

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 3 July 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), Somerset Cllr John Bailey and 5 members of the public.

County Councillors Reports

Cllrs Bailey had provided a written report. He further reported that Martock PC were planning on making an insurance claim for the water damaged SIDs. A meeting had been arranged with Cllrs Bailey, Davey and Cllr Helyar from Martock PC to discuss highways issues affecting both parishes.

Public Open Session

A member of the public spoke out about inconsiderate parking in the marked disabled bays in the village car park, as she was a disabled 'blue badge' holder and had been finding it difficult to access the bays whilst visiting the school. Cllrs Davey and Bailey were meeting with the acting school head teacher to discuss the problems and suggest some measures that the school could introduce, including better communication to parents.

It was reported that dog poo in the Millennium Wood was becoming a problem once again and Cllr Davey suggested it be on the next agenda for discussion.

19:40 – Meeting opened

23/82 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))
None.

23/83 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 declared an interest in item 23/89 as they had payments due.

23/84 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 5 June 2023.

23/85 Matters to report from a previous meeting

The clerk reported that the volunteer footpath warden would be covered by the PC insurance. Cllr Davey was waiting to hear back from the solicitor regarding the condition of the garden at the neglected property on Main Street.

Cllr Halfhide asked the clerk to raise an invoice for £140 to the Village Hall Committee as a contribution towards the lining in the car park.

ACTION: Cllr Davey and Clerk

23/86 To co-opt members on to the Parish Council

RESOLVED: To co-opt Zak England to Ash Parish Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was signed and witnessed.

Chairman

Date

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23/87 Planning decisions report

None.

23/88 Planning applications.

None.

23/89 Finance – To approve the payment schedule for July 2023

Ash Parish Council July 23 Payment Schedule			
Invoice	Payee	Particulars	Amount
1	STAFF	SALARIES & EXPENSES	£914.31
2	R EVIS	GROUND MAINTENANCE JUNE23	£458.33
3	T GROVES	REIMBURSE IRRIGATION PARTS	£19.42
4	A GROVES	REIMBURSE IRRIGATION PARTS	£478.70
5	KBS DEPOT LTD	NOTICEBOARD	£933.60
6	K L BUNGAY	PAVILION CLEANING	£90.00
7	SOMERSET COUNCIL	RANGER APR 23	£211.26
8	P A HIGGINS	PAVILION ELECTRICAL REPORT	£330.00
9	P A HIGGINS	ELECTRICAL WORK AT PAVILION	£465.00
10	S C DAVEY	S/O REIMBURSE VIRTUAL LANDLINE	£5.95
TOTAL			Jul-23 £3,906.57

RESOLVED: To approve the payment schedule for July 2023 totalling £3,906.57

ACTION: Cllr Davey and A Groves

23/90 Finance – To note the 1st quarter budget spend

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	£ 8.93				-£ 0.27	
Cemetery Fees	£ 1,845.00	£ 290.00				-£ 1,555.00	
Grants	£ 3,437.50	£ -				-£ 3,437.50	
Pavilion	£ 2,470.00	£ 1,160.00				-£ 1,310.00	
VAT repayment	£ 9,266.03	£ -				-£ 9,266.03	
Other refunds	£ 75.00	£ -				-£ 75.00	
Donations	500	£ -				-£ 500.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 59,852.73	£ 45,181.93					
PAYMENTS							
			Reserve xfer				Notes
Clerks Salary	£ 11,472.39	£ 2,683.95		£ 12,005.00	£ 9,321.05	-£ 8,788.44	
Communications	£ -	£ 20.26		£ 1,800.00	£ 1,779.74	£ 20.26	
Admin Subscriptions	£ 270.30	£ -		£ 550.00	£ 550.00	£ 270.30	
Admin General	£ 1,970.10	£ 829.58		£ 2,000.00	£ 1,170.42	-£ 1,140.52	
Environment - Ranger	£ 1,721.15	£ 160.06		£ 3,400.00	£ 3,239.94	-£ 1,561.09	
Environment - Play area	£ 433.33	£ -		£ 700.00	£ 700.00	-£ 433.33	
Environment - Grass cutting & trees	£ 2,176.90	£ 3,880.42		£ 7,800.00	£ 3,919.58	£ 1,703.52	
Environment - Biodiversity		£ -		£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -	
Cemetery		£ 137.90		£ 1,000.00	£ 862.10	£ 137.90	
Parish Utilities	£ 3,135.66	£ 715.38		£ 2,800.00	£ 2,084.62	-£ 2,420.28	
Pavilion maintenance	£ 802.16	£ 1,178.29		£ 1,600.00	£ 421.71	£ 376.13	
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	£ 85.00		£ 500.00	£ 415.00	-£ 271.66	
Parish Projects (To reserves at EOY	£ 33,043.80	£ 9,906.00	£3,500.00	£ 8,500.00	£ 2,094.00	-£ 23,137.80	Shelter xfer
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	£ 2,503.84		£ -	£ -	£ -	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 70,190.39	£ 22,100.68		£ 52,365.00	£ 30,264.32		

Chairman

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Noted.

23/91 To adopt an Ash Biodiversity Policy

RESOLVED: To adopt an Ash Biodiversity Policy

23/92 To consider a request for an additional noticeboard in the parish.

The PC believed that there was sufficient capacity in the existing noticeboards to accommodate additional notices and Cllr A Groves agreed to post any notices received from the PCC or other village groups. Cllr Halfhide agreed to make contact with the parishioner who made the request and explain the working agreement going forward.

ACTION: Cllr A Goves and Halfhide

23/93 Reports – To receive reports from:

a. Parish Councillors – Cllr Davey and the clerk had attended the inaugural Levels and Moors Local Community Network (LCN) meeting. Cllr Richard Wilkins had been elected Chair and it was hoped that future meetings would be more organised and productive. He further reported that the pavilion electrical report had uncovered work that was urgently needed and was waiting on a further quote from the contractor. Cllr Halfhide requested that the quote included fitting an external socket on the building as previously discussed.

Cllrs A and T Groves reported that the cemetery irrigation system was installed and working. Sheep fleece from a local farmer was being purchased as a more affordable mulch for the new cemetery hedgerow. It was agreed an invoice would be forwarded to the PC for payment before the next meeting.

b. Working Groups – Cllr Andrew reported that the Cemetery Working Group were planning on holding a meeting before the next PC meeting with the aim to have some proposals ready regarding fees and rules for agreement in September.

23/94 Clerks report and correspondence

The clerk had received the annual insurance pre-renewal questionnaire and Cllr A Groves agreed to check assets around the parish and amend the questionnaire as required.

ACTION: Cllr A Groves

23/95 Items for the next agenda

- To approve the updated Ash Cemetery Rules and Table of Fees
- To approve the Millennium Wood rules and enforcement procedures
- To approve the asset register

23/96 Date of next meeting – 4th Sept 2023 (Cllrs to note - All agenda items to be notified to the Parish Clerk by Fri 18 Aug 2023).

20:40 – Meeting closed

Chairman

Date