

ASH PARISH COUNCIL



NOTICE BOARD

December 2021



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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Cllr Steve Davey on being formally elected as the new Chair of Ash Parish Council at the Parish Council Meeting on 6th December 2021.

Congratulation to Cllr Caz Halfhide on receiving The Chair's Award for Service to the Community 2021 from Somerset County Council in acknowledgment of the contribution made by Caz to the community of Ash.

ARIEL MOTOR COMPANY PUBLIC PRESENTATION NOTES

Notes from Public Meeting at Ash Village Hall, on the 17th November, where Simon Saunders, Owner and Director of the Ariel Motor Company, made a presentation and answered questions about the company's proposed relocation to a site on the outskirts of Ash.

The meeting was facilitated by the Parish Council as a public meeting, and members of the Parish Council attended as parishioners of Ash, Witcombe, Milton and Durnfield.

With thanks to Neil Bloomfield for his attendance and input as one of our District Councillors.

General information from the presentation

- The site (undisclosed value per acre) will be subject to an uplift clause on the successfully application for planning.
- Currently Ariel Motor Company 34 employees but want to increase by 75% which would make approx. 60 employees.
- Employees come from around Somerset and generally drive themselves which will be the main traffic movement in and out of the factory.
- Up to 110 cars currently manufactured annually but want to increase 75% which would make it approx. 192 cars produced per annum.
- The site would have its own access (main entrance just offset of the A303 junction) using existing entrance to the fields.
- There is no intention to create a test track on the site.
- The favourable design for the building is a simple but elegant, modern building which will entirely be hidden behind the existing trees. Ariel showed images at the presentation, will be in a position to release images to the wider public shortly.

- The build would hopefully incorporate a self-sufficient design including water, power, sewage management and therefore being carbon neutral where possible. Their aim is to be climate positive/carbon capturing, which is in excess of carbon neutral.
- Only 21 acres are to be purchased and not the 43 acres as previously understood.
- The actual land/building that will be developed will be 2 acres.
- The additional 19 acres will be split into -
11.5 acres of stewardship planting (basically wild borders that would incorporate wildflowers, insect food and meadow style grounds).
7.5 acres will be planted with 1100 tree whips (basically thin trees) per hectare (1 acre = .405 hectares) which equates to 3.035 hectares in total and therefore a quantity of approximately 3338 native species tree species to be planted. That is a minimum number under 'Woodland Creation'.

Residents questions and the answers given (paraphrased).

The comments included are further qualifications and elaborations from Simon Saunders, received after the meeting.

Q1. Where would the cars produced be tested?

A1. On specialised tracks around the UK.

Q2. Vehicle assembly. Is it not noisy testing the engines?

A2. Testing only occurs in regulated hours (working hours) but there are regulations for sound levels emitted by vehicles that must be complied too. *We actually don't 'test' engines although we do obviously start cars. We don't have a dynamometer to test engines or rolling road to test cars. On our current site we do have noise levels in and outside working hours which could be incorporated in any planning permission.*

Q3. How would you generate your own electricity?

A3. PV cells ideally but not entirely sure as PV cells are affected to weather conditions and therefore effectiveness. Not entirely sure where they would be located.

Q4. Are planners receptive to the building design?

A4. Seem favourable.

At this point there was concerns raised over further development of the land and Ariel Motor Company representative, Simon Saunders said that there could be possible covenants on the non-developed land to control possible future use and development.

Q5. What is the time scale of the development?

A5. Ariel hope to conclude purchase by the end of December 2021 and full planning granted by December 2022, with construction commencing early part of 2023.

Q6. Operational days/working hours?

A6. Monday to Friday 0800 to 1700hrs, Saturdays 0800 to 1230hrs primarily for an opportunity for customers to visit and test drive vehicles along the A303. *We do have*

very strict policies on test drives – all are accompanied, we drive first, no overtaking is allowed and all speed limits must be adhered to. We probably only have one or two customer visits a week at the most.

Q7. Is your museum open to the public?

A7. Try not to open or encourage the public as the company isn't large enough to entertain general visitors.

Q8. What is wrong with acquiring established industrial land for your site?

A8. Primarily the cost of the land required to provide sufficient parking for the staff. Ariel Motor Company is a unique business and being located on an industrial park would attract unwanted visitors. Also, there is the issue of confidentiality.

Q9. Was the land offered to sale on the commercial market?

A9. No not aware.

At this point District Councillor Bloomfield was asked by Ariel Motor Company's Simon Saunders for guidance and District Councillor Bloomfield replied that it hasn't been offered for sale to any other parties.

Q10. Is that not unfair that it wasn't offered on the commercial market?

A10. The County Council would have to comment on this.

Q11. With this development, does it not create opportunities to infill or further development of land in the vicinity.

A11. Answered by District Councillor Bloomfield. There is a danger as councils are encouraging infilling as to stop the urban sprawl. The discussion then diverted to the supposed school to be built next door to the site and therefore the added increased development to the general area and the proximity to the village.

My understanding from SSDC and Somerset Council was that the sites, both school and 'ours' were distanced sufficiently from Ash so that infilling could not occur.

Q12. What about increased traffic caused by the factory site as you have already said that you have employees from all over and the Parish is overloaded with traffic and it is already a rat run?

A12. Staff and test drives would be discouraged from driving through the village. *Nearly all employees come from South of the A303 – Yeovil, Sherborne, Crewkerne, Chard, Ilminster, Stoke sub Hamdon, Hardington, Cokers, Henstridge, Honiton, Taunton. One coming from Somerton would still come along the A303 as it's easier! It wouldn't be in our interests to take customers through the village and I am confident that customers and deliveries would arrive via the A303.*

Q13. Do you have the future right to buy the remaining 22 acre field behind your proposed development site?

A13. *We will not have an option to buy the remaining 22 acre fields. One part of these fields is apparently an option for the school. The rest I think may be sold, possibly to a farmer – but I don't know whether these fields are going to be sold or who, if anybody, is going to buy them. The only access to these fields is from the bottom lane parallel to/off the A303 so this would prevent anything other than farm use I think. There will be no access over the land we are buying.*

Q14. Does Ariel believe that it will be or become part of the village and possibly help out with community projects?

A14. Definitely so but they are a small company and limited to what they can do. *We are very happy to try and help raise money for village projects*

Q15. Would there be public access to the stewardship and tree planted grounds?

A15. They would look into it and see if it was workable with the business concept.

Q16. Percentage of export?

A16. Used to be 40-45% but currently 30% but would like to increase.

Q17. Are you aware of any road improvements i.e. roundabout to deal with the additional traffic from your development and the proposed school?

A17. Not aware at the present.

At this point the residents present were interested in any information in relation to the school, but as no actual details or plans have been submitted, the PC could only refer back to information presented to the PC via a zoom meeting last year. Some of the details seemed to greatly differ from figures quoted by District Councillor Bloomfield.

Parishioners have been invited to supply and thoughts, comments or questions on the proposed development to Ariel Motor Company on feedback@arielmotor.co.uk

FOUND

Found in Burrough Street, Ash, a white unbranded earbud/earphone case.

Just the case no earbuds, it has been plugged in to charge and it still works.

If you have lost your case or know someone that has, please email ashalertemails@gmail.com to find out where you can collect it.

MARTOCK & DISTRICT u3a (The University of the Third Age)

u3a meetings take place at Martock Parish Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 2.30pm – 4.00pm.

12th January 2022 Brimsmore Garden Centre. 'What's in a Name' A light- hearted talk on the classification of plants. And the recent renaming of familiar plants.

9th February 2022 A Talk Animal Passions with Richard Kay Pictures Director of Lawrence Auctioneers, 'British Art from Marmaduke to David Shepherd.

For more information on the u3a visit their website www.u3a.org.uk or telephone 01460 240755

FESTIVE RECYCLING WHEN AND WHERE

The festive fortnight always means changes to collections and recycle sites.

Recycle sites stay on their usual weekly schedules but all sites close on three days: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

PS: Want your Christmas and New Year recycling and rubbish taken? Please "park smart" so your collection crews and their trucks can get through.



Festive collections 2021-22

Usual collection day	Revised collection day	Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 24 December	No change	Monday 3 January	Tuesday 4 January
Monday 27 December	Tuesday 28 December	Tuesday 4 January	Wednesday 5 January
Tuesday 28 December	Wednesday 29 December	Wednesday 5 January	Thursday 6 January
Wednesday 29 December	Thursday 30 December	Thursday 6 January	Friday 7 January
Thursday 30 December	Friday 31 December	Friday 7 January	Saturday 8 January
Friday 31 December	Sunday 2 January 2022	No garden waste pick-ups in festive fortnight, above. All collections resume from Monday 10 January. Recycle sites on usual schedules except all close Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Extra site open days: Dulverton Monday 27 December, Crewkerne Tuesday 28 December	





WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR REAL CHRISTMAS TREE

Aside from using it in your wildlife corner or chipping it to add to your compost bin, your tree can be dropped off at any recycle site. Garden waste subscribers can leave their tree - up to six feet with decorations removed - out for their first collection in 2022.

And, for a donation, there are Somerset charity tree collections.

Around Yeovil and elsewhere, St Margaret's Hospice Care will collect trees. To book, search for "Christmas tree" at st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

CAN YOU RECYCLE WRAPPING PAPER?

Yes, if your wrapping paper is actually paper, you can recycle it but plastic-shiny-metallic wrapping cannot and should go in your rubbish bin. Before recycling, remove sticky tape, gift tags, bows, ribbons, and then add it to the paper in your kerbside box, or put in the special wrapping paper containers at recycle sites after Christmas and cut up old cards as gift tags.

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 www.facebook.com/Ash-Alerts

BRINGING THE LIBRARY TO YOU

Somerset Libraries provides a Home Library Service, available to anyone who loves reading but are unable to visit their local library. This includes people who may be housebound, living in long term care, carers, or people who are vulnerable due to long term conditions or disabilities. The service is open to people of all ages.

How it works

When you contact the HLS, they will arrange for a volunteer to visit you. You can discuss what you like to read and the best times to visit you, usually on fortnightly or monthly basis. The volunteer will go to the library to choose your books and deliver them to you.

Volunteers can also support you in accessing free e-Books, e-Audiobooks and e-Magazines. They can also provide you with audio books, DVDs and other items. There is normally a charge for these items, though exemptions do apply for audio books if you are blind, partially sighted or have a condition that makes reading printed books difficult.

Who the volunteers are

The volunteers have been DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked and have given references. They will ask you to give them some basic information when you request the service to help match volunteers to support you.

Good Neighbour Scheme

If you have a neighbour or a friend who is willing to visit the library for you, they can register as a 'good neighbour'. They will then be able to choose and collect books and other items on your behalf.

Email or speak to staff at your local library to sign up for the scheme.

For more information about this service contact Kirsty Jenssen
email: kjenssen@somerset.gov.uk or tel: **07814 079831**

MARTOCK AND SOUTH PETHERTON DOCTORS SURGERIES

The Parish Council invited a representative of the Martock and South Petherton Patient Participation Group (MSPPPG) to attend our last Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2021 to address public concerns within the parish and to provide information about accessing GP services, obtaining appointments, or seeing GPs 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 to attend the Parish Council Meeting to answer your questions.

It was agreed by all that more needed to be done to keep patients informed of the changing services and the surgeries would like to work with Parish Councils to get their message out to the community. Going forward Ash Parish Council volunteered to publish updates from the surgeries via this newsletter.

MSPPPG representatives attend the Martock Farmers Market 2nd Saturday of the month for a meet and greet. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the MSPPPG stop by and have a chat or if you would like to receive their regular updates, please contact Paul Harding chair.mspppg@gmail.com

Part of the MSPPPG role is to try to keep patients well informed and so we would like to share the information below which has been written and supplied by the Practice. A full version of this leaflet is available from the surgeries.

SYMPHONY HEALTHCARE SERVICES LTD

The practice has been owned and run by Symphony Healthcare Services Ltd (SHS) since December 2018. Is this privatised healthcare? The short answer is no, as all GP practices are independent private businesses who provide services to the NHS under contract. Most GP practices are owned by GP partners their income coming from the profits. However, SHS is wholly owned by Yeovil Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and run by experienced NHS staff with local knowledge. It is in the business constitution that any profits are returned to the practices and therefore remain within the local healthcare system.

SHS have specialised in taking over practices that have struggled and may otherwise have closed, and supports their turnaround and return to viability. GP partners make the decision to approach SHS, and SHS work with them, if they wish to stay, to rebuild the practice for the future.

APPOINTMENT SYSTEM

Registered patients access **Askmygp** to request assistance. For information/registration visit the surgery website www.martocksurgery.nhs.uk
Online Askmygp Is currently available Mon-Thurs 7.30am-4.00pm and Fri 7.30am-2pm.

Call on 01460 240707 and select option 1. A receptionist will add your query to **Askmygp** for you. Please be patient as the phone lines can be very busy especially in the morning.

Please provide an outline of your symptoms/query so a GP can triage appropriately. Please advise when the best time is to reply to you. A clinician will call or email you, as per your preference, to discuss your concerns. Often your they are able to satisfy your request in that initial contact but can arrange a further call or face to face appointment if needed.

UPDATE

Our GPs are currently working at South Petherton surgery and our nursing team, including Nurse Practitioners work at both sites. We do not have enough rooms for everyone to work over both sites as we are required to keep rooms available at Martock (our amber site for covid) so that we can see any suspect covid patients there without potentially contaminating a highly populated area such as South Petherton surgery. The rooms we keep aside for this purpose are fully cordoned off and there are strict protocols in place for the use etc.

Most routine services had resumed until recent restrictions on routine bloods, due to a national shortage of bloods bottles, came into force. We await guidance on when these tests can re-start.

COMPLAINTS & COMPLIMENTS

The practice welcomes feedback, positive and negative, so that they can learn from your experience. If you have a complaint or concern, please contact them so that we can investigate and reply. Please note that the practice cannot respond to comments on social media due to patient confidentiality.

It's also good to receive positive comments too, even a simple thank you means a lot on a busy day!

Draft Minutes of Ash Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021 at 19:30hrs

Present – Councillors

Caz Halfhide (Chair part-time), Steve Davey (Chair part-time) Nick Bluck, Henry Guy, Jonathan Mock, Antoinette Groves.

In attendance:

Julie Ferguson - Parish Clerk, Neil Bloomfield – County Councillor & 9 members of the public.

Question & answer session with representatives from Martock & South Petherton Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Mr Paul Harding (Chair), Lisa Tabner (Practice Manager) & Dr Maeve McInerney attended the meeting to hear concerns & offer assistance to parishioners who were struggling to contact their surgery and make appointments.

They explained that it had proved difficult to communicate the process of registering for Patient Access and 'Ask My GP' widely around parishes during the Covid pandemic and were still exploring opportunities to reach out to those patients who were not confident using the internet. They still took phone calls & regularly talked

patients through signing up for 'Ask My GP', as this was the system that now logged all appointments & allocated patient priorities.

Concern around elderly parishioners who were still falling through the cracks was expressed and the PC offered to include surgery leaflets explaining the steps required to get access and to distribute them along with the monthly PC Newsletter, ensuring everyone had been reached. A further suggestion of placing a regular advert in The Leveller would be looked into, with cost being a factor.

The team were thanked for coming along and speaking at the meeting.

County & District Councillors Reports.

Councillor Bloomfield reported on Unitary authority progress and the impact on election dates and of potential ward boundary changes.

Public Open Session

Councillor Groves & her team of willing volunteers were thanked for their efforts towards the Christmas decorations & Tree. The PC thanked a parishioner, Mr Aaron Brown for his kind donation of £50 towards the defibrillator fund.

19:45 – Meeting opened

Councillor Halfhide took the Chair.

21/118 To elect a Chair.

RESOLVED: Councillor Davey was proposed, seconded and duly elected as Chair.

21/119 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Coombes (work commitments).

21/120 Declarations of interests

Councillor Davey declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13b (21/132 b).

21/121 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

21/122 Matters to report from the previous meeting

Councillor Mock reported that the speed humps on the Pavilion accessway had been installed and were DDA¹ compliant. Councillors thanked Councillor Mock for his efforts.

21/123 Planning Decisions Report - 21/02433/HOU - Lansdale, Burrough Street, Ash. Erection of a single storey extension & garage conversion.

Approved. Noted.

21/124 Planning Applications – 21/02312/LBC – Lower Witcombe Farm. Alterations to roof & openings of existing garage.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council supported the application as an improvement on the building.

¹ Disability Discrimination Act 2005

21/125 Finance - To report the following payments:

Clerk's salary and expenses	£1707.06
Wessex Water – Pavilion (6 mths)	£77.44
SSDC – Ranger Sept & Oct	£372.96
JTM Construction – Speed humps & signage	£605.06

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

21/126 Finance – To approve a grant request of £500 for Ash In Bloom

RESOLVED: The grant of £500 was unanimously approved.

21/127 Finance – To note receipt of CIL² payment of £1699.20

Noted.

21/128 Finance – To agree 2022-23 budget

RESOLVED: The 2022-23 budget was unanimously approved to be used as the basis for setting the precept (Appendix A).

21/129 Parish Council Matters – To consider appointing a solicitor for general legal advice

The requirement to have a solicitor pre-arranged to instruct at short notice should issues requiring legal expertise occur was agreed & the clerk was asked to obtain rates from local firms for agreement at a future meeting.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

21/130 Parish Matters – To discuss the re-painting and enforcement of parking in the disabled bays in the Village car park.

Councillor Davey reported that the disabled bays were badly in need of re-painting and continually occupied by vehicles not displaying a disabled badge. It was agreed to re-paint the faded marking & to consider penalties & enforcement tactics in consultation with the School Head Teacher.

ACTION: Councillors Davey & Mock

21/131 Pavilion and Playground – To report on the meeting with HAGS regarding replacement play equipment.

Councillor Guy reported on a recent meeting with a representative from play equipment supplier & installer HAGs, Councillor Davey & the clerk were also in attendance. He put forwards 3 large items of play apparatus to replace & enhance the current equipment in the play area. Questions relating to the surface that would be installed and concerns over the ongoing maintenance of any surface were discussed and Councillor Guy agreed to enquire. The clerk agreed to look for additional suppliers and quotes for comparison. Councillor Guy was thanked for making considerable progress towards updating the play area equipment and everyone agreed that this needed to be treated as a priority.

ACTION: Councillor Guy & Parish Clerk

² Community Infrastructure Levy

21/132 Exempt Session – Exclusion of the Press & Public.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to resolve that under section 1, paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- a. To agree clerk's contractual details.
- b. To agree the Cemetery accessway lease.

22:00 - Meeting closed

Date of next meeting – 10th January 2022.

Appendix A – Agreed 2022-23 Budget

Budget Line 2022-23	FINAL
PARISH	
street planting scheme	£500.00
Ranger	£2,000.00
Millennium Wood maintenance grant	£600.00
General maintenance - Grass & Grounds	£4,200.00
General Maintenance - Trees	£1,000.00
Play area safety inspection	£200.00
fencing and play area repairs/maintenance	£500.00
Pavilion maintenance(inc. servicing & cleaning)	£1,000.00
Parish utilities (Electric, water, WiFi)	£1,100.00
Pavilion car park and accessway maintenance	£1,000.00
Defibrillator maintenance	£200.00
TOTAL	£12,300.00
OFFICE & ADMIN	
clerks salary	£9,000.00
audit fees	£500.00
insurance	£1,600.00
Subs (Parish online, Scribe, NALC& SALC,ICO)	£550.00
S137 Grants	£1,000.00
General admin	£1,500.00
Communication costs (RENAME)	£500.00
Training (Councillors & Clerk)	£280.00
Legal costs (FOI, data protection)NEW	£1,000.00
TOTAL	£15,930.00
PROJECTS (*ring fenced)	
*Defibrillator - replacement unit & parts fund	£100.00
*pavilion refurbishment	£3,000.00
*churchyard walls & gate maintenance	£1,000.00
*laptop replacement fund - NEW	£150.00
*Website & software updates - NEW	£0.00
*Bus stop shelter	£0.00
*play area equipment replacement	£6,770.00
Cemetery extension	£3,000.00
TOTAL	£14,020.00
TOTAL	£42,250.00



A partridge in a pear tree

Christmas And New Year Message From Ash Parish Council

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and I know we are all hoping for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

2021 is perhaps not a year that we will look back at with entirely happy memories but in some ways the Pandemic has helped people to realise that we all rely on each other in so many ways. I have heard many stories of Ash residents going out of their way to help their neighbours and indeed complete strangers, who have now become their friends.

I would suggest that the community spirit is in fact alive and well in our Village and I'm sure we will all have experienced the feeling of support that has been engendered by many residents. We want to thank all those who have been able to support our community in so many ways, during the last 12 months. We hope and that within a few months we will all have received the vaccine and booster to protect our families and each other and we will be able to start the work of rebuilding our lives and returning to the freedoms, we perhaps took for granted.

2022 will be a year of changes. In May we will all be voting for Councillors to represent us on the new Somerset Unitary Authority who will then be responsible for the services formerly supplied by the old authorities. There will also be local elections for Ash Parish Council and we do encourage people of all ages to consider standing for election. Many people have made Ash their home and put down roots in our village. Ash has so much to be proud of and we can all share in that feeling of goodwill which is a result of just saying "hello.....how are you" which reduces our feelings of isolation.

We hope everyone is able to spend some special time with their loved ones over the Christmas period. The Council and Parish Clerk join in sending all Ash Parish Residents our sincere best wishes for a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.