



ASH PARISH COUNCIL



NOTICE BOARD

April 2024

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AN INVITATION TO ALL ASH PARISHIONERS

You're invited to our Annual Parish Meeting at Ash Pavilion on Monday, May 13th, 2024, commencing at 6:30pm.

Curious about what your Parish Council has been up to in the last year? Join us to ask questions and receive updates from parish Community Groups and Organizations.

Everyone is welcome!

If your organization hasn't received an invitation to present a report, or if you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you may send in a report to be read out by the Chair. Please send reports via email to: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

We look forward to seeing you all there.

PARISH CLERK RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with a sense of sadness that we inform you of the resignation of our Parish Clerk, Julie Ferguson.

Julie has played an integral part in our parish community for 4 years, overseeing various administrative tasks and contributing significantly to the smooth functioning of our affairs.

As Julie embarks on a new chapter in her journey, we extend our thanks for her service and her contributions will be remembered with appreciation. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

The Parish Council is actively working to facilitate a seamless transition during this period of change. Updates regarding the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk will be provided in due course.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support during this transition.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY ON ASH PARISH COUNCIL TO BE FILLED 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. 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



SAVE THE DATES!

Live Music with Grey Wolves

Saturday 4th May 2024 The Bell Inn, Ash

Ash Parish Summer Fete

Saturday 25th May 2024 Ash Pavilion and Recreation Ground

Village Charity Cricket Match

Saturday 27th July 2024 Ash Pavilion & Recreation Ground



Knife Angel, Somerset

The Knife Angel visits Taunton, Somerset from 3rd to 30th April

A sculpture which aims to raise awareness of the negative effects of violence and aggression will be in Somerset next month as part of a nationwide tour.

The Knife Angel stands at 27 ft tall, weighs 3.5 tonnes, and was designed by artist, Alfie Bradley at the British Ironwork Centre using 100,000 knives and blades retrieved from amnesty bins from across all 43 UK police forces.

Somerset Council and Taunton Town Council are supporting and encouraging a 30-day campaign of anti-conflict awareness raising with schools, community groups and local businesses.

The Knife Angel will be placed outside the Market House in Taunton from 03 - 30 April.

Somerset remains a safe place to live with relatively low levels of knife crime, we fully support the aims of the sculpture and strongly condemn all forms of violence.

We hope the presence of the Knife Angel in Somerset during April will help raise awareness of an important national issue.

Learn more here: www.somerset.gov.uk/knifeangel.

British Ironwork Centre: [Official Knife Angel Page | The British Ironwork Centre](#)

MARTOCK AND SOUTH PETHERTON SURGERIES

Martock and South Petherton Medical Surgeries are changing to a new consultation platform, Anima, it is expected to launch on Wednesday 24th April 2024. Please visit <https://martocksurgery.nhs.uk/practice-news/askmygp-closure> for full details of this announcement.

Martock & South Petherton Surgeries

www.martocksurgery.nhs.uk



Providing NHS services

! askmyGP Closure

TO ALLOW A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO ANIMA, ASKMYGP WILL BE CLOSED TO NEW REQUESTS AFTER WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2024.

What does this mean?

- This will enable our team to complete any outstanding requests in the current askmyGP system alongside dealing with on the day demand.
- If you wish to submit a new request **between the 4th and 23rd April, please phone the surgery** and talk to one of our reception team.
- The surgery will be **focusing on acute* requests during this period** (please note nursing appointments remain unchanged).
- We expect our **phone lines to be busier than usual** and ask that patients try to space their calls across the day where possible to reduce the length of time you have to wait.
- This transition period is crucial in ensuring that we are able to focus on getting the best out of our new system from the 24th April for both our staff and patients.
- **We appreciate your patience and understanding during the interim period.**

*an acute condition is one which is either severe or sudden in onset which requires urgent care

Online submission remains our recommendation!

Although there will be a short period where no online system is available whilst we transition, **we still strongly recommend online access as the best way to submit requests** when Anima is live.

- Once askmyGP is closed on Wednesday 3rd April, **we will share sign up links to Anima via our website and text message.** This will include a guide helping you to get signed up.
- Look out locally for Anima sign up events, in and around the practice, where individuals will be on hand to help you sign up!
- Did you know? **If you already use the NHS App, you can use the same login email and password to access Anima!** That's one less password to remember.
- You can **sign up for the NHS App** now at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/>

This surgery is part of Symphony Healthcare Services Ltd
[06633460]
Registered Office: Wincanton Health Centre, Dykes Way,
Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9FQ
www.symphonyhealthcareservices.com



Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 11 March 2024 at 19:00hrs

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

In attendance: J Ferguson (Parish Clerk), Somerset Cllr (SCllr) Emily Pearlstone.
Public comments

Somerset Councillor Reports

A verbal report was heard.

19:15 – Meeting opened

23/182 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given
None.

23/183 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).
None.

23/184 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 5 February 2024.

23/185 Matters to report from a previous meeting.

- Update Ash Cemetery Rules and Table of Fees. ACTION: Cllr Andrew. Ongoing.
- Footpath improvements. ACTION: Cllr Davey and England. Complete
- Rules for Parish Council Car Parks. ACTION: Cllr Davey. Ongoing
- Cllr Groves requested that the Memorandum of Understanding for the SID locations and installations be signed as it was holding up progress. Cllr Davey agreed to sign the document.
- Cllr Halfhide reported that the donation of £1500 from a local charity, the Amigo Trust had been received towards the Cemetery Access Lease. The clerk was asked to pass on thanks from the Parish Council.

23/186 To co-opt members onto the Parish Council.

There had been no applications at this time.

23/187 Planning decisions report

None.

23/188 Planning applications. 24/00370/HOU. 27 Burrough Street, Ash, TA12 6NZ. Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey side extension and single storey rear extension

RESOLVED: To **SUPPORT** the planning application.

23/189 Finance – To APPROVE the payment schedule for March 2024.

Ash Parish Council March 24 Payment Schedule			
Invoice	Payee	Particulars	Amount
1	STAFF	SALARIES & EXPENSES	£954.45
2	R EVIS	GROUND MAINTENANCE FEB24 (SO)	£458.33
3	K L BUNGAY	PAVILION CLEANING FEB24 (SO)	£90.00
4	SOMERSET COUNCIL	RANGER JAN & FEB 24	£528.14
5	S DAVEY	REIMBURSE VIRTUAL LANDLINE (SO)	£5.95
6	NATASHA CHUGG	CHURCH WALL REPOINTING	£2,500.00
7	MR B R PAYNE	ASH PLAYGROUND NEW PATH	£4,000.00
	TOTAL	Mar-24	£8,536.87

RESOLVED: To approve the payment schedule for March 2024.

ACTION: Cllr Davey and Cllr T Groves

23/190 Finance – To APPROVE a cost of £150 for the Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project box. It was decided not to purchase a project box.

23/191 To AGREE arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was agreed that the APM would be held before the APCM in May, starting at 6.30pm and village groups would be invited to either attend in person or send in a report to be read out by the Chair. The clerk agreed to put an Agenda together and send to Cllrs for onward distribution.

ACTION: All

23/192 To REPORT the Cemetery Consecration process and **APPROVE** the costs. Cllr Halfhide provided a report after making contact with the Diocese, with the process ongoing:

- Fees may have increased since last reported (£850 + VAT in 2022). A budget of £1000 was agreed.
- Payment is not required until complete.
- They sort out the paperwork.
- TR1 proof of ownership of land to be provided.
- A copy of the planning permission granted for the area to be consecrated may be required.
- A Bishop would need to be found (currently sparse).
- They will start the process and advise of timescales.

ACTION: Cllr Halfhide

23/193 To APPROVE the following **MOTIONS**:

- a. To agree the Council's resolve that Ash Millennium Wood should receive designation as local Nature Reserve, subject to:
 - i. Somerset Council agreeing to the delegation of the power to designate the Local Nature Reserve.
 - ii. Consultation with Parishioners and stakeholders, including Natural England.
- b. To agree and confirm a public consultation on the designation of Ash Millennium Woods as a Local Nature Reserve.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the **MOTIONS** as presented.

ACTION: Cllr T Groves

23/194 To **AGREE** arrangements for the Ash Parish Fete, to be held at the Recreation Ground and Pavilion on Saturday 25th May 2024.

Cllr Halfhide reported on the plans for the Village Fete, which was to be a traditional style fete, with stall holders, music and a small dog show. The Parish Council agreed to underwrite the cost of the band (£250) in the event that the proceeds from the day did not cover the cost.

23/195 To **CONSIDER** a response to the Somerset Council Highway Maintenance Devolution –

Options for local enhancement to routine highways maintenance services
It was agreed that the PC would register an interest in the Highway Steward Scheme.

ACTION: Clerk

23/196 To **CONSIDER** writing to the CEO of NHS Somerset, Peter Lewis and the NHS Somerset Engagement Team, demanding that any plans to remove Hyper Acute Stroke Care and Acute Stroke Care from Yeovil District Hospital should be abandoned.

RESOLVED: To write to the CEO of NHS Somerset, Peter Lewis and the NHS Somerset Engagement Team, demanding that any plans to remove Hyper Acute Stroke Care and Acute Stroke Care from Yeovil District Hospital should be abandoned.

ACTION: Cllr Davey

23/197 To **CONSIDER** options for a Parish Ranger for 2024-2025.

Cllr A Groves agreed to put together a specification for a Ranger type role to investigate if there is anyone available locally to take this on in the first instance.

ACTION: Cllr A Groves

23/198 Reports – To receive reports from:

a. Parish Councillors

Cllr Andrew had been contacted by concerned residents that live close to the large oak trees at Burrough Street. Cllr Davey explained that the PC did not own the land or the trees.

b. Working Groups

23/199 Clerks report and correspondence.

- Reorder of Play Inspection Company annual inspection.
- Victim Support request for a donation.
- VAT claim being prepared.

23/200 Items for the next or future agenda.

23/201 Date of next meeting – 8 April 2024 (Cllrs to note - All agenda items to be notified to the Parish Clerk by Thurs 28 March 2024).

21:00 – Meeting closed

CONSULTATION OF ASH PARISHIONERS

Designation of Ash Millennium Wood as a “Local Nature Reserve”

Ash Parish Council proposes to declare Ash Millennium Wood as a “Local Nature Reserve” (LNR). We would like to hear the views of people who live in the Parish on the proposal.

Local Nature Reserves are areas of locally important natural heritage intended to give better opportunities to learn about and enjoy nature close to where people live. Local authorities (including Parish Councils) select and declare LNRs using powers under national legislation. These sites then receive protection through local planning policies that aim to resist development which would adversely affect them. Once declared Local Authorities are responsible for making arrangements for the appropriate management of the site. Further details can be found at:

[Local nature reserves: setting up and management - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/local-nature-reserves)

Declaration of a LNR supports the PC’s commitment to help nature recovery (as outlined in its Biodiversity Policy) through protecting and enhancing the diversity and quality of the wildlife which is already present. It will reflect the effort invested by the Millennium Wood Management Group and local volunteers into management of the site for nature, recreation and education. The management plan for the site will also encourage greater involvement and participation by volunteers and users in learning about and managing the site’s special habitats and species. It would support the gaining of external grants and funding to support enhancements. A copy of the current management plan can be found on the Ash village website at:

[Ash-Millennium-Wood-Management-Plan-2023-FINAL.pdf \(ashpcsomerset.com\)](https://www.ashpcsomerset.com/Ash-Millennium-Wood-Management-Plan-2023-FINAL.pdf)

Please let us have your views by telling us, by the latest Friday 10th May 2024:

You can either:

- **complete the online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/AshWoodLNR>**
- **fill out the form below and post in the Parish Council’s Post Box located at the Pavilion on the outside wall next to the defibrillator.**

Ash Millennium Wood Local Nature Reserve consultation	
1. Do you support or oppose the proposal to declare Ash Millennium Wood as a ‘Local Nature Reserve’ (LNR)?	<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE
2. Your name and address (<i>Personal details will be deleted after results have been collated</i>)	
3. Have you visited Ash Millennium Wood?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
4. What do you like best about Ash Millennium Wood?	
5. What changes would you like to see?	
6. Any further comments you have	