

Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 30 October 2023 at 19:00hrs

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

In attendance: J Ferguson (Parish Clerk), Somerset Cllr (SCllr) John Bailey and 2 members of the public.

County Councillors Reports

Cllr Bailey reported on the following:

- Financial position of Somerset Council
- Awaiting the re-arrangement of the meeting with Ash Primary School headteacher
- Open day at Martock GP surgery

Public Open Session

The Chairman expressed sadness at the passing of Mr Len Bluck, a long-standing resident and Parish Councillor for many years. He regularly attended PC meetings in later years, always showing a keen interest in all things 'Ash'. Condolences were sent to his family.

The Chairman further reported that he had received the resignation of Cllr Rebecca Gray earlier that day and thanked her for her productive time spent on the council, in particular contributing to the new Cemetery table of fees and rules.

19:30 – 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's A Groves, S Davey and L Andrew had payments (reimbursements) due.

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

- SID insurance cover for Martock Cllr. ACTION: Clerk. Complete.
- Request for final invoice from solicitors acting on the Glebe Access Track. Action: Cllr Davey. Ongoing.
- Pavilion insurance claim. ACTION: Cllr Davey. Ongoing.
- Pavilion electrician quotes. ACTION: Cllr Davey. Ongoing.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

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

23/122 Planning decisions report

None.

23/123 Planning applications

None.

23/124 Finance – To approve the payment schedule for November 2023

Ash Parish Council Nov 23 payment Schedule			
Invoice	Payee	Particulars	Amount
1	STAFF	SALARIES & EXPENSES	£924.57
2	R EVIS	GROUND MAINTENANCE OCT23	£458.33
3	K L BUNGAY	PAVILION CLEANING OCT23	£90.00
4	SOMERSET COUNCIL	RANGER SEPT 23	£211.26
5	SALC	ANNUAL FEE	£188.18
6	S DAVEY	REIMBURSE VIRTUAL LANDLINE	£11.90
7	PINNACLE	PAYROLL FEE	£45.60
8	A GROVES	REIMBURSE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	£91.17
9	WATER2BUSINESS	PAVILION WATER 15/4-18/10	£140.88
10	L ANDREW	REIMBURSE FABRIC POPPY WREATH	£12.99
	TOTAL	Nov-23	£2,174.88

RESOLVED: To approve the payment schedule for November 2023.

ACTION: Cllr Davey and A Groves

23/125 Finance – To agree the draft budget for 2024-25

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

23/126 Finance – To consider a quote for a footpath in the village car park

This item to be considered with 23/127: A quote for £7500 had been received by Cllr England and due to time constraints on the match-fund grant from Somerset Council it was agreed to accept this quote and instruct the work as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: To approve the quote of £7500 to install disabled access improvements in both the village car park and the pavilion car park.

ACTION: Cllr England

23/127 Finance – To consider a quote for a path on the recreation ground

As for 23/126.

23/128 Finance – To consider a grant request from Citizens Advice, Somerset

RESOLVED: To not award a grant to Citizens Advice, Somerset at this time.

23/129 To approve rules for all Ash PC car parks (Cllr Davey).

This was deferred to a future meeting.

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23/130 To approve the updated Ash Cemetery Rules and Table of Fees (Cllr Andrew and Gray).

This was deferred to a future meeting.

23/131 To approve a Tree Plan (ABWG – Cllr T Groves)

A tree planting scheme around the village car park was presented by Cllr T Groves on behalf of ABWG with costings for the proposed 10 trees of £635 + VAT. A donation of £200 had been offered by Ash PTA and the PC were asked to consider approving a spend of £435 towards the tree plan.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of 10 trees at a cost of £635 + VAT, with agreement that £200 would be donated by Ash PTA.

ACTION: Cllr T Groves

23/132 Reports – To receive reports from:

a. Parish Councillors

Cllr England had obtained verbal Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) quotes for repointing the churchyard wall, as advised in the recent Church Quinquennial Report. They were significantly higher than expected so it was agreed that a further inspection of the wall would be carried out to understand the extent of the repairs necessary before bringing back to the PC for consideration.

ACTION: Cllr England

b. Working Groups

A Finance WG meeting had been held and a further one would be convened after some key costings had been obtained from the RFO with a view to presenting the draft budget to the PC for agreement at the next meeting.

ACTION: All Cllrs

23/133 Clerks report and correspondence

The clerk had enquired as to any outstanding S106 payments that may be due to Ash, but unfortunately there were none, as advised by Somerset Council Locality Officer.

23/134 Items for the next or future agenda

- To agree the draft 2024-25 budget

23/135 Date of next meeting – 4 December 2023 (Cllrs to note - All agenda items to be notified to the Parish Clerk by Fri 24 Nov 2023)

20:30 – Meeting closed.