



ASH PARISH COUNCIL



NOTICE BOARD

September 2024

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ASH PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Parish Announcement

We are thrilled to share the great news of the appointment of our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Zannette Bougourd.

With her extensive experience and deep commitment to community service, Zannette is a valuable addition to our team. Her strong background in parish management and financial oversight will be instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and maintain the high standards of service we strive to provide. We are confident that her skills and dedication will bring about positive and meaningful contributions to our community.

We invite everyone to join us in warmly welcoming Zannette as she embarks on this important new chapter with us.

UPDATE: MONTHLY ASH PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY CONTINUES AFTER SUCCESSFUL TRIAL

We are delighted to announce that our recently introduced Ash Parish Council Surgery has been a great success and has been well attended by residents. Due to the positive feedback and the valuable discussions that took place, we are pleased to confirm that the surgery will now continue as a regular monthly event.

This initiative has proven to be a useful platform for residents to voice their concerns, seek assistance, and engage in meaningful conversations about the future of our village. Moving forward, the surgery will continue to be held on the last Wednesday of every month from 10:30 to 11:30 am at Ash Pavilion.

As always, no appointment is necessary—simply drop in. While we may not be able to resolve issues immediately during the session, this remains a vital opportunity to bring your concerns directly to the attention of the Parish Council.

We look forward to continuing these valuable interactions and hope to see more of you in the coming months.

CONSULTATION ON DESIGNATION OF ASH MILLENNIUM WOOD AS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (LNR) UPDATE

The consultation with Parishioners showed that a significant majority support the designation of Ash Millennium Wood as a Local Nature Reserve. Natural England has asked that we consider identifying other adjacent areas for nature conservation and that we look for common themes identified by those objecting.

- Adjacent areas: Ash Biodiversity Working Group will explore options and report to the PC.
- Objections: The biggest points raised in objection are changes in ownership/management arrangements and new restrictions on access. In both these there is a misunderstanding on the part of objectors because no such changes are proposed as a result of designation.

The process is now with Somerset Council to take forward.

WANT TO HELP NATURE IN ASH?



Why Volunteer?

By volunteering, you can help learn about and improve your local environment, get some regular fresh air and exercise and make new friends. Volunteering can help you gain new skills and experience, improve your mental and physical health and help you to feel more connected with your community.

How can you help?

Volunteers can help us look after the Millennium Wood as well as other sites in Ash. You can help in a number of ways, not all of which involve getting your hands dirty! As a volunteer you can:

- Work on practical nature conservation tasks
- Help to organise and deliver projects
- Propagate trees and plants
- Water new trees
- Contribute to wildlife surveys
- Help look after wildflowers
- Use your agricultural machinery to maintain land and hedges
- Mow paths
- Look after bird boxes and bird feeders
- Dog owner? Help clean up and educate other dog walkers

There will, of course, be lots of other ways you can help, depending on your interests!
Interested in helping nature?

Contact Mick Wooden 07795170271 mickwooden90@hotmail.com

CONSECRATION OF THE CEMETARY EXTENTION

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, 21st July, the cemetery extension was formally consecrated in a moving and solemn ceremony. The service was graciously led by the Rt Revd Dr. Michael Langrish, who offered prayers and blessings over the newly extended grounds, ensuring they are set aside for their sacred purpose that will now serve as a place of rest and reflection for generations to come.

The consecration ceremony was attended by numerous parishioners, reflecting the strong sense of community that defines our parish. The atmosphere was one of reverence and unity, as we gathered to witness this important moment in the life of our church and community.

After the ceremony, those in attendance were invited to the Bell Inn, where the spirit of fellowship continued over refreshments. Tea and coffee were served, accompanied by a selection of exceptionally nice cakes, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for conversation and connection, allowing everyone to reflect on the significance of the day.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Rt Revd Dr. Michael Langrish for leading the consecration, as well as to everyone who took part in the service and the subsequent gathering. Your presence and participation helped to make this a truly memorable occasion for our parish.





SAVE THE DATES!

VILLAGE CHARITY CRICKET MATCH UPDATE

The Village Charity Cricket Match will now take place on SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2024 at Ash Pavilion & Recreation Ground.

Raising money for St Margaret's Hospice Home Care, Parkinson's Support (SW) and Cancer Research UK.



A POO-LITE REMINDER!

It has recently been noticed that there has been an increase in dog poo not being picked up around the village. We are lucky enough to have some lovely areas around our village to walk our dogs, but they are also there for non-dog owners, so let's not spoil it for them. Be a responsible dog-owner, keep a close eye on your dog, pick up their poo and bin it in the dog poo bins provided around the village.

If the dog poo bins are full, please do not leave your poo bags on the bin lid or ground around the bins, there are no poo bin fairies! Take it home and put it in your own refuse bin.

Remember to be a responsible dog owner and pick up after your furry friend!

Let's keep our village clean for everyone to enjoy.

GUIDELINES FOR PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARD USE

Dear Neighbours,

We hope this message finds you well. We would like to bring to your attention some important guidelines regarding the use of our noticeboards.

Recently, we had to remove a poster that was taped to the outside of one of the noticeboards. Unfortunately, this has left glue residue on the glass, requiring additional cleaning. To prevent similar issues in the future and to maintain the cleanliness and usability of our noticeboards, we kindly ask everyone to follow these guidelines:

1. **Please Do Not Tape Notices to the Outside:** Any notices taped to the outside of the noticeboards will be removed. While we understand that the content of the notices may be important, this practice damages the surface and makes it difficult to keep the boards clean and presentable.

2. **Proper Way to Post Notices:** If you have a notice that you would like to place on the noticeboard, please either hand it to a member of the Parish Council or email us at ashalrtemals@gmail.com with your request. We will review your notice and post it on the board if it meets our guidelines. This process ensures that all notices are properly displayed and that the noticeboards remain tidy.

We value the contributions and information shared by our community and want to make sure that everyone can post notices in an appropriate manner. By adhering to these guidelines, you help us maintain a welcoming and organized environment for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our noticeboards clean and organized.

ANOTHER GREEN FLAG AWARD FOR ASH MILLENNIUM WOOD



Ash Millennium Wood has achieved a Green Flag Award again this year. The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Paul Todd, said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved on achieving a Green Flag Award. These are vital green spaces for communities in Somerset to socialise, enjoy nature, and for children to play safely. They also provide important opportunities for park users to improve their physical and mental health.

"We know that staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that it maintains the high standards of the Green Flag Award, everyone involved should feel extremely proud of their achievement. It is important that our free to use spaces are maintained to the Green Flag Award standard, making them accessible for all members of the community while ensuring the environment is protected."

Amazing! Well done and thank you to the small band of volunteers who look after Ash Millennium Wood and for all the hard work you have put in to have once again won this prestigious award.

Over the years you have created a truly wonderful facility for the community of Ash to enjoy. Thank you. 🏆

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ASH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 1ST JULY 2024 AT 19.00HRS

Present: Cllr Caz Halfhide (Acting Chair), Cllrs Antoinette Groves, Zak England, Tim Groves, Lesley Andrew. In Attendance: SCllr Emily Pearlstone

19.00 hrs: Meeting Opened

24/58 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1)). APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM CLLR STEVE DAVEY (CHAIR), CLLR ALAN BRITTEN & SCLLR JOHN BAILEY

24/59 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 (be). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations). **NONE RECEIVED**

24/60 To APPROVE and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous regular meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1)).

RESOLVED: To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024

24/61 To APPROVE and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous extraordinary meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1)).

RESOLVED: To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 20th June 2024

24/62 Matters to report from a previous meeting

The application for a free, Royal portrait needs following up. It has been sent The advert for Parish Clerk, drawn up by Cllr England has attracted 3 applications so far. Thanks were offered to Cllr England. Thanks were offered to SCllr Pearlstone for arranging for a replacement Dog Poo Bin. An updated planning application for the stairway to the church bell tower has been made by Holy Trinity. SCllr Pearlman asked to be kept updated.

24/63 Planning decisions report NONE

24/64 Planning applications – 24/01449/PAMB. Land At Stone Farm Main Street Ash Martock Somerset. Change of use of an agricultural building and associated building operations to provide two semi-detached dwelling houses.

THIS IS A CHANGE OF USE APPLICATION AND THERE IS NOTHING TO OBJECT TO AT THIS STAGE

24/65 To DISCUSS applying for a Police Community Fund for the purchase of Speed Indicator Device (SID). SCllr Pearlstone advised that there were small pick-ups of such grants

RESOLVED: To apply for the grant

Proposed: Cllr Halfhide, Seconded: Cllr T Groves. All in favour & Cllr A Groves to apply

24/66 To ACKNOWLEDGE and DISCUSS the results of the LNR consultation

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- Adjacent areas: Ash Biodiversity Working Group will explore options and report to the PC.
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24/67 Finance – To APPROVE the payment schedule for July 2024

01/06/24	S Davey	Virtual Landline	£5.95	SO Report
01/06/24	Evis RA	Ground Maintenance May 24	£458.33	SO Report
01/06/24	KL Bungay	Pavilion cleaning May 24 SO	£102.00	SO Report
British Telecom	Pavilion	£34.46	TBA	

Tim Groves	Printing of Newsletter	£60.00	TBA	
KL Bungay	Extra week cleaning of Pavilion	£25.50	TBA	
Caz Halfhide	New first aid kit for Pavilion	£8.29	TBA	

24/68 Finance – To **APPROVE** fee for consecration of New Cemetery extension £900 + VAT.

RESOLVED: Approved

Proposed: Cllr Halfhide, Seconded Cllr Andrew All in favour

24/69 Finance – To **APPROVE** fee to register Pavilion as a proper address with a postcode with Somerset Council £110.

RESOLVED: An update was provided advising that there would no longer be a charge as Somerset Council are aware of the issue.

24/70 Finance – To **APPROVE** authorising direct debit to British Telecom for payment of Pavilion Broadband.

RESOLVED: Approved. All in favour

24/71 Finance – To **APPROVE** authorising direct debit to Water2Business for payment of Pavilion water bill.

RESOLVED: Approved. All in favour

24/72 Finance – To **APPROVE** authorising direct debit to Water2Business for payment of unmetered cemetery water bill.

RESOLVED: Approved. All in favour

24/73 Reports – To receive reports from:

- a. Parish Councillors
- b. Working Groups

Cllr Andrew reported on the 'surgery' held at the Coffee and Chat group in the Pavillion. She felt that it had been very worthwhile and that she had been requested to visit in a month.

Several issues were raised – some of the street lighting in the village was either on all day or not on at all. People were advised to report it to the address shown on the back of the newsletter. LA has also reported it. It is best to report using the number on the light or using What3Words to identify

location. Cllr A Groves will add the information on how to report this in the next newsletter.

There was 1 enquiry of and interment of ashes which is being dealt with.

An offer of assistance to inspect playground equipment was passed to Cllr A Groves. This led to a discussion regarding dogs in the play area, and it was confirmed that no dogs were permitted in the play area. Several people mentioned speeding and Cllr A Groves suggested they might like to help with the local speed watch scheme which would identify speeding vehicles. Cllr A Groves said she had received a complaint regarding the state of the pathway from Durnfield to Ash. The pathway is very overgrown. Cllr Groves has acknowledged the complaint and has sent a report to Somerset Council as this path gives a safe route for walkers and cyclists wishing to avoid the A303. She will keep us informed on this matter; Cllr England offered to go and look at the situation and report back.

24/74 Clerks report and correspondence NONE

24/75 Items for the next or future agenda NONE

24/76 Date of next meeting – (tbc)