

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2024 @ 7pm at Ash Pavillion, Ash Parish

Present: Cllr Steve Davey, Chairman, Caz Halfhide, Vice Chairman, Cllrs Tim Groves, Zac England, Lesley Andrew, Antonette Groves.

Three members of the public were present. Public comments included positive feedback to all involved in preparing the village for Christmas. Dog fouling in Millennium Wood persists. Activities in Millenium Wood with Forest School participants were noted, some are positive some are potentially negative.

OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

◆ Somerset Councillors – Report dated 4th November noted. No representatives were present. It was agreed to request SC reports be provided in time for inclusion in the Agenda for future meetings.

◆ Outside bodies/groups. None present.

2nd December 2024

24/149 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given.

Apologies were submitted and accepted from Cllrs J Bailey, Emily Pearlstone & Alan Britten.

24/150 Declarations of interests. There were no declarations of interest noted.

24/151 To APPROVE and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th November 2024. The minutes were approved and signed.

24/152 Matters to report from a previous meeting.

- Martock SID. Clerk reported that an email had been sent to Martock PC without response. Clerk will contact Cllr J Bailey to try and expedite the matter.
- Repairs to carpark entrance. Cllrs reported that the placing of boulders has been partially effective, one car persists in navigating around the boulders. The situation will be monitored
- Signage Millennium Wood/play area. Agreed to draft and approve wording prior to obtaining quotes.
- Website – update from Councillors re current content and relevance. Cllrs requested to decide what content should be on the Parish website and revert to future meeting.
- HMRC/payroll arrangements. Clerk reported unable to contact HMRC, an authorisation code is required. Resolved to write to HMRC requesting that the file be updated with current details and a code be issued. Proposed by Cllr Davey, seconded Cllr A Groves. Agreed. Noted that the correspondence address for Lloyds Bank needs updating. Resolved to contact Lloyds online and in writing if necessary. Proposed Cllr Davey, seconded Cllr Halfhide. Agreed.

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050
Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

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24/153 Planning decisions report. No planning decisions received.

24/154 Finance – To **APPROVE** the regular payment schedule as detailed below, regular payments to be reviewed at the AGM or when the payment amount changes, whichever is sooner.

24/155 Finance: To discuss the payment requests as detailed below & minute decisions. The payments schedule was approved and signed.

24/156 Finance: To approve & sign the Bank reconciliations to date. Approved and signed.

24/157 Finance – to approve & sign the Bank Statements October – November 2024. Approved and signed

24/158 Finance – to consider expenditure against budget to date/draft budget for 2025/6. Clerk tabled a draft budget. Cllr Halfhide will email suggested dates and funding requests for the budget meeting.

24/159 – Parish Matters: storm damage/tree damage. Noted that there is a tree down between Back St and Witcombe Lane on the footpath. This is a matter for SC Highways to deal with, however there were several areas which had storm damage, prioritisation may not allow for immediate action. The Council consider that the potential costs of dealing with storm damage could prove prohibitive and may not be good stewardship of Parish funds. It was also noted that the large oak tree on Burrough St is potentially dangerous and needs to be dealt with. Agreed that Cllr Davey will contact the tree protection officer to look at the oak tree and advise action. Cllr A Groves will contact a tree surgeon for recommendations. Reports to be brought back to the next meeting.

24/160- Parish Matters: Publication and printing of the PC's Newsletter, including continuation and distribution methods. Cllr A Groves requested more input from Cllrs for inclusion in the newsletter. Cllr L Andrew is happy to continue holding copies for collection for delivery by volunteers. Noted there are sufficient volunteers.

24/161 – Parish Matters – email awareness of origins and requests. Cllrs and parishioners are reminded to be cautious when replying to emails that may not be genuine. Suggested that the newsletter reminds readers of the difference between spoofing/phishing and malicious content.

24/162 – Parish Matters – Rights of Way update. This was covered under item 24/159. Noted that adjacent Parishes have more footpaths than Ash and may have found solutions to maintenance issues. Somerset Council are trying to devolve everything they consider appropriate to Parish Councils, this is placing more responsibility than is practicable for Councils and has financial implications which may not be acceptable to parishioners. Noted that volunteers carry out significant unpaid works to maintain the village.

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24/ 163 Parish Matters – note completion and registration of documentation re Easement for a fixed term over Glebe Access Track. Noted, Cllr Davey will arrange notice advising of access timings.

24/164 Parish Matters –note changes/development on small piece of ground, near Plants Galore. The is not in Ash Parish, the site will be monitored.

24/165 Parish Matters– note Mendip Local Plan update. Noted

24/166 – note Planning validation consultation. Noted

24/167 – note Cllr Bevan letter. Noted.

Matters pending from previous meetings:

24/168 – Cllrs A Groves queried the installation of an exterior power point. Cllrs Davey & England will assess.

24/169 Cllr Groves noted that the gutter at the rear of the Pavillion was still allowing water to flow against the building. Cllrs Davey & England will inspect and action accordingly.

24/170 Cllr A Groves asked if a delivery/installation date was available for the replacement Pavilion door- this is pending.

The meeting closed @ 20.55hrs

The next meeting will be 6th January 2024 @ 7pm in Ash Pavillion.

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Schedule of Regular Monthly Payments, for report only.

Monthly	S Davey	Virtual Landline	£6.50	SO Report
Monthly	R A Evis	Ground Maintenance Sept	£458.33	SO Report
Monthly	KL Bungay	Pavilion cleaning	£102.00	SO Report

Signed: Date:

Payment requests as at 02nd December 2024

14/11 24	Battens solicitors	Glebe tract access documents	£45.00	
05/11/24	Ham & Doultong Stone	Carpark boulders	£300.00	
30/10/24	Water business/10267739	Ash Pavillion	149.27	
29/10/24	Pinnacle	Payroll	49.20	
08/07/24	Pinnacle	Payroll	49.20	

Signed:.....Date:

Payments authorised/DD between 04/10/24 – 02/12/24

28/11/24	British Gas	Utility	£103.38	
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Signed: Date:

Invoices received after Agenda published

29/11/24	Pavilion cleaning	£127.50
29/11/24	Bristows Electrical	£324.00

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30/11/24	Paul's Martock/Christmas Tree	£120.00

Signed: Date: