

ASH PARISH COUNCIL



NOTICE BOARD

November 2021



Welcome to our New Parish Councillors

The Parish Council would like to extend a warm welcome to its newly elected Vice Chair Caz Halfhide and to co-opted members, Steve Davey and Roger Coombes. The Council now has its full quota of seven Councillors again and looks forward to working together to promote the interests and well-being of the parish of Ash.

ARIEL MOTORS PRESENTATION

You may well have heard that Ariel Motors have bought 43 acres of land on the outskirts of Ash, adjacent to the A303, to relocate their factory from Crewkerne. They have approached Ash Parish Council to organise a public presentation of their plans, which will be held at Ash Village Hall on the 17th November from 20:00-21:00. To maintain some level of Covid safety, we will be restricting numbers, so booking a place on the following link will be the only way to get in! If numbers are high, then we will look at organising a second session from 21:00 to 22:00.

As this event is organised by the Ash Parish Council, we will give priority to people from this Parish.

Some places are being held over for those who are not internet savvy: they can book a place on 07783 475200

Regretfully, to manage numbers, if you do not have a confirmed place at the presentation you will not be able to attend, but Ariel Motors have indicated that they will be putting the presentation online, and are looking at organising sessions for neighbouring villages.

To request a place at the presentation, please head to the following link, or if you aren't comfortable using the online form, call on 07783 475200

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1asS4QNB42CBbjio4-Q56kJGgpq2m9IDgC9BAK6BICs8/>

Ash Parish Council

MARTOCK AND SOUTH PETHERTON DOCTORS SURGERIES

At a recent Ash Parish Council meeting, public concerns were brought to the attention of the Parish Council relating to problems some people are having with contacting these surgeries, obtaining appointments, or seeing GPs.

The Parish Council invited a representative of the Martock and South Petherton Patient Participation Group (PPG) to attend our next Parish Council meeting to be held on 6th December 2021 to address public concerns within the parish and to provide information about accessing GP services at Martock and South Petherton surgeries.

We are pleased to confirm that Paul Harding, Chair of Martock and South Petherton PPG, Lisa Tabner, the Practice Manager and Dr Maeve McInerney, the Joint Clinical Lead for the Practice all accepted our invitation and will attend the Parish Council Meeting on 6th December to answer your questions.

We anticipate that higher than usual numbers of Ash residents will wish to attend this meeting and as we have limited space at the Pavilion and to avoid overcrowding we ask anyone wishing to attend the meeting on 6th December to **preregister by 20th November**. Registration will be on a strictly first come/first served basis with precedence given to Ash Parish residents.

To preregister either phone or email Julie Ferguson our Parish Clerk on clerk@ashpcsomerset.com or 07783 475200 no later than **20th November** and provide the following information: -

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Number of attendees:

Ash Parish Council



LEST WE FORGET Remembering



Arthur Beckey	1891 – 1916
Robert Gundry Hodges	1880 – 1918
William Ernest Worner	1923 – 1944
Leonard Thomas Bush	1919 – 1944
Frederick Stacey	1904 – 1943

ASH MILLENNIUM WOOD

Receives Another Green Flag Award

Congratulations and thanks from Ash Parish Council to Mick Wooden and the other volunteers for the excellent job they do in managing Ash Millennium Wood on behalf of the council.

Ash Millennium Wood is one of only 14 sites in the South West to receive a Green Flag Community Award this year. The "Mystery Shopper" judge concluded that the wood is "A wonderful site that just seems to get things right with a modest mix. The array of habitats, learning opportunities and informal activities make it a hit with families and dog walkers alike. Well done to everyone involved in maintaining this fantastic community site for all the residents and schools that value it." More about the Green Flag Award at: <https://greenflagaward.org/>

The wood has also been given another In Your Neighbourhood award.

It's Your Neighbourhood is part of the wider RHS Britain in Bloom initiative. Benchmarking levels are used to recognise and applaud the achievements of the participants as well as to provide them with some feedback and guidance for the future. Our assessor has judged Ash Millennium Wood to be "Thriving".

Thanks to everyone who has helped look after the wood this past year.

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 <https://www.facebook.com/Ash-Alerts-104800641092793/>

AVIAN FLU PREVENTION

Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service have advised us that as of 5pm on the 3 November 2021 an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was declared across Great Britain. This means that all bird keepers in Great Britain (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard are required by law to take a range of bio-security precautions:

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers

- Keep domestic ducks and geese separate from other poultry.
- Ensure the areas where birds are kept are unattractive to wild birds, for example by netting ponds, and by removing wild bird food sources.
- Feed and water their birds in enclosed areas to discourage wild birds.
- Minimise movement into and out of bird enclosures.
- Cleanse and disinfect footwear and keep areas where birds live clean and tidy.
- Reduce any existing contamination by cleansing and disinfecting concrete areas and fencing off wet or boggy areas.
- Keep free ranging birds within fenced areas, and ponds, watercourses and permanent standing water must be fenced off (except in specific circumstances, e.g., zoo birds).

Schedule 2 –Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with over 500 poultry or other captive birds Keepers with more than 500 birds will need to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites, workers will need to change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures and site vehicles will need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

Full details of what is required can be found on the government website: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1030990/aipz-declaration.pdf

To assist all bird keepers in complying with the new rules, the biosecurity guidance and self-assessment checklists have been updated and all the latest information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity>

Remember that if you have poultry, it is your responsibility to keep updated on any outbreaks and an easy way to do this is to sign up for text notifications - register with the APHA alerts service.

PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

You should always be picking up after your dog but with more people using the Recreation Ground, Ash Millennium Wood and local footpaths for their daily walk and recreation it is even more important that you do. Please can we remind you to be a responsible dog owner and do not take your dog into the children's playground and pick up after you dog and bin it.

ASH ALERT EMAILS

The Ash Alert Email system was set up by the parish council to keep residents informed in a more timely fashion about parish council matters and other activities and events going on in the village. Signing up now is even more important in these times of change to make sure you are kept informed.

If you haven't already done so, why not opt-in now to Ash Alert Emails. To do so, please send your Name, Email Address, Postal Address and phone number to the Parish Council at ashalertemails@gmail.com and ask to be added to the Ash Alert Emails list.

New Data protection regulations came into force two years ago which the parish council fully complies with. Your email address and other contact details will always be kept safe and will never be shared with any third party nor will they be visible to other recipients of Ash Alert Emails.

You can unsubscribe at any time if you no longer wish to receive them.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH GARDENING SESSIONS AT ASH PRIMARY SCHOOL

I wonder if you may be able to help me. I volunteer at Ash Primary school running gardening sessions with the school children and maintaining the school vegetable garden and new rewilding area.

I could really do with some more volunteers to help maintain the area, this could be as much or as little as anyone could offer, with the children, or without, whenever suits someone. The only stipulation would be that the volunteer would need to be DBS checked by the school before they started.

To find out more information or to register your interest please contact the school direct or myself on 07933730064 or email me at sowena1@hotmail.com
Thank you for your time

Sowena

Be a good Neighbour.... PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS

You may think parking on the pavement is helpful to other drivers. But what about pedestrians?

Please don't park on the pavements in the village partially or wholly you could obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments, children and people with prams or pushchairs.

If someone walks on the road to get round a car, they could get into a serious accident.

Please think pedestrian.

Draft Minutes of Ash Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st November 2021 at 19:30hrs

Present – Councillors

Caz Halfhide (Chair), Nick Bluck, Henry Guy, Jonathan Mock, Roger Coombes, Antoinette Groves.

In attendance:

Julie Ferguson - Parish Clerk & 8 members of the public.

Public Open Session

Councillor Halfhide opened the meeting by thanking Councillor Groves for her time & efforts on behalf of the parish during time spent as Chair, as she had now stepped down.

The PC advised that blocked drains & potholes could be reported on the Somerset County Council website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/#problems-on-the-road>.

You can also report these and many other problems via the Fix My Street page which can be found in the drop-down menu under environment of the village website <https://www.ashpcsomerset.com>

County & District Councillors Reports

There were no Councillors present.

20:10 – Meeting opened

Councillor Halfhide took the Chair.

21/106 To elect a Chair.

It was unanimously agreed to defer electing a Chair until the next meeting when all Councillors planned to be present.

21/107 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Davey (work commitments) and Councillor Bloomfield.

21/108 Declarations of interests

Councillors Bluck & Coombes declared an interest in agenda item 7a.

21/109 Matters to report from the previous meeting

Councillor Halfhide had completed further research on Grant Policies and agreed to bring something forward for adoption at a future meeting.

The clerk reported that 3 representatives from the PPG¹ for Martock & South Petherton Surgery had agreed to attend the December meeting to assist with problems that residents were having accessing GP¹ services and appointments. It was agreed that Councillor Groves would send out an Ash Alert as a matter of urgency to ask residents of Ash to pre-register so numbers of attendees could be managed.

Councillor Groves asked for PC agreement to a spend of £20/month for 300 copies of a 'Noticeboard' style Newsletter. The PC agreed that this was a good extension to the current communication channels within the parish.

ACTION: Councillor Halfhide & Groves

21/110 Planning Decisions Report.

None.

21/111 Planning Applications – 21/00889-891 & 222-227 – Witcombe Farm Ecological Appraisal.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no comments on the report.

21/112 Finance - To report the following payments:

J Ferguson – clerk's salary and expenses	£615.55
HMRC ¹ – PAYE ¹	£150.44
Yeovil Shopmobility – Grant	£50.00
Pinnacle Accountancy – Payslips	£38.40
SSE ¹ – Unmetered electricity annual charge	£44.02
Ash Village Hall – August PC meeting (2hrs)	£20.00
A Groves – Christmas Tree Lights	£44.99

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed that all payments be made.

21/113 Finance – To approve the cashbook & bank reconciliation.

RESOLVED: The cashbook & bank reconciliation were approved & signed.

21/114 Finance – To agree 2022-23 draft budget

RESOLVED: The 2022-23 draft budget was unanimously agreed to be put forward to the December meeting for approval.

21/115 Clerks Report (to include correspondence)

The clerk reported that The Bell Inn Defibrillator Fund collection had totalled £96.29.

Councillor Bloomfield had chased up the re-opening of the footbridge at Milton and also was trying to obtain new 30mph VAS¹ signs as replacements for the 2 that had failed many years ago. He had met with County Highways representatives to progress the siting of 2 bus shelters in the parish, primarily for the school buses and was hopeful that 50% grant funding for the shelters would be obtainable from SCC¹.

21/116 Pavilion and Playground – To agree speed control measures, to include costs, at the entrance to the Pavilion car park

Councillor Mock presented his findings and recommendations for the installation of speed humps and associated signage. He offered to carry out the installation free of charge, which was gratefully accepted.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to a maximum budget of £700 for the purchase of 2 sets of speed bumps and 2 signs, to include fixings.

ACTION: Councillor Mock

Date of next meeting – 6th December 2021 (date & location tbc).

¹ Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs

¹ Pay As You Earn

¹ Scottish & Southern Energy

¹ Vehicle Activated Speed

¹ Somerset County Council