

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

Tel: 01935 571050 E-mail: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 5 June 2023 at 19:00hrs

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) – Lesley Andrew, Steve Davey (Chair), Rebecca Gray, Antoinette Groves, Tim Groves, Caz Halfhide.

In attendance: J Ferguson (Parish Clerk), County Cllr John Bailey, County Cllr Emily Pearlstone and 5 members of the public.

County Councillors Reports

Cllrs Bailey and Pearlstone had provided a written report. In addition, an update on the situation with the SEND school was provided, it having run into financial difficulties. Cllr Pearlstone agreed to find out what was happening with the SID that had suffered water damage whilst being stored by Martock Parish Council.

Public Open Session

Road closures in the parish were discussed and the Chairman offered to speak with to the foreman to understand the nature of the closure and address concerns over delivery drivers. Sadly, it was reported that Cllr Humby had resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments. The Chairman thanked Cllr Humby for her work carried out on behalf of the PC whilst being a councillor.

19:32 – Meeting opened

23/60 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))
None.

23/61 Declarations of interests. Council members to declare any interests, including any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations.

Cllrs T Groves, A Groves and C Halfhide declared an interest in item 23/71 as they had payments due.

23/62 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1)).

RESOLVED: To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 3rd May 2023.

23/63 Matters to report from a previous meeting

None.

23/64 Planning decisions report

None.

23/65 Planning applications– 23/00293/FUL. Holy Trinity Church Main Street Ash, Martock Somerset TA12 6NS. The erection of new steps to the bell-tower of Holy Trinity Church.

RESOLVED: To SUPPORT the application but ask that consideration be given to the safety of the existing staircase.

Chairman

Date

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ACTION: Parish Clerk

23/66 Finance – To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report

Noted.

23/67 Finance – To approve AGAR Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED: To approve AGAR Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement.

23/68 Finance – To approve AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements

RESOLVED: To approve AGAR Section 2 - Accounting Statements.

**23/69 Finance – To announce and note the period for the exercise of public rights –
Monday 5th June to Friday 14th July 2023**

Noted. The notices had been posted on the website and noticeboards.

**23/70 Finance – To approve upto £400 for the purchase of taps and irrigation kit for
the new cemetery**

RESOLVED: To approve upto £450 for the purchase of taps and irrigation kit for the new cemetery.

ACTION: Cllr T Groves

23/71 Finance – To approve the payment schedule for June 2023

Ash Parish Council June 23 Payment Schedule			
Invoice	Payee	Particulars	Amount
1	STAFF	SALARIES & EXPENSES	£1,071.87
2	PINNACLE ACCOUNTANCY	PAYROLL FEE	£96.00
3	R EVIS	GROUND MAINTENANCE APRIL23	£458.33
4	R EVIS	GROUND MAINTENANCE MAY23	£458.33
5	T GROVES	REIMBURSE NEWSLETTER PRINTING	£30.00
6	A GROVES	BLUEHOST WEBSITE HOSTING	£26.26
7	C HALFHIDE	REIMBURSE CLEANING PRODUCTS	£88.29
8	K L BUNGAY	PAVILION CLEANING	£90.00
9	PINNACLE ACCOUNTANCY	INTERNAL AUDIT FEE	£168.00
	TOTAL	Jun-23	£2,487.08

RESOLVED: To approve the payment schedule for June 2023 totalling £2487.08

ACTION: Cllr Davey and A Groves

23/72 Finance – To approve the cashbook and bank reconciliation to 30th April 2023

Chairman

Date

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ASH PARISH COUNCIL						
Receipts and Payments Summary for the year ending 31st March 2024						
	Last Year	This Year		This Year	This Year	Spend
	2022/23	2023/24		Allocated budget	Budget remaining	Variance on last year
RECEIPTS						
Precept	£ 42,250.00	£ 43,723.00				£ 1,473.00
Deposit Interest	£ 9.20	£ 3.07				-£ 6.13
Cemetery Fees	£ 1,845.00	£ -				-£ 1,845.00
Grants	£ 3,437.50	£ -				-£ 3,437.50
Pavilion	£ 2,470.00	£ 30.00				-£ 2,440.00
VAT repayment	£ 9,266.03	£ -				-£ 9,266.03
Other refunds	£ 75.00	£ -				-£ 75.00
Donations	500	£ -				-£ 500.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 59,852.73	£ 43,756.07				
PAYMENTS						
			Reserve xfer			Notes
Clerks Salary	£ 11,472.39	£ 1,787.38		£ 12,005.00	£ 10,217.62	-£ 9,685.01
Communications	£ -	£ -		£ 1,800.00	£ 1,800.00	£ -
Admin Subscriptions	£ 270.30	£ -		£ 550.00	£ 550.00	-£ 270.30
Admin General	£ 1,970.10	£ 152.28		£ 2,000.00	£ 1,847.72	-£ 1,817.82
Environment - Ranger	£ 1,721.15	£ -		£ 3,400.00	£ 3,400.00	-£ 1,721.15
Environment - Play area	£ 433.33	£ -		£ 700.00	£ 700.00	-£ 433.33
Environment - Grass cutting & trees	£ 2,176.90	£ -		£ 7,800.00	£ 7,800.00	-£ 2,176.90
Environment - Biodiversity		£ -		£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -
Cemetery - Memorial Insp		£ 137.90		£ 1,000.00	£ 862.10	£ 137.90
Parish Utilities	£ 3,135.66	£ 241.96		£ 2,800.00	£ 2,558.04	-£ 2,893.70
Pavilion maintenance	£ 802.16	£ 1,000.00		£ 1,600.00	£ 600.00	£ 197.84
Pavilion Car Park	£ -	£ -		£ 800.00	£ 800.00	£ -
Audit	£ 300.00	£ -		£ 650.00	£ 650.00	-£ 300.00
Insurance	£ 2,140.87	£ -		£ 2,600.00	£ 2,600.00	-£ 2,140.87
Defibrillator	£ 184.67	£ -		£ 200.00	£ 200.00	-£ 184.67
Training	£ 356.66	£ 60.00		£ 500.00	£ 440.00	-£ 296.66
Parish Projects (To reserves at EOY	£ 33,043.80	£ 9,906.00	£3,500.00	£ 8,500.00	£ 2,094.00	-£ 23,137.80
Grants (S137)	£ 4,145.37	£ -		£ 3,460.00	£ 3,460.00	-£ 4,145.37
Legal costs		£ -		£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Election	£ -	£ -		£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -
VAT incurred on payments in year	£ 8,037.03	£ 1,802.78		£ -		
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 70,190.39	£ 15,088.30		£ 52,365.00	£ 37,276.70	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-£ 10,337.66	£ 28,667.77				
plus balances b/fwd	£ 102,201.35	£ 91,863.69				
Balances c/fwd	£ 91,863.69	£ 120,531.46		CHECK - CASHBOOK TOTAL		
Reconciliation with bank accounts - 30th April 2023						
Lloyds Business Account	-	£ 115,674.56		CHECK - BANK STATEMENT TOTALS		
Lloyds BB Instant Online	-	£ 4,856.90				
Less Outstanding payments	-					
Add Outstanding lodgements	-					
Total balances at bank	-	£ 120,531.46		CHECK - RECONCILIATION		

RESOLVED: To approve the cashbook and bank reconciliation to 30th April 2023.

23/73 Finance – To consider contributing towards the clerks dedicated work phone and mobile contract with the option of a virtual landline.

RESOLVED: To provide a £10 monthly phone allowance to the clerk and to sign up to a virtual landline costing £5.95 (inc. VAT) per month.

ACTION: Cllr Davey

23/74 Finance - To consider engaging a company to enforce disabled parking and other restrictions in the parish car parks

It was decided against these measures at the current time.

Chairman

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23/75 To appoint a footpath warden

A volunteer had come forward to offer to report on footpath issues in the parish, as a regular walker. The parish council agreed to accept the offer and asked the clerk to check if the PC insurance would cover the volunteer for public liability.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

23/76 To agree a Deed of Grant for Wessex Internet to lay fibre cable around the Recreation Ground

It was agreed that Cllr T Groves would act as a point of contact and arrange a site visit before reporting back to the PC at a future meeting.

ACTION: Cllr T Groves

23/77 To note the delegated decisions relating to footpaths Y1/10, Y1/11 and L21/49

Noted.

23/78 Reports – To receive reports from:

- a. Parish Councillors** – There were no reports at this time.
- b Working Groups** – Cllr A Groves reported on behalf of the ABWG with positive news that the rewilding of the verge outside the school had resulted in a relatively rare plant – a cuckoo flower and rosy garlic growing amongst the grass.

23/79 Clerks report and correspondence

The clerk reported on emails received from an unhappy member of the public relating to weeds growing between the play area fence and the residents garden fence. Cllr A Goves reported that the area had been sprayed by the Ranger and Cllr T Groves agreed to arrange a meeting with the resident to understand the problem because it was not clear what the concern was about.

23/80 Items for the next agenda

There was nothing identified at this time.

23/81 Date of next meeting – 3rd July 2023 (Cllrs to note - All agenda items to be notified to the Parish Clerk by Wed 21st June 2023).

21:14 – Meeting closed

Chairman

Date