

Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 2 October 2023 at 19:00hrs

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

In attendance: J Ferguson (Parish Clerk), Somerset Cllr (SCLlr) John Bailey, SCLlr Emily Pearlstone and 1 member of the public.

County Councillors Reports

Cllr Pearlstone had provided a written report and SCLlrs further reported on:

- SEND School
- SC financial position
- Cllr A Groves reported on a meeting with Somerset Highways to discuss SID locations and plans for a future Speedwatch meeting
- Drainage work in the parish would be carried out over the next 2 years
- Traffic management survey results over Tintinhull Fort
- Recent LCN Levels and Moors meeting

Public Open Session

Nothing was discussed at this time.

19:20 – Meeting opened

23/118 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))
None.

23/119 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)
Cllr England declared an interest in 23/134

23/120 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 4 September 2023.

23/121 Matters to report from a previous meeting

Cllr Davey had contact Wessex Internet and had not had any response.

23/122 Planning decisions report

23/01746/HOU. Mistletoe Cottage Back Street, Ash. Erection of a single storey rear extension. Approved.

22/00036/FUL. Field off Middle Leaze Drove, Ash. Change of use of land, erection of a detached dwelling, garage and car port. Approved.

Noted.

23/123 Planning applications

None.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

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

23/124 To approve the asset register

RESOLVED: To approve the asset register with additions as agreed.

23/125 Finance – To approve the payment schedule for October 2023

Ash Parish Council Oct 23 payment Schedule

Invoice	Payee	Particulars	Amount
1	STAFF	SALARIES & EXPENSES	£914.31
2	R EVIS	GROUND MAINTENANCE SEPT23	£458.33
3	K L BUNGAY	PAVILION CLEANING SEPT23	£90.00
4	SOMERSET COUNCIL	RANGER AUG 23	£211.26
5	AJ GALLAGHER	ANNUAL INSURANCE	£2,590.28
6	PARISH ONLINE	ANNUAL SUBS	£45.00
7	P G FIRE & SECURITY	ANNUAL EXTINGUISHER SERVICE	£82.26
	TOTAL	Oct-23	£4,391.44

RESOLVED: To approve the payment schedule for October 2023.

ACTION: Cllr Davey and A Groves

23/126 Finance – To approve the cashbook/bank reconciliations to 31 August 2023.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL						
Receipts and Payments Summary for the year ending 31st March 2024						
	Last Year 2022/23	This Year 2023/24		This Year Allocated budget	This Year Budget remaining	Spend Variance on last year
RECEIPTS						
Precept	£ 42,250.00	£ 43,723.00				£ 1,473.00
Deposit Interest	£ 9.20	£ 15.83				£ 6.63
Cemetery Fees	£ 1,845.00	£ 390.00				-£ 1,455.00
Grants	£ 3,437.50	£ -				-£ 3,437.50
Pavilion	£ 2,470.00	£ 1,320.00				-£ 1,150.00
VAT repayment	£ 9,266.03	£ -				-£ 9,266.03
Other refunds	£ 75.00	£ -				-£ 75.00
Donations	£ 500	£ -				-£ 500.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 59,852.73	£ 45,448.83				
PAYMENTS						
			Reserve xfer			
Clerks Salary	£ 11,472.39	£ 4,409.07		£ 12,005.00	£ 7,595.93	-£ 7,063.32
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	£ 1,802.61		£ 2,000.00	£ 197.39	-£ 167.49
Environment - Ranger	£ 1,721.15	£ 512.16		£ 3,400.00	£ 2,887.84	-£ 1,208.99
Environment - Play area	£ 433.33	£ -		£ 700.00	£ 700.00	-£ 433.33
Environment - Grass cutting & trees	£ 2,176.90	£ 5,213.16		£ 7,800.00	£ 2,586.84	£ 3,036.26
Environment - Biodiversity	£ -	£ -		£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -
Cemetery	£ -	£ 137.90		£ 1,000.00	£ 862.10	£ 137.90
Parish Utilities	£ 3,135.66	£ 901.94		£ 2,800.00	£ 1,898.06	-£ 2,233.72
Pavilion maintenance	£ 802.16	£ 2,153.29		£ 1,600.00	-£ 553.29	£ 1,351.13
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
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	£ 2,819.50		£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 70,190.39	£ 27,960.89		£ 52,365.00	£ 24,404.11	
Excess of Receipts over Payments plus balances b/fwd	-£ 10,337.66 £ 102,201.35	£ 17,487.94 £ 91,863.69				
Balances c/fwd	£ 91,863.69	£ 109,351.63		CHECK - CASHBOOK TOTAL		
Reconciliation with bank accounts - 31st August 2023						
Lloyds Business Account	-	£ 104,481.97		CHECK - BANK STATEMENT TOTALS		
Lloyds BB Instant Online	-	£ 4,869.66				
Less Outstanding payments	-					
Add Outstanding lodgements	-					
Total balances at bank	-	£ 109,351.63		CHECK - RECONCILIATION		

RESOLVED: To approve the cashbook/bank reconciliations to 31 August 2023.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

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

23/127 Finance – To consider a quote for a footpath in the village car park

Cllr England agreed to obtain a further quote for just the dropped kerb installation.

ACTION: Cllr England

23/128 Finance – To consider a quote for a path on the recreation ground

Cllr England agreed to obtain a further quote to include kerb edging for a future meeting.

ACTION: Cllr England

23/129 Finance – To consider a budget for the purchase of Auto Speed-Watch devices

It was agreed to defer this item.

23/130 Finance – To consider starting a “20’s Plenty” campaign throughout the parish to include a budget for the purchase of wheelie bin stickers.

It was agreed to defer this item.

23/131 Finance – To consider submitting an expression of interest to Somerset Council for an initial assessment of a parish 20mph speed limit incurring a £500 non-refundable application fee

It was agreed to defer this item.

23/132 Finance – To consider the planning for the village Christmas tree and replacement lights

RESOLVED: To approve a budget of £150 for replacement Christmas lights.

ACTION: Cllr A Groves

23/133 To approve the updated Ash Cemetery Rules and Table of Fees

It was agreed to defer this item until after a Cemetery WG meeting had been held.

23/134 To consider permitting a chest tomb to be installed at Ash Cemetery

Cllr England had provided details of the chest tomb including dimensions and answered Cllrs questions before leaving the room.

RESOLVED: To permit a chest tomb to be erected in Ash Cemetery, on an existing purchased plot with a signed undertaking for maintenance liabilities in perpetuity.

23/135 Reports – To receive reports from:

a. Parish Councillors.

Cllr A Groves reported on issues with grass cutting and had obtained prices for additional options including extra cuts for the football pitch with cuttings collected.

A further issue had arisen with Cemetery maintenance becoming dangerous due to a significant amount of glass objects being left on a plot. The clerk was asked to contact the plot owner to ask for them to be removed with some urgency as they posed a risk when strimming.

b. Working Groups. There was nothing reported at this time.

Cllr T Groves reported that a Biodiversity WG meeting had taken place and asked for an agenda item to approve the tree plan.

23/136 Clerks report and correspondence

The clerk reported that the insurance renewal had been received with updated figures to reflect the updated asset register.

23/137 Items for the next or future agenda

- To approve a Tree Plan presented by Ash Biodiversity Working Group
- To approve the draft budget

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23/138 Date of next meeting – 6 November 2023 (Cllrs to note - All agenda items to be notified to the Parish Clerk by Fri 27 October 2023)

20:46 - Meeting closed