



ASH PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE BOARD July 2023



Editor: Antoinette Groves

email: ashalertemails@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Zak England on his co-option on 3rd July onto Ash Parish Council. The council are delighted to have Cllr England on board. Being a member of the Parish Council is an opportunity to make a positive impact on the community. We hope that Cllr England's term is successful and fulfilling, and we are sure his contributions will benefit the Ash Parish community. It's important to have dedicated individuals like Cllr England who are willing to serve and work towards the betterment of their local area.

Once again, congratulations to Cllr Zak England on his co-option onto Ash Parish Council, and wish him all the best in his endeavours as a council member.



Millennium Wood Festival Saturday 15th July 2 – 5pm

This is your chance to support your community!

Join us for a village event in the wood 2-5pm. This is our first joint venture with Ash PTA and we will be providing a free to enter event with activities for all ages. Some of the things on offer:

- Craft Zone: willow weaving, pyrography, art and craft show, refreshment
- Forest School Zone: elder bead threading, fairy fire lighting, fairy door making, magic power sticks, treasure hunt
- Nature Zone: Ash & Martock Nature, Kingsbury Wildlife Group
- Games Zone: welly wanging, coconut shy, bowls, splat a rat
- Performance Zone: artistic gymnastics, acoustic music

Parking will be tight, but we have arranged to extend the parking area at the Recreation Ground. Please walk or cycle if you can: a bike park will be available.

If you'd like to help in any way, please contact me.

Thanks

Mick Wooden 07795170271, mickwooden90@hotmail.com

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



ANNUAL VILLAGE CHARITY CRICKET MATCH

SATURDAY 22nd JULY 2023 AT 14.30

ASH PAVILION & RECREATION GROUND

Come and join us for Cricket, Bar, BBQ, Teas, and Ice Creams

MARTOCK AND DISTRICT U3A

Martock u3a will hold its monthly meeting next Wednesday 12th July in the Martock Parish Hall, on a practical subject this time. It will be by Phil O'Toole on "Tax, Care and the New Man". He represents Silverline Legal Estate Planning Services, helping you to take special care of your assets, a subject of concern to all of us.

Martock u3a also has over thirty interest groups which range from academic subjects like Science, Philosophy and languages, through hobbies such as the Book Club and Cycling Group, to games such as Scrabble, Mah Jong and Bridge. The annual subscription of £17 (£30 for a couple) entitles you to join any interest group and attend the monthly meeting. There will be an opportunity to join at the meeting on Wednesday. Doors open at 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start.

Tea and biscuits will be served afterwards.

For information about Martock & District u3a:

email martocku3amembership@gmail.com Phone 01460 240788.

website www.martocku3a.org.uk

Please note that there will be no monthly meeting in August.



LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Some good news on speed limits. It appears the parish council have to find money but a 20 limit is within reach subject to need and parish council funding.....

Let us know if you would support the Parish Council applying for 20mph zones in Main Street, Highway and Martock Lane? Email your thoughts to ashalertemails@gmail.com and tell us what you think.

FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL - Community Funded 20mph Speed Limits.

As you may have been made aware, Councillors were recently invited to attend a briefing outlining Somerset Councils position on 20mph speed limits, aligning to the manifesto commitment to 'work with communities to make 20mph speed limits the norm outside schools, in residential areas, our city, town and village centres'.

As an authority we want to support communities who wish to fund the design and implementation of a 20mph speed limit. It is estimated that the cost would be in the region of £15,000. You will be required to pay a £500 non-refundable application fee which will cover an initial assessment including up to 2 no week-long speed data readings. Note, at our discretion we may be required to collect data from more than 2no locations to determine the suitability. These will be charged at £200 per location and will be included in the final cost of the scheme.

For information, the Department for Transport guidance on the setting of local speed limits are clear in that speed limits should be evidence led, self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance and should be seen by drivers as a maximum rather than a target speed. Research has shown that a change in speed limit signs alone has very little effect on actual vehicle speeds and that the speed of vehicles is moderated by the surrounding environment rather than the posted speed limit. Where motorists do not understand the reasoning behind the implementation of a speed limit, a high level of non-compliance is likely to occur, and indeed this may lead to disrespect of speed limits elsewhere.

The key factors that need to be considered when reviewing a speed limit is history of collisions; road geometry and engineering; road function; compositions of road users; existing traffic speeds; and road environment.

In specific reference to 20mph speed limits, the minimum length of speed limit is 600m (300m in exceptional circumstances) and mean speeds must be below 24mph. If mean speeds are higher than the intervention level, traffic calming measures will be required to reduce speeds to this level. Note, in larger communities it may be that only smaller areas are feasible, for example a housing estate or ward whereby it wouldn't impact on the strategic network.

It is also worth considering the environmental impact on the 'street scene', having the necessary highway signage, such as terminal and repeater signs, and road markings installed within the village.

We are currently welcoming expressions of interest so please complete the accompanying application form by the end of August 2023 and return to this email account along with confirmation that the application fee has been paid. We will then carry out the initial assessment and advise you as to whether you will to be added to the register for progression, with the expectation that these schemes will be delivered in 2024. If your community is not ready to submit an application this year we will look to open the window for expressions of interest again this time next year.

If in the meantime if you have any questions surrounding this, please do not hesitate in contacting me via the Traffic Management email address.

Gary Warren

Service Manager - Traffic Engineering, Traffic Management, Road Safety and Parking,
Somerset Council. trafficmanagement@somerset.gov.uk www.somerset.gov.uk



Dear Dog Owners,

We would like to bring to your attention a recent series of dog incidents that have occurred in Millennium Wood over the past few weeks. These incidents have raised concerns among both visitors and the Parish council.

Our primary goal is to create a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone who visits the wood. Therefore, to prevent and further incidents and maintain harmony, we would greatly appreciate if you could keep your dogs under close control, preferably on a lead, when exploring the wood.

We understand that dogs love to explore and roam freely in natural places. However, in order to avoid any potential conflicts or accidents, we kindly ask your assistance in keeping in check during your visits. Unfortunately, failure to do so will leave us with no alternative but to implement a policy of dogs on leads only in the wood.

We would like to express our thanks to the responsible and considerate dog owners who have already been practicing good control over their pets. Your actions contribute significantly to the positive atmosphere within the wood.

Lastly, we would like to emphasize the importance of proper waste disposal. We kindly request that you pick up after your dogs and dispose of the waste properly in the bins provided. By doing so we can maintain the cleanliness and beauty of the wood for the enjoyment of all visitors.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Together, we can ensure the wood remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

Thank you.

Ash Parish Council

♥ ASH BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP ♥

We are delighted to announce the results of our Blue Campaign “No-Mow” initiative in Ash!

The grass verge between the first Buildout coming up from Highway and the Village Hall has flourished with remarkable biodiversity this year. We have identified at least 22 different species of flowering plants thriving in the longer grass, which is a significant increase compared to previous years when the verge was regularly mown.

Ash Parish Council made the decision to leave the grass on the verge uncut to allow wildflowers to thrive. This initiative is part of our commitment to rewilding efforts. We have tended to the edges of the area to indicate the intentional nature of the uncut portions and a Blue Heart symbol ♥ signifies our attempt to rewild the verge. There will be an annual cut-and-collect process to allow native plants to re-establish themselves quickly.

The 22 species of wildflowers that we have identified so far on the verge are as follows: cuckooflower, corky-fruited water dropwort, ribwort plantain, slender speedwell, germander speedwell, creeping buttercup, common mouse-ear, common cat’s-ear, common sorrel, smooth sow-thistle, common daisy, rosy garlic, spear thistle, common selfheal, cut-leaved crane’s-bill, lesser trefoil, red clover, spotted medick, cow parsley, herb Robert, yarrow and forget-me-nots.

We are thrilled with the success of our initiative and the positive impact it has had on the biodiversity of the verge. This achievement encourages us to continue our efforts in creating a more vibrant and ecologically rich environment for our community.

Thank you everyone who supported and participated in this project.

Together, we are making a difference.

If you would like to find out more about the Ash Biodiversity Working Group email:

ashbiodiversity@gmail.com for more information on the Blue Campaign go to

<https://bluecampaignhub.com>

Ash Biodiversity Working Group

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Please note with immediate effect the contact number for the clerk to Ash Parish Council has changed to **01935 571050**.

All other contact details remain unchanged and are:

Julie Ferguson, Clerk to Ash Parish Council

Chilthorne Knapp, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, BA22 8QZ

Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

Ash Parish Council

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 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

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 **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

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.

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