



ASH PARISH COUNCIL



NOTICE BOARD

May 2023

Editor: Antoinette Groves

email: ashalertemails@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

At the Ash Annual Parish Council meeting on 3rd May Cllr Davey was re-elected as Chair of the Parish Council and Cllr Halfhide as Vice Chair.

A CASUAL VACANCY HAS ARISEN ON ASH PARISH COUNCIL Have you got a few hours each month to help your community?

Due to the resignation of Lily Humby, there is currently a vacancy on the Council. If you are interested in being considered for the vacancy please write or email the Parish Clerk, Julie Ferguson, 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 with the chair to find out more about the role before applying, please contact Steve Davey chair@ashpcsomerset.com

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Lily for everything she has done for the Parish during the past year and wish her every success with her future career.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL CHAIR'S REPORT 2023 Delivered by Cllr Davey at the Ash Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May 2023

I was interested to see that the Bank Holiday Monday to celebrate the Coronation is being designated the Big Help-Out; intended to "encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas."

This is, of course, not a new idea. The entire Parish Council is run by volunteers, who give up vast amounts of time, effort and energy to keep things ticking along, and to try to make our Parish a better place to live.

This includes managing all of the ground maintenance around the village, looking after trees, the cemetery, creating a new cemetery, creating and distributing the Parish newsletter, providing disabled parking bays, bus shelters, applying for grants, organising celebrations as well as attending the regular Parish Meetings. It also generally includes cleaning toilets, planting trees, mending stuff, sticking up signs and all manner of unpaid tasks – where we receive precious little thanks or recognition. Usually, all we get is grief and derision, particularly if we are perceived to have erred in some way.

It isn't just the Parish Council that relies on volunteers giving time and effort to make the Parish a better place.

The Millennium Woods Group, Ash in Bloom, the Ash Biodiversity Group, the Village Hall Trust, the Coronation and Platinum Jubilee Organising Groups, the volunteers who planted hundreds of hedging trees in the new cemetery and those who regularly donate and erect the Village Christmas tree all carry out vital work and crucially save the Parish Council, which means everyone in the Parish, from having to pay a market rate to get these things done.

It is this level of volunteering that helped to allow the Parish Council to freeze its precept for the second year running. This is the element of the Council Tax which is set by the Parish Council to pay for the work that is needed in the Parish. There is no cap on any increase, and many Parish Councils, including some not a million miles away, have used this opportunity to raise their precept by as much as 20% or even 30%. Freezing our precept for the second year running, means that the amount that every Council Tax payer in the parish, pays into the Parish funds has remained the same for three years – in the face of soaring inflation. Were it not for the volunteering that already goes on in the Parish, we would have to double, or even triple the amount that is charged.

Cllr Steve Davey,
Chair, Ash Parish Council.

REPORTS FROM ASH COMMUNITY GROUPS

Presented at the Ash Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May 2023

ASH MILLENNIUM WOOD

Organisation matters:

Green Flag Award, Management Group: chair, treasurer, Secretary, MoU
Five Year Management Plan (on village website)

Work:

Last year work: maintenance.

Last year projects: new tree seat, dog poo bag holder, tree planting.

New year: ongoing maintenance, planning rainwater catchment system.

Events:

Pet Blessing Easter Treasure Hunt.

Coming year: 'Millennium Wood Festival' (15th July 2023)

Activities:

Community Groups: Forest School, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers.

Mick Wooden, Chair, Ash Millennium Wood Management Group

ASH BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

Organisation matters:

ToR agreed and on village website.

Group formed and meeting.

Habitat Map produced.

BNG paper produced.

Biodiversity Action Plan started.

Projects:

Last year work: 100m of native hedgerow around the new burial ground.

Planned projects:

Tree and wildflower planting on other parish council owned/managed land.

Collection of data on habitats and species.

Draft Biodiversity Policy

Future: We need volunteers to help run things.

Mick Wooden, Chair, Ash Biodiversity Working Group

ASH ROVERS U12

Ash Rovers under 12s are thrilled to have been able to return to Ash Recreation Ground for our Winter training. The team originated with pupils from Ash Primary School, and we have always considered it our spiritual home – only moving when grounds weren't maintained. Although we have members from around the area, many started off at Ash Primary, and we have members who still live in the Parish. We are intending to continue to use Ash Recreation Ground as our winter training ground and are looking into raising funds to improve the facilities, and even hold friendly games there - unfortunately the ground currently slopes too much as a venue for league games. We are though, glad to be back and glad to be a part of the village again.

ASH IN BLOOM

Thank you 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 and at the pavilion. 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.

With the coronation this weekend we have again used the red, white and blue theme for our planting decorated with flags and streamers. Back in December we dressed all the planters along Main Street in Christmas lights and decorations.

We wish to thank the Parish Council for their £600 grant towards the work we do in enhancing the village street scene.

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 a number of 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 had several residents who helped by

watering 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

Many thanks

Antoinette Groves, Chair, Ash in Bloom



Join us for a village community event in the wood on 15th July 2-5pm. Working with Ash PTA we will be providing a free to enter event with activities for all ages. There will be craft stalls, forest school, refreshments, nature based activities and competitions for children and grown-ups.

We need people to help! Please contact me if you:

- Would like to set up a craft stall
- Want to help out on the day
- Have any equipment you could loan
- Have tombola prizes you can donate

Thanks, **Mick Wooden 07795170271**, mickwooden90@hotmail.com



ASH VILLAGE WEEKEND OF CELEBRATEATIONS

Dear all, I'd like to just say a quick thank you to everybody who came out to the Sunday party to celebrate the Kings Coronation. Again, we were blessed with great weather and it was brilliant to see so many people from the parish come together and socialise.

I do hope you enjoyed the day!

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank a few individuals as without them, the day simply would not have happened.

Firstly - the 'Kings Coronation Working Party' group. An email was circulated a few months ago calling for volunteers and a few answered the call - Jack Parker, Nick Robinson, Amanda Wills, Jackie Giles, myself were supported by three Parish Councillors; Steve Davey, Caz Halfhide and Lily Humby. Weekly meetings at the pub

is where all these wonderful ideas were proposed. So guys from me to thee - Thank you.

Next, I'd like to thank people who lent equipment and helped set up the event. So here goes... The Humby family and the rest of working party group for the setting up the day before. The Makers Place and Ash School PTA for lending marquees and benches. Ben Robinson for supplying the sound systems and assisting the bands. Nick Bluck for making sure we had enough electric supply and the usage of the tug of war rope. Dan Dunning for the use of his Workshop to construct a correctly spelt welcome sign. Nick and Zoe Robinson for making the leaflets and supplying the tea and coffee, with the former members of the WI serving it. The Dunbars for the usage of their stage. Thanks must also go to Caz and her staff for organising the bar, and doing the food - Bunty does make a good burger! And everyone who took part in the various competitions.

Let's not forget the small team of volunteers who helped tidy up the recreation ground Sunday morning. Some very unglamorous jobs carried out by some top people - so very much appreciated.

I'd like to give the band - 'Greywolves' a shoutout. They smashed it. Not bad for their first gig! I can honestly say I can't wait until your next gig chaps. You rocked it. Thanks for caving into the peer pressure and performing for us.

Apologies if I've forgotten anyone - blame the infamous green stuff I was drinking!

Lastly, it was a pleasure to be involved again. Events like this, when we villagers come together is what village life is about.

Here's to the next one!
Best wishes
Henry

STAY IN THE LOOP

Quick and easy ways to get news and information from ASH PARISH COUNCIL

ASH ALERT EMAILS: sign up to receive Ash Alerts at ashalertemails@gmail.com

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

WEBSITE: visit www.ashpcsomerset.com

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



VILLAGE CHARITY CRICKET MATCH

SATURDAY 22nd JULY 2023

ASH PAVILION & RECREATION GROUND



Coronation Quiz
Ash Historic Trail and Parish Knowledge Quiz
Congratulations to the winners Pip and Beatrice

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 8

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Which year saw the first meeting of Ash parish council? |
| 2 | Who is the Ash Parish Clerk? |
| 3 | Population of Ash today (including Milton and Witcombe,) to nearest 100? |
| 4 | How many acres in Ash parish to nearest 100? |
| 5 | How long is the boundary of Ash parish to nearest mile? |
| 6 | Name the three waterways that form parts of the Ash Parish boundary. |
| 7 | What is the name of the Head Teacher of Ash Primary School? |
| 8 | How many named farms appear on the current 1:25000 OS map of Ash Parish? |
| 9 | Which three droves together make a route from the village to the River Yeo? |
| 10 | Which are the two most common farm animals to be found in Ash parish? |
| 11 | How many functioning red post boxes are there in the parish? |
| 12 | Where is the only functioning "VR" post box? |
| 13 | Which are the two buildings in the parish dedicated to the memory of parishioners who died in the two world wars? Extra points for the dates each was built. |
| 14 | How many names appear on the Ash Role of Honour? |
| 15 | What formed part of many farm labourers' wages in the 19 th century? |
| 16 | When travelling towards Martock, which house is the first in Ash Lane? |
| 17 | When was the first Ash School (now private house) built? |
| 18 | Which century was Stone Farm built in? |
| 19 | Which house in Main Street has a Sun Insurance Plaque fixed to the wall? |
| 20 | As what was the Bell Inn originally built? |
| 21 | Where is the tree named after the "hero of Waterloo" located in Back Street? |
| 22 | Where were the old village ponds in Ash Village? |
| 23 | How many traffic calming build-outs are there in Ash village? |
| 24 | How old is the church? |
| 25 | What does Witcombe mean? |
| 26 | From when does the chapel, now called Courtfield House, date? |
| | BONUS QUESTIONS |
| 1 | Who owned the land around Ash in 1066? |
| 2 | Can you name two manors that formed the tithing of Ash? |
| 3 | Which buildings are thought to be the manor houses of these two manors? |



MILLENNIUM WOOD FESTIVAL

This year's Millennium Wood Festival will be held on Saturday 15th July, 2-10pm, in Millennium Wood and on the school field. There will be live music, lots of entertainment, art & craft, great food and drinks, plus a selection of stalls from local groups and small businesses. Order your tickets now at <https://ashpta.sumupstore.com> or get one at The Bell. Early bird tickets are now available, which are half price (just £6 for adults and £2.50 for children). The event is hosted by the Ash community, which includes Ash School and its PTA, the people of Ash Parish, and Millennium Wood Management Group. All money raised will be used to support Ash School and Millennium Wood.

Ash Primary School PTA

THANK YOU

WOW what an improvement! Our refurbished wheelbarrow all planted and dressed for the Kings Coronation.

We would like to thank JP Davis for volunteering to repair the wheelbarrow planter. It turned out it was a much bigger job than first thought as it was in such poor condition it had to be totally remade with only the wheel and metal frame reusable.

I think you'll agree he's made a fantastic job of it!

Thanks also to Richard Tomsett for the donation of wood that JP used on the project.

Ash in Bloom



MARTOCK AND DISTRICT U3A MONTHLY MEETING

Martock and District u3a will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday 14th June in Martock Parish Hall. Doors open at 2.15pm for a 2.30 pm start. "A Five Year Old Could Do That" Richard Kay helps us to make sense of modern art. 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.martocku3a.org.uk



Coronation Quiz Ash Historic Trail and Parish Knowledge Quiz

ANSWERS

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | 1895 |
| 2 | Julie Ferguson |
| 3 | 580 |
| 4 | 1,955 |
| 5 | 7 |
| 6 | River Yeo, Tintinhull Brook and Milton Brook |
| 7 | Rebecca Bennett |
| 8 | 12 |
| 9 | Ash Drove – Thornhill Drove – Witcombe Drove |
| 10 | Sheep, cows |
| 11 | 4 |
| 12 | Witcombe |
| 13 | Church tower 1920, Village Hall 1960 |
| 14 | 5 (2 WW1 and 3 WW2) |
| 15 | Cider |
| 16 | Cloview |
| 17 | 1846 |
| 18 | 17th |
| 19 | 1748. |
| 20 | Barn (c.1830 by the Richards family of Stapleton) who also built the barn that is now Ash School |
| 21 | Front garden of Old Farm (Sequoia Wellingtonia) |
| 22 | Main Street end of Burrough Street |
| 23 | 6 |
| 24 | 178 years (built in 1845) |
| 25 | Combe/valley and willow/withies. |
| 26 | 1286 |
| | BONUS QUESTIONS |
| 1 | Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor, along with Martock |
| 2 | Pykesash and Ash Boulogne |
| 3 | Mulberry Farm, Boleyn House |