and it was suggested that an article could go in the Newsletter as this appeared to reach the most Parishioners. Cllr Groves also requested that the Newsletter deadline of 22nd of the month be noted by all.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to adopt the draft Ash Tree Policy, as presented.

ACTION: Cllr Thomson

e) To consider action relating to dog fouling in the Parish. Cllr Groves presented some A4 posters that could be displayed around the Parish. Cllr Parker suggested to write a letter regarding the problem to appear in the newsletter. Both were agreed by all Cllrs.

ACTION: Cllr Groves and Cllr Parker

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

f) To report on the outcome of the school car park meeting. A member of the public who was a village resident and parent at Ash Primary School was invited by the chairman to summarise the outcome of a meeting held to discuss the issues with children being dropped off and picked up from the school. She explained that a number of potential solutions had been put forward, most however could not be pursued due to factors outside of the control of the school or village.

The most favourable solution involved alterations to the village car park to increase the number of spaces. Cllr Parker thanked the speaker for a detailed explanation of the current situation and explained that the parish council had no powers to spend money on parking for the school but would otherwise help in any way they could. It was suggested that the school and PTA bring a specific proposal to the parish council for further discussion, to take this forward.

20/10. The Recreation Ground and Play Area general report. Cllr Defries provided a report. She had received an email from a resident requesting that disabled access be addressed for the play area.

The current access was via a 'kissing' gate which was unsuitable for a wheelchair. Cllr Mock pointed out that access was possible from the Pavilion car park. It was agreed to consider a replacement self-closing style gate, subject to cost. **ACTION: Clerk**

20/11. The Pavilion.a) To report on the proposed accessway repairs.

Cllr Defries reported that she was still waiting for a response from Yarlington regarding the extent of their repair to the access and garage frontage. Furthermore, she was trying to organise an on-site meeting with Yarlington and would report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Defries

b) To agree to emergency repairs/replacement of guttering. Cllr Mock requested approval for a budget spend of up to £100 for the Pavilion guttering replacement. **RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to authorise a spend of not more than £100 on replacement guttering for the Pavilion (Budget line – Pavilion Maintenance).**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

Cllr Mock reported that he still hadn't found a cleaner and read out a letter from a regular hirer regarding the stacking and storage of tables and chairs in the Pavilion, along with some other issues. It was agreed to look into the Fire Risk Assessment and any Health and Safety reports that the PC held for guidance on this issue. **ACTION: Cllr Mock and Clerk 20/12. The Village defibrillator general report.**

Cllr Defries reported that 2 training sessions on CPR and use of defibrillator had been held and there was a requirement for more training sessions due to demand. The donation of funds to purchase a further unit and cabinet from the Plymouth Brethren had been confirmed and a second unit would be installed as soon as possible. She requested that the PC consider purchasing 2 x sets of childrens defibrillator pads at a cost of £52.49 per set.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to authorise a spend of £104.98 on 2 sets of childrens defibrillator pads (Budget line – Parish Projects).

20/13. Cemetery & Churchyard.a) To report on the proposed closed churchyard wall repairs.

Cllr Thomson provided a report on the current situation with the leaning closed churchyard wall. Cllr Bluck reported back on a meeting with a stonemason where he was advised that a repair would likely result in collapse of the wall, therefore a rebuild was recommended. It was decided that the next steps would be to speak with the adjoining landowner to determine proportionate costs before instructing the repair.

Cllr Parker advised that a grant from SSDC could be applied for and Cllr Thomson agreed to make enquiries. It was agreed that Cllr Parker would speak to the neighbour and Cllr Bluck would obtain 3 quotes for the rebuild of the wall to bring to the next meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Thomson, Cllr Bluck, Cllr Parker**

b) To report on the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery. Cllr Thomson reported on the work that the ranger had carried out in the cemetery this month and further work that he had identified for future ranger days. He further reported that at least 6 graves were currently flooded at the back of the cemetery.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

c) To consider the adoption of Ash Parish Burial Ground Rules and Regulations.

Cllr Thomson had circulated via email the prepared Ash Burial Ground Rules and Regulations for approval. Some comments were made that required checking before the regulations could be approved therefore it was agreed to defer the adoption to the next meeting. Cllr Parker thanked Cllr Thomson for his efforts in preparing both the Ash Burial Ground Rules and the draft Tree Policy, acknowledging the amount of work that had gone into preparing these documents such that they could be presented to the Parish Council for adoption.

ACTION: Cllr Thomson

d) To report on the proposed new cemetery extension. Cllr Defries reported that upon reviewing the title deeds for land owned by Ash Parish Council, it was discovered that the proprietor address was incorrect.

It was decided to update the register entries to the Pavilion address. Cllr Defries therefore requested the authority to incur costs of around £9 for the legal title, plan and any documents referred to from the Land Registry.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to authorise a spend of £9 on Ash Cemetery Land Registry documents (Budget line – Cemetery burial ground).**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to register the title deed of Ash Cemetery to Ash Parish Council, The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground, Main Street, Ash, Somerset TA12 6NS. ACTION: Cllr Defries**

20/14. Public open session. A member of the public asked for an update on the planning enforcement relating to replacement windows at 5 Main Street. The clerk reported that she had received correspondence stating that the issue had been passed to SSDC conservation officer.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

20/15. To be discussed in a closed session. *To resolve to exclude the press and public under s1 (2) Admissions to Public Meetings Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

a) Chairs award for service to the community. Cllrs voted and decided on the one person to go forward for the award, from the 4 nominations put forward.

b) To agree and approve the clerks contract.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed for the chairman and clerk to sign the agreed clerks contract and attached job description.

20/16. Date of next meeting – 6th April 2020.

10pm – Meeting closed

STAY IN THE LOOP

Quick and easy ways to get news and information from

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

WEBSITE

visit www.ashpcsomerset.com

ASH ALERT EMAILS

sign up at ashalertemails@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

follow us on **ASH ALERTS**

VISIT THE BENEFICE FACEBOOK PAGE
Churches of Martock, Kingsbury Episcopi and
Ash, Somerset

DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended the CPR and defibrillator training. Whilst you don't need to be trained to use a defibrillator as there are clear verbal instructions when using the device, there will be more training sessions. We want to train as many residents as possible, including children. Please register your interest with Cllr Gayle Defries at gayle.defries@ashpcsomerset.com or ring 07795411970. Please leave your name, address, email and contact number.

Here are a few comments from the last training session:

- For me it was time well spent. The all important CPR training was a useful reminder of earlier, much earlier, training. Defibrillator training was all new which together with the trainer's straight forward advice on how to react in this type of medical emergency has given me added confidence to get involved should the need ever arise. I would urge others of all ages to spend a couple of hours learning these potentially lifesaving skills
- I thought John was excellent, the way he presented CPR, also stressing the importance of not being worried if you lose count or do not get things quite right. You will have tried.
- I didn't realise you may need to shave an extremely hairy chest to get a good stick with the defib electropads so they are in direct contact with the patient's skin!
- We both found the information and demonstration very informative and very helpful although we hope we do not have to use it!

Please keep donating! Replacement pads are over £100 each and if not used, they have a shelf life between 2-4 years. Donations can be given to our parish councillors, the collection pot in The Bell Pub and you can donate online at

<https://www.gofundme.com/ash-parish-defibrillator-fund>

Together we will be beat heartbreak forever.



DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

LOCATIONS OF AED's

- 1. Outside on the Village Hall, Main Street, Ash**
- 2. Outside on the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Main Street, Ash (by the Clerk's post box)**

Both AED's are in unlocked cabinets as requested by the emergency services. Please note there is a set of Adult pads ready to use and attached in each AED. The adult pads can be used for children over the age of 8 years or over 25kg. There is a set of children's pads for 0-8 years in the carry case together with a First Responder kit ie face shield, scissors to cut through clothes, razor.

Should you need to use the AED please notify Ash Parish Council after the event as we need to check the device and replace the pads.

