

# ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson. Chilthorne Knapp, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, BA22 8QZ

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## Minutes of an Annual Parish Meeting of Ash held on Monday 6 June 2022 at 18:00hrs

### Present –

Councillor Steve Davey (Chairman), 13 members of the public, County Cllr Bailey, County Cllr Pearlstone and District Cllr Bloomfield

### 01. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

None.

### 02. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the APM – Mon 3 May 2021

### 03. Chairman of the Parish Council's report – Councillor Davey

The Parish Council has been through a few changes in the past twelve months – not least an election, which has brought a number of new Councillors. I would like to repeat my thanks from the last PC Meeting to the retiring councillors for their excellent work on behalf of the Parish over the previous years.

Since becoming the Chair of the PC at the very end of 2021, I have tried to encourage agreement on a number of outstanding matters. This has seen us clear some long-standing business, which has included agreement for the first phase of the redevelopment of the Playground – as overseen by Councillor Guy. This work will be started in the next week or so, and will have three great new pieces of play equipment being installed.

We have just organised a fantastic Jubilee Party for the village, again mainly driven by Henry, with the cost largely funded by a Community Grant from the District Council.

Now that we have cleared the decks of outstanding business, we can look forward to a number of things that we are planning to achieve as a council in the future. There will be further phases of development for the Playground and Recreation areas, and this will finally include proper disabled access. We have a funding application in for this, and also towards a bus stop in the village.

Plans are afoot for an upgrade to the Village Car Park, which will again improve disabled parking and disabled access to both the school and Village Hall, which at the moment is sorely lacking. This will also give a number of extra spaces, in order to help to mitigate the traffic issues connected with the school run.

A joking comment following mighty Main Street's crushing victory in the tug-of-war at Saturday's Jubilee Party was that we had brought in ringers from outside the street: the reality though is that the event attracted people who had not been seen at other gatherings in the parish – which is exactly what we should be achieving with community events such as this.

Parishes all over the country are trying to re-establish links and a community spirit following Covid lockdowns. Ash rallied under Covid remarkably well, led by a number of community champions – including our very own Caz Halfhide MBE. But people have moved into Ash in the past two years, and have not been able to become a part of what is an amazing community. Others have just got used to hiding away, and a number of clubs and societies have closed.

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Following on from the success of the Ash Jubilee festivities we are planning more community events to try to build a stronger and more united community.

We are always open to suggestions, approaches, offers of help and advice. As we have seen with the recent Jubilee celebrations, parishes such as Ash rely on a vast amount of voluntary help and simple mucking in. Ash is lucky to have a number of people who regularly step forward to help with events and all sorts of things around the parish, but there is always room for more. To paraphrase JFK, "Ask not what Ash can do for you – ask what you can do for Ash," and there will be no limit on what we can achieve moving forwards.

**04. Village Group Reports (attached)**

- i) Ash In Bloom Annual Report
- ii) Ash Millennium Wood
- iii) Zumba
- iv) Holy Trinity Church

**05. County Councillor's report (attached)**

- v) Cllr John Bailey

**06. District Councillor's report**

None.

**07. Public open session**

Message of Thanks from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Events, such as the Ash Jubilee Celebrations take a large amount of effort from a number of people to go ahead. This effort of not always obvious in the blurry haze of celebration, so I would like to officially thank the following people who gave up significant time and effort to make the event a success. Apologies for anyone I have missed out here:

Thanks go to the Enigma Morris Dancers and the Ash Bell Ringers and all at The Bell for Friday's event. To Ash in Bloom for the planters around the village and to all the organisers of Sunday's street parties.

For the Saturday Party, thanks go to Jackie Giles, Mick and Gill Wooden, Sally Langdon, Jack Parker and Tim Groves for help with organisation and on the day. To Gareth and Shelly Craik, Makers' Place and Dr Beattie for the marquees. To the Academy of Artistic Gymnastics, Em-Ben Bouncy Castle Hire, Niamh Fletcher and Ninth Life for the entertainment. To Karen Lloyd and Laura Pitcher for organising the tug-or-war and rounders. To Keely Guy, Nadia Guy, Ollie Guy and Nick Bluck for help with setting up and taking down everything down again and to Antoinette Groves for keeping everything running on time. To Caz for the supreme organisational skills, and along with Bunty and Kevin for providing food and drink, and of course to Henry Guy for having the vision, belief and copious contacts to get the thing up and running. And also for the spirited and entertaining announcements that never quite crossed the line.

**18:55 – Meeting closed**

## ATTACHMENT i) - ASH IN BLOOM.

### ASH IN BLOOM – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT DELIVERED TO ASH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 6 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 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 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](mailto:ashinbloom123@gmail.com).

Many thanks

Antoinette Groves, Chair, Ash in Bloom

# ATTACHMENT ii) MW.

Ash Annual Parish Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Ash Millennium Wood

APM

Report for

2022

## **Organisation matters:**

Green Flag, Management Group: chair, treasurer, secretary, MoU

Five Year Management Plan (on village website)

## **Work:**

Last year work: maintenance, new gate, planted shrubs and Jubilee tree

New year: ongoing maintenance, replace tree seat,

## **Events:**

Last year: School Remembrance Day, Children's Xmas event

Coming year proposed: PTA (16<sup>th</sup> July), Scouts Family Day (tba)

## **Activities:**

Community Groups: Forest School, Scouts,

## ATTACHMENT (iii) ZUMBA

September 2021 saw the return of Zumba to the village after many years. The Friday morning class at 9.30am has been well attended. The demographic is a mixture of mum's coming after the school run, those working from home that want an hour away from their desk and retirees who enjoy the social side and want to keep active. While a lot of the class live in Ash we also have people coming from Martock, Stoke-Sub-Hamdon and Ilminster.

We joined with two other local classes on 30th October for a 2 hour Zumbathon that raised £3600 for the mental health charity Mind in Somerset.

# ATTACHMENT IV) HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (PCC)

## News from Holy Trinity Church - Ash

I was licensed by Bishop Ruth on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (via a Zoom link) having moved with my wife Tracey from Devon into a vacant vicarage in Long Sutton - due to the vicarage in Martock being occupied by a tenant! We were still encountering the constraints imposed by Government regulations due to COVID, and so our early encounters with many people in the Benefice were limited to meetings outside! It was not the easiest of starts and trying to get to know people, all of whom were wearing masks, whilst also living at a distance from the Benefice, was something of a challenge! Nonetheless, we felt very welcomed and very grateful to everyone who supported and enabled our transition to Somerset life.

The church congregation at Ash although small is extremely committed and eager to do their bit to serve and engage with the village community. When it became possible as COVID restrictions eased they were quick to re-instate the Coffee Morning on Wednesday at the Pavilion. This is very well supported and much appreciated by both the people and the dogs who attend on a regular basis! I have been actively engaged with Ash Primary School both as a governor and as their Vicar. We have held several services in Holy Trinity and notably an open-air service in the Millennium Wood. These have been much enjoyed by the children, staff and parents.

In the days to come, I hope to increase our engagement with the wider village community wherever we can and provide occasions in which people can gather together and revive the links we have all seen come under pressure during our numerous lockdowns and restrictions. For those who have much-loved pets I will be holding a Community Pet Blessing Service in the Millennium Wood in the next couple of months. Details will follow shortly.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months.

Your friend and Vicar

Paul

1 Feedback on County Issues

-1.1 - Active and Sustainable Transport in Somerset - Have your Say

A dedicated 'Commonplace' website has been set up at [somersetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is](https://somersetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is) where people can have their say about what they think needs to be done. What residents tell us will help shape our new Local Transport Plan.

As you may already know, 'Commonplace' is an online engagement platform that helps organisations connect with communities, hear their voices and make better, more inclusive decisions about places.

Visit the **Somerset Sustainable Transport** Commonplace site to take a look at our interactive heat map, to highlight issues, leave comments and much, much more!

You can access the site at [somersetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is](https://somersetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is).

**Local Walking and Cycling Plans (LCWIPs)**

You can also find Local Walking and Cycling Plans (LCWIPs) on the site. They are comprehensive plans that map out improvements for cycling and walking networks in our towns over the next decade. So far there are plans for Taunton and Yeovil. Bridgwater will follow soon and Frome a little later in the year.

We have commissioned three market town LCWIPs in collaboration with town and district councils. Currently in progress are Burnham and Highbridge, Chard and Wellington, and Mendip District Council has commissioned a Mendip LCWIP.

We're developing future plans for all the key towns in Somerset, but these are not yet complete – they are evolving, and **we need the views of as many people as possible so please share widely with your communities and contacts.**

You can also find more information about active travel schemes under development across the county, as well as all the latest news on government funding and initiatives, on the [Somerset Sustainable Transport site](https://somersetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is).

**-1.2 - Proud to Care**

Proud to Care is a South West initiative which aims to raise the profile of, and recruitment and retention in social care.

Please help the Council promote all things health and social care by following Proud to Care Somerset on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ProudtoCareSomerset) and [Tiktok](https://www.tiktok.com/@proudtocaresomerset), where you will find important

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industry updates, campaigns, inspiring videos, useful information and surveys, and a wide range of recruitment opportunities.

You can also visit the [Proud to Care Somerset website](#) for more information.

**-1.3 - Pharmacy Survey**

Somerset's Health and Wellbeing Board is looking for your views to make sure that community pharmacies in Somerset are providing the right services for local people.

Health and Wellbeing Boards are required, every three years, to make sure that communities have equal access to pharmacy services in their areas. This is called a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) – a draft PNA has been published at [www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/pna.html](http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/pna.html).

As part of the process, the Board is running a consultation **until Saturday 25 June**. You can complete the online survey [here](#). The survey is primarily aimed at stakeholders such as neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Boards, but we welcome comments from anyone so please share widely with your contacts.

Regards John Bailey and Emily Pearlstone