

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 (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

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 (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 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 new Accessibility improvements in the Rec Field. 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. 2 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.

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Clerk: Julie Ferguson

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

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 a 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

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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.