



ASH PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE BOARD



October 2022

Editor: Antoinette Groves email: ashalertemails@gmail.com

A CASUAL VACANCY HAS ARISEN ON ASH PARISH COUNCIL TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION

The District Council has confirmed that no requests for election have been received and the Parish Council may proceed to fill the casual vacancy by co-option.

Ever thought about becoming a Councillor? if you did you could:

- Help represent the views of local people
- Have your say about issues local people care about
- Help decide how local money is spent
- Help decide what projects can improve our community
- Help get the services our community needs

It is not necessary to be qualified in any particular area. All that is required is that you are a local person with the desire to represent and improve our community. Meetings are usually held at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the Pavilion, Ash.

To qualify, you need to be 18 or over & meet at least one of the following criteria:

- registered as a local government elector for the Parish of Ash
- have occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the parish during the whole of the 12 months prior to the date of your application
- have had your principal or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the date of your application in the parish
- have lived in the parish or within 3 miles of it during the 12 months prior to your application.

If you are interested in being considered for the vacancy please write or email the Parish Clerk, Julie Ferguson, Clerk to Ash Parish Council, Chilthorne Knapp Chilthorne Domer BA22 8QZ Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com Tel: 07783 475200 to register your interest with a few words stating why you would like to join us.

If you would like to have an informal chat about becoming a Parish Councillor contact: Cllr Steve Davey, Chair, Email: steve.davey@ashpcsomerset.com

ASH VILLAGE HALL REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 304466

VACANCY: SECRETARY/MINUTE TAKER

Starting from 1st January 2023 (or earlier by negotiation)

Approximately 16 hours per annum to include 4 x Committee Meetings.

Please contact: Richard Pither (Chairman) Tel: 01935 822068

DON'T LET YOUR HEDGE BECOME A HAZARD

It is that time of year when everything in the garden has grown significantly during the summer months but unfortunately this has given rise to several complaints that overgrown gardens are obstructing pavements or obscuring sight lines for drivers. In particular this can be a problem along stretches of Main Street where the pavement is particularly narrow.

When hedges tree or shrub overhangs the highway, pedestrians can injure themselves from the impact with the vegetation and alternatively, pedestrians can be forced towards the carriageway, which can result in an increased risk of an accident. Responsibility for cutting back vegetation from boundaries fronting the highway and pavements lies with the landowners or occupiers of their property. Landowners must also remove any debris from the road surface to prevent nuisance and to stop it blocking surface water drainage systems.

Please can you check if any of your boundaries with the highway or pavements has offending growth and, if it has, make arrangements to remove any overgrown vegetation.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

ttro805973SS - Milton Lane, Ash.

The works are expected to commence on **26th October 2022** and last for **3 days** to enable **Wessex Water to carry out phased works to replace chambers.**

Please follow the link to view the above road closure;
<https://one.network/?tm=130308227> and the link for the **Notice 2**:https://api-gb.one.network/downloads/tm/1111/03-notice-2_130308227_3489993_655a082f71.pdf

The order becomes effective on 20th October 2022 and will remain in force for eighteen months.

The contractor has indicated that access for Emergency Services through the site **is not permitted** on this occasion.

For any further information about this closure please contact **Wessex Water** on **0345 600 4 600**, quoting reference: **ttro805973SS**

MARTOCK AND DISTRICT u3a

Wednesday 12th October 2.15pm The Parish Hall Martock

Service Dogs UK - the work in training assistance dogs to work alongside military and blue light veterans suffering with PTSD. How the rescue dogs are sourced and assessed to placement and by using rescue dogs they aim to rescue two lives at a time.

Wednesday 9th November 2.15pm The Parish Hall Martock

Climate Change - what we need to do - We know that dangerous climate change is happening now, and that human beings are the main cause of that danger. We know what action needs to be taken in order to combat the climate crisis; so what stops us doing it?

Wednesday 14th December 2.15pm The Parish Hall Martock

Christmas Jamboree.

All welcome to the talk, to enjoy a chat over refreshments and to find out about the learning, hobby and interest groups you can join through Martock & District u3a.

More information about Martock & District u3a:

email martocku3amembership@gmail.com, telephone 01460 240788. website

www.u3a.org.uk

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

At Ash Village Hall, Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30pm

Come along and join us for fun, fitness, and friendship. Beginners, returners, and dancers of all abilities very welcome. For further information contact: Anita on 01460 929383 anitaandjim22@gmail.com or Julia on 01935 812033 juliaroles@gmail.com

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.

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 alerts at ashalertemails@gmail.com

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Have you ever wondered if it's OK to let your dog roam free?

We have recently received an increasing number of complaints from parishioners who have had dogs wondering into their gardens and houses uninvited.

Be a good neighbour, even if the closest one is miles away. A free-roaming dog can travel for miles. Remember he might wander onto someone else's property and dig up the garden or destroy other property. He might defecate on their property. Furthermore, your dog, regardless of how nice he might be, can frighten people, so please remember to take some simple steps to keep your dog safe and secure.

It is neither safe nor appropriate to allow your dog to roam free.

HAVE YOUR SAY

When the new Somerset Council goes live in April next year there are going to be new, so-called "Local Community Networks". These are vital components of the new council – it's how we are going to keep decision-making local.

There are 3 proposals on the table – with maps indicating what these LCNs will look like. It's important to hear from as many people as possible so that the best fit for Somerset is found. Please don't miss your chance to have your say!

- The LCN consultation began on 5th September and close on 17th October 2022 at 11.59pm
 - You'll need to register to take part in the consultation (it doesn't take long)
⇒ <https://newsomersetcouncil.org.uk/local-community.../>
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JUBILEE MUGS

As part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations the Parish Council made a gift of a Jubilee commemorative mug to each child in the Parish under the age of 16. A number of these mugs have not yet been claimed. If you haven't received your child's mug, please let us know by email ashalertemails@gmail.com or phone 01935 825020 and we will arrange for you to get them.

We have also been asked if people could purchase commemorative mugs for themselves, older children or grandchildren. We do have a small surplus of mugs which can be purchased for £5.00 each on a first come - first served basis, so don't delay, contact us by email ashalertemails@gmail.com or 01935 825020.

ASH IN BLOOM – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT DELIVERED TO ASH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 6th JUNE 2022

Thank you once again for this opportunity for Ash in Bloom, a volunteer community group here in Ash, to report on our activities over the past 12 months and our plans for the coming year.

Looking back on what we have achieved this year, we embraced the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations by adopting a red, white and blue colour scheme for this summer's planting of all the village planters along Main Street. We also decorated both static and pole-planters in Union Jacks, bows and ribbons, all of which appears to have received widespread approval from residents.

This year we also planted and decorated the planters outside the Pavilion which we took on at short notice following a request from the Parish Council.

Back in December we once again dressed all the planters along Main Street in Christmas lights and decorations. We wish to thank the Parish Council for their £500 grant towards the work we do in enhancing the village street scene.

I would also like to publicly thank Caz Halfhide and the regulars at The Bell Inn for a £100 donation from the proceeds of a raffle held at The Bell to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

On a less positive note, the pony cart we had placed and planted on the grassy corner of Main Street and Burrough Street was stolen last autumn. Despite reporting its theft to the police, the missing cart has never been found. If anyone within our community has and is willing to donate an old cart or other suitable piece of old farming equipment that we could possibly turn into an attractive floral display beside the old oak trees on the corner of Main Street and Burrough Street, we would very much like to hear from you.

On a more positive note, Ash in Bloom once again arranged for residents to participate in a bulk order and delivery of well priced and healthy summer plants in the Jubilee scheme colours and several residents took up the offer.

Looking forward, our plan for the coming year is to concentrate on planting and maintaining the summer floral displays in all the static planters and pole-planters along Main Street and decorating them at Christmas.

One of our biggest challenges is the watering of plants needed throughout the summer months. I'm pleased to say that this year we now have a number of residents who have said they will water a planter near their home. This is much appreciated but we still need more helpers if possible. If there is a planter near your home you would be willing to help water or if there is any other way you might want to get involved, please phone me on 01935 825020 or email me at ashinbloom123@gmail.com.

Antoinette Groves, Chair, Ash in Bloom

PLEASE PICK UP!

There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of dog faeces not being picked up from the pavements and grass verges around the village and in Millennium Wood. Leaving dog mess is dirty, unsociable and a health risk. It only takes a moment to pick up your dog's mess and put it in one of the many dog bins that the Parish Council have provided.

ASH PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



ASH PARISH BIODIVERSITY



The Parish Council has a statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the parish and consider what it can do to achieve that objective.

What is biodiversity and why is it important? Biodiversity includes all species of plants and animals, as well as the natural systems that support them. Conserving biodiversity provides benefits for wildlife, the landscape, our cultural heritage, our health and wellbeing, socio-economics and the health of the planet through what are known as 'ecosystem services'. Nature is also critical in our current response to climate change.

There are many examples of how Parish Councils can respond to this requirement in the "Biodiversity Toolkit" which you can find on the Environment page on the Ash Village website www.ashpcsomerset.com It's a valuable and comprehensive guide aimed at inspiring local projects.

The Parish Council intend to commission a "nature map" that identifies habitats within the Parish. We are setting up a committee comprised of residents, councillors and a representative of Ash & Martock Nature to assist us in bringing this to fruition.

We would like to invite volunteers to join the team to help gather key information to inform our plans, map habitats and areas of environmental interest and to identify key opportunities to enhance our surroundings (on Parish land or collaborating with private landowners).

WHY VOLUNTEER?

By volunteering, you can learn about and help to improve your local environment, have some fun and make new friends. If you have a couple of free hours and would like to join us in making a difference, please contact ashalertemails@gmail.com or phone 01935 825020.

Volunteers of all ages and experience are very welcome.

WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?

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 to receive Ash Alerts at ashalertemails@gmail.com

FACEBOOK follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/Ash-Alerts-104800641092793/>

Clerk to Ash Parish Council Julie Ferguson. Chilthorne Knapp, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, BA22 8QZ. Tel: 07783 475200 E-mail: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 5th September 2022 at 19:30hrs

Present – Councillors (Cllrs)

Steve Davey (Chair), Lesley Andrew, Antoinette Groves, Tim Groves, Caz Halfhide, Lily Humby

In attendance:

J Ferguson – Parish Clerk, County Cllr Emily Pearlstone and 4 members of the public.

County & District Councillors Reports.

All Cllr reports had been circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Public Open Session

Thanks were given to all who had kept the hanging baskets looking lovely throughout the recent hot weather, Concern was raised around the amount of dog faeces that was present throughout the village. Cllr Humby suggested that posters designed by children had worked well in the past. Cllr Davey agreed to email the headteacher of Ash Primary School asking if this is something that they could arrange and also if a reminder could be sent to parents asking them to park considerately when dropping off & picking up from the school. Cllr Guy had sent his letter of resignation as he felt unable to provide the time required to be an effective councillor. Cllr Davey thanked Cllr Guy for his considerable efforts whilst on the Parish Council, especially towards the installation of the new play equipment. All PC members agreed that he would be missed.

19:55 – Meeting opened

22/83 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Bailey, District Cllr Clarke and District Cllr Bloomfield. All apologies were accepted.

22/84 Declarations of interests

No declarations of interest received.

22/85 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th July 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.

22/86 Matter to report from a previous meeting

Cllr Davey reported that the farmer had been informed that he could use the Cemetery water supply. The clerk reported that the Grievance Procedure would be on a future agenda for adoption.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

22/87 Planning decisions report

None.

22/88 Planning applications

None.

22/89 Finance- To report payments made since last meeting.

Ash Parish Council - Aug 22 Payments			
DATE	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
01-Aug-22	STAFF	SALARIES & EXPENSES	£ 962.14
01-Aug-22	PINNACLE ACCOUNTANCY	PAYROLL FEES	£ 42.00
01-Aug-22	SSDC	RANGER	£ 192.07
01-Aug-22	WATER2BUSINESS	WATER	£ 76.13
30-Aug-22	PLUSNET	TELECOMS	£ 32.28
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 1,304.62

22/90 Finance – To approve the schedule of payments:

Ash Parish Council - Sept 22 Payments			
DATE	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
05-Sep-22	PG FIRE AND SECURITY	ALARM MAINTENANCE 12 MONTHS	£ 199.99
05-Sep-22	PKF LITTLEJOHN	EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL FEE	£ 360.00
05-Sep-22	SALC	COUNCILLOR TRAINING	£ 25.00
05-Sep-22	SSDC	RANGER JULY 22	£ 192.07
05-Sep-22	A GROVES	REIMBURSE STATIONARY	£ 40.94
05-Sep-22	T GROVES	REIMBURSE PRINTING	£ 210.00
05-Sep-22	STAFF	SALARIES	£ 940.53
05-Sep-22	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 1,968.53

RESOLVED: To approve all payments totalling £1968.53

ACTION: Cllrs Davey and A Groves

22/91 Finance – To approve the cashbook and bank reconciliations

RESOLVED: To approve the cashbook and bank reconciliations to 31st August 2022 with the total balances at the bank of £96,065.59.

22/92 Finance – To note the budget summary.

Noted.

Receipts and Payments Summary for the year ending 31st March 2023

Date : 31/08/2022	This Year	This Year	This Year
	2022/23	Allocated budget	Budget remaining
RECEIPTS			
Precept	£ 42,250.00		
Deposit Interest	£ 0.32		
Cemetery Fees	£ 510.00		
Grants	£ 437.50		
Pavilion	£ 472.50		
VAT repayment	£ 1,323.52		
Other refunds	£ 45.00		
Donations	£ -		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 45,038.84		
PAYMENTS			
W Clerks Salary	£ 4,174.53	£ 8,000.00	£ 3,825.47
X HMRC	£ 334.47	£ 1,000.00	£ 665.53
Y Communications	£ -	£ 400.00	£ 400.00
Z Admin Subscriptions	£ -	£ 550.00	£ 550.00
AA Admin General	£ 635.15	£ 500.00	-£ 135.15
AB Environment - Ranger	£ 553.22	£ 3,600.00	£ 3,046.78
AC Environment - Play area	£ 353.33	£ 700.00	£ 346.67
AD Environment - Grass cutting & trees	£ 2,176.90	£ 5,700.00	£ 3,523.10
AE Environment - Street planting	£ 108.27	£ 500.00	£ 391.73
AF Environment - Millennium Wood	£ 775.00	£ 550.00	-£ 225.00
AG Parish Utilities	£ 1,760.27	£ 2,000.00	£ 239.73
Cemetery	£ -	£ -	£ -
Churchyard	£ -	£ -	£ -
AH Pavilion	£ 48.75	£ 2,000.00	£ 1,951.25
AI Pavilion Car Park & Field	£ -	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
AJ Audit	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
AK Insurance	£ -	£ 1,600.00	£ 1,600.00
AL Defibrillator	£ -	£ 200.00	£ 200.00
AM Training	£ 271.66	£ 200.00	-£ 71.66
AN Parish Projects (To reserves at EOY)	£ 31,317.09	£ 12,750.00	-£ 18,567.09
AO Grants (S137)	£ 358.20	£ 500.00	£ 141.80
AP Jubilee Event	£ 1,452.10		-£ 1,452.10
AQ VAT incurred on payments in year	£ 6,855.66		
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 51,174.60	£ 42,250.00	-£ 8,924.60
Excess of Receipts over Payments plus balances b/fwd	-£ 6,135.76		
	£ 102,201.35		
Balances c/fwd	£ 96,065.59	CHECK - CASHBOOK TOTAL	
Reconciliation with bank accounts - 31st August 2022			
Lloyds Business Account	£ 91,220.64	CHECK - BANK STATEMENT TOTALS	
Lloyds BB Instant Online	£ 4,844.95		
Less Outstanding payments			
Add Outstanding lodgements			
Total balances at bank	£ 96,065.59	CHECK - RECONCILIATION	

22/93 Finance – To note the External Auditors Report and Certificate 2021/22
The clerk reported that the External Auditors Report had been posted on the website and noticeboards.

22/94 Finance – To report on SSDC Community Grants awarded and agree next steps

Cllr Davey reported that SSDC grants had been awarded of £1000 towards a bus shelter and £1000 towards disabled access for the play area.

22/95 Finance – To approve grant request of £600 from Millennium Wood Management Group

RESOLVED: To award the grant request of £600 from the Millennium Wood Management Group, however it was decided that future requests would be supported by an invoice, rather than a grant as the Millennium Wood was the property of the Parish Council.

22/96 Finance – To approve signatories for the bank account mandate

RESOLVED: That all Cllrs would be on the bank mandate with approval authority.

ACTION: All Cllrs

22/97 Parish Council Matters – To adopt a Model Publication Scheme

This was deferred to a future meeting.

22/98 Parish Matters – To report on neighbour issues with a vacant property on Main Street, Ash

Cllr Davey reported that he had successfully gained approval from the owners of the property to instruct SSDC Pest Control to treat the vermin problem and that all costs would be covered.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

22/99 Pavilion, recreation area and playground – To discuss the future of the Pavilion and agree next steps

It was agreed that a meeting of the Pavilion committee would be convened the following week and reported back at a future meeting.

ACTION: Pavilion Cttee

22/100 Cemetery – To report on cemetery access lease

Cllr Davey agreed to report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Davey

22/101 Cemetery – To approve cemetery extension planning application

RESOLVED: That Cllr Groves could progress the cemetery extension planning application, with a maximum budget of £500.

ACTION: Cllr T Groves

22/102 Cemetery – To review cemetery rules and table of fees

This was deferred to a future meeting.

22/103 Cemetery – To report on the consecration process for the cemetery extension

Cllr Halfhide reported that there would be a cost for the consecration of the cemetery and would report back at a future meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Halfhide

22/104 Cemetery – To report on cemetery extension fence issues

Cllr T Groves agreed to contact the contractor that had carried out the fencing around the new cemetery to request remedial work on the posts that were loose.

ACTION: Cllr T Groves

22/105 Highways, footpaths and Rights of Way (RoW) – To discuss and agree road improvement application

This was deferred to a future meeting.

22/106 Highways, footpaths and Rights of Way (RoW) - To discuss speeding (inc. tractors) on Main Street, Ash

This was deferred to a future meeting.

22/107 Clerk's report and correspondence

The following items had been circulated via email:

- Cost of Living Crisis – Warm Hubs
- Community Resilience Day
- Temporary Road Closure – ttro319863
- Spreading hope on World Suicide Day
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation
- Dementia Friendly Communities Survey

22/108 Items for the next agenda

- Tree planting scheme for the Cemetery

22/109 Exempt Session – Exclusion of the Press & Public

The Council is recommended 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. Chair's award for Service to the Community 2022/23

This was deferred to a future meeting.

22/110 Date of next meeting – 3rd October 2022.

21:30 - Meeting closed.