



ASH PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE BOARD



DECEMBER 2023

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Residents,

As the holiday season is upon us, the Ash Parish Council extends its sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of our community.

May the festive lights brighten not only our streets but also our hearts, filling them with the magic of the season. Let the laughter of loved ones, the aroma of festive feasts, and the joy of giving create lasting memories that will warm us throughout the coming year.

In the true spirit of Christmas, let us also extend a hand to those in need, ensuring that no one in our community feels alone during this season of love and generosity. Small acts of kindness can create a ripple effect that transforms lives and strengthens the fabric of our community.

Christmas is a season of togetherness, and our community has exemplified this spirit throughout the year. Your resilience, kindness, and support have made Ash a truly special place to call home. As we gather with family and friends, let us cherish the bonds that make our community strong.

The Ash Parish Council is grateful for the privilege of serving such a remarkable community. We look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and shared achievements, together, we can continue to make Ash a place we are all proud to call home.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with love, laughter, and the warmth of community.

Ash Parish Council

A CASUAL VACANCY HAS ARISEN ON ASH PARISH COUNCIL TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION

Somerset Council has confirmed that no requests for election have been received and the Parish Council may proceed to fill the casual vacancy by co-option.

Ever thought about becoming a Councillor? If you did you could:

1. Help represent the views of local people.
2. Have your say about issues local people care about.
3. Help decide how local money is spent.
4. Help decide what projects can improve our community.
5. Help get the services our community needs.

It is not necessary to be qualified in any particular area. All that is required is that you are a local person with the desire to represent and improve our community. Meetings are usually held at 7.00pm on the first Monday of each month at the Pavilion, Ash.

To qualify, you need to be 18 or over & meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

- You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
- You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
- Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish area.
- You have lived in the parish area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

If you are interested in being considered for the vacancy, please contact the Ash Parish clerk for more information. Julie Ferguson, Chilthorne Knapp, Chilthorne Domer. BA22 8QZ. Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com Tel: 01935 571050.

If you would like to have an informal chat about becoming a Parish Councillor contact: the Chair, Cllr Steve Davey, Email: steve.davey@ashpcsomerset.com

URGENT REPAIRS TO ASH PAVILION

Ash Parish Council have been waiting for a considerable time for the contractors appointed by our insurers to carry out repairs to Ash Pavilion following the subsidence damage a couple of years ago. We are pleased to confirm that at last the works started on Monday 13th November and are scheduled to be completed by 15th December.

GRAND DRAW & ASH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

IN AID OF URGENT CHURCH REPAIRS

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2023

10.30AM

TO BE HELD IN THE BELL INN FUNCTION ROOM

The Grand Draw, with cash prizes will take place.

Christmas Gifts & Treats on Sale

Coffee, Tea & Mince Pies



HOLY TRINITY ASH - CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 17th December at 11am for 1 hour

Celebrating the coming of Christmas with a Service of Carols and Bible Lessons.

All Very Welcome!

Extra Services for CHRISTMAS 2023 & NEW YEAR

Sat 9 Dec	3.00pm	Toy Service with Salvation Army Band in St Martin's, KE
Sun 17 Dec	11.00am	Carol Service in Holy Trinity church, Ash
	6.30pm	Carol Service in All Saints', Martock
Sun 24 Dec	11.00am	Carol Service in St Peter & St Paul, Muchelney
	4.00pm	Crib Service in All Saints', Martock
	4.30pm	Christingle Service in St Martin's, Kingsbury Episcopi
	10.00pm	1 st Communion of Christmas in Holy Trinity, Ash
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass in All Saints', Martock
Mon 25 Dec	10.00am	Benefice Family Christmas Communion in All Saints', Martock
Sun 31 Dec	10.00am	Benefice Communion in St Martin's, Kingsbury Episcopi



CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND MINCE PIES



SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER 2023 AT 20:00

THE BELL INN

An informal get together for anyone wishing to embrace the Spirit of Christmas and sing along to some Christmas Carols.



COME AND START YOUR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT THE BELL INN 8PM.

GreyWolves (rock band) playing Foo fighters, Pink Floyd, Bryan Adams, The Beatles, Eric Clapton - to name a few.

All Welcome. No charge



TEN NEW TREES FOR ASH!

Massive shoutout to the extraordinary volunteers who faced the chilly mist and frost morning to plant 10 trees along the village car park verge. Your dedication has given birth to a flawless line of trees, and the mental image of that stunning row is already taking shape. Here's to eagerly anticipating the burst of spring blooms and the lush greenery that will grace the scene.

Many thanks for turning a frosty morning into a heartwarming community effort!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF SOMERSET RIVERS AUTHORITY.

I'm writing as the Chair of Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) to let you know about the newly published SRA Draft Strategy and Flood Action Plan 2024-34.

To get people's views about this draft strategy, we have set up a temporary website where people can answer questions, make comments, and pinpoint flood concerns on a map.

It's at [srastrategy.co.uk](<https://srastrategy.co.uk/>) and it's live until 31 December 2023. To get straight to the map section of the site, go to [SRA Flood Action Plan](<https://srastrategy.co.uk/index.php?contentid=149>) and scroll down.

PRESS RELEASE FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL

Changes are coming to waste collections next year Recycling and rubbish collection days will be changing for more than 120,000 homes in Somerset in February next year.

The changes come as new collection routes are introduced by Somerset Council's contractor, SUEZ recycling and recovery UK. The new routes will make rounds more efficient, more manageable for crews whilst reducing mileage and carbon emissions.

The changes come at no cost to the council.

In February 2024, recycling and rubbish collection day schedules will change for around 85% of homes in the west of the county, covering the former Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton areas, as well as a small part of South Somerset.

Anyone with a change to their collection day schedule will be written to twice before anything changes, first with a letter in January. Roughly, three weeks after the letter arrives, residents will receive a service guide which includes a collection day calendar for the next 18 months.

It is important that residents know their new collection days – crews will not be able to come back for either recycling or refuse if you miss your new collection day.

Because some towns and villages will be covered by more than one route, days may change for some households but not others.

Residents may have:

- a change to collection day
- a change in week that their rubbish is collected
- a one-off interim rubbish collection

There will be no changes to:

- collection days for garden waste subscribers
- clinical waste collections
- communal property collections with shared collections (such as blocks of flats, houses of multiple occupancy and retirement developments)
- schools waste collections
- Changes to routes and collection days for the rest of the county – in the former Mendip and South Somerset areas – are expected to be introduced in June 2024.

Councillor Dixie Darch, Executive Lead Member for Climate and Environment said: “We’re writing to every household that will have a change to their collection day. Please keep an eye out for your letter in the New Year. If you don’t receive a letter this means that your day is staying the same.

“The changes will make the collections more efficient and help us to reduce carbon emissions.

“Please make a note of your new collection day and possible interim rubbish collection. Crews can’t return for missed collections where bins are not out on the right day.”

Further information can be found online at somerset.gov.uk/waste

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 2nd 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 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

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.

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.

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 Working Group 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:

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.

Working Groups. There was nothing reported at this time.

Cllr T Groves reported that a Biodiversity Working Group 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

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

DRAFT 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.

23/122 Planning decisions report

None.

23/123 Planning applications

None.

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

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
			£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.

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.

VOLUNTEER TO BE AN INDEPENDENT VISITOR OR ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN SOMERSET

Would you like to make a positive difference in 2024?

There's a famous quote from Rev Sydney Smith "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can."

From as little as a couple of hours a fortnight and less than a week's quality training, you could be making purposeful contact with a young person and make a positive difference for them through outings, conversations, activities and more...

Route1 have two volunteering opportunities: Independent Visitor and Advocate. Independent Visitors are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. We will match your interests and skill set with a young person who will best suit your support. You and the young person have the freedom to decide what you do, how you do it, to build a meaningful friendship.

One young person with an Independent Visitor said: "Things I get from my IV relationship... is space from the world, where I can have an open and honest conversation with, at first a stranger, that becomes a friend. I would be happy to say it is a really good experience!"

An Advocate is an independent person who can offer one-to-one support to children and young people to have their voice heard when meetings are taking place concerning their wellbeing. It's the role of the Advocate to speak up for the young person, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their views, wishes and feelings.

The Chair of a Child Protection Conference said "I am always amazed by the calibre of the volunteers and how generous they are with their time." Why not join our bank of advocates?

Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability. Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills.

To find out more, contact :  01749 822801

route1businesssupportadmin@somerset.gov.uk

www.route1advocacy.co.uk or scan the QR code



ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO ASH ALERT EMAILS?

The Ash Alert Email system was set up by the parish council to keep residents informed in a more timely fashion about parish council matters and other activities and events going on in the village. Signing up now is even more important in these times of change to make sure you are kept informed.

If you haven't already done so, why not opt-in now to Ash Alert Emails. To do so, please send your Name, Email Address, Postal Address and phone number to the Parish Council at ashalertemails@gmail.com and ask to be added to the Ash Alert Emails list.

New Data protection regulations came into force a couple of years ago which the parish council fully complies with. Your email address and other contact details will always be kept safe and will never be shared with any third party nor will they be visible to other recipients of Ash Alert Emails.

You can unsubscribe at any time if you no longer wish to receive them.

SOMERSET COUNCIL OPENS BUDGET CONSULTATION

Don't miss your chance to have your say! This will affect all of us. The huge deficit threatens us with reduced services and extra council tax.

This consultation asks your views on the overall budget setting for Somerset Council for the next financial year from April 2024 to March 2025. In November, Somerset Council declared a financial emergency with a projected budget gap of £100m.

Like households across the county, they face financial challenges on a scale never seen before. Like residents, they want to live within their means, but the budget is at breaking point.

Please read the consultation pack for more information, you can view it by following the link below.

Why your views matter

Somerset Council are very keen to hear the views of residents, businesses and key stakeholders as they move towards setting the budget for the next year.

This consultation is giving you the chance to tell Somerset Council your views on how their proposals might impact you.

This is a general consultation on the overall council budget for the financial year 2024/25. In some services, more detailed consultation will follow later.

You can save this survey and come back to it. You can also skip questions, but you must click submit to have your say.

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/comms/budget-consultation-2024-2025/>

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

FESTIVE RECYCLING WHEN AND WHERE

The festive fortnight always means changes to collections and recycle sites.

Recycle sites stay on their usual weekly schedules but all sites close on three days:
Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

PS: Want your Christmas and New Year recycling and rubbish taken?

Please "park smart" so your collection crews and their trucks can get through.

Christmas collections

Usual day

Monday 25 December
Tuesday 26 December
Wednesday 27 December
Thursday 28 December
Friday 29 December

Revised day

Wednesday 27 December
Thursday 28 December
Friday 29 December
Saturday 30 December
Sunday 31 December

Monday 1 January
Tuesday 2 January
Wednesday 3 January
Thursday 4 January
Friday 5 January

Tuesday 2 January
Wednesday 3 January
Thursday 4 January
Friday 5 January
Saturday 6 January



Recycling site Christmas opening

All sites will be open on their usual days
apart from:

Monday, 25 December

Tuesday, 26 December

Monday, 1 January

