

Somerset Council Report

Ash Parish Council 2nd December 2024

1 Somerset News

1.1 - Support for Somerset households with food and energy bills this winter

Somerset families and residents who are struggling to pay the bills this winter could be eligible for support with the cost of food, energy, water, and other essentials over the coming months.

Somerset Council will be distributing £3.8m to those in need between October 2024 and March 2025 as part of the Government's Household Support Fund. The funding will be spent as follows:

To provide food and fuel vouchers and essential items directly to those in need. These applications can be made by Social Workers, Health Visitors, Village Agents, Social Prescribing Link Workers and Parent Family Support Advisers on a household's behalf, which will ensure that those who are unable to apply themselves can still benefit.

To support Age UK Somerset, Citizens Advice Somerset, Community Council for Somerset and Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership to deliver their vital support for the county's most vulnerable families and residents.

To be used during the school holidays to provide food vouchers worth £10 a week to children eligible for Free School Meals, supporting at least 15,000 children this winter.

To support Somerset Community Foundation's Help Through Winter Fund, including support for four initiatives:

1. Support for hard-to-reach rural communities via local warm hubs, using local community spaces to support families and residents to access help such as help with training or employment opportunities and food banks, larders and pantries.

2. Cost of living grants for frontline organisations who are experiencing increased demand during the winter period to ensure they can continue to supply services for the community such as free wellbeing activities or free-to-use community transport.

3. Grants for vulnerable families and older people to help cover heating costs and activities to reduce loneliness and isolation.

4. Supporting charities which help homeless people, including helping fund essential furniture such as white goods.

Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Finance, Procurement and Performance, Councillor Liz Leyshon said:

"We know that many Somerset households will continue to be affected by the cost-of-living crisis this winter, so this additional funding will make a real difference in the lives of our most vulnerable residents."

"We have ensured that the funding is allocated across community groups and through Somerset Community Foundation with a view to supporting people of all ages and abilities in our communities. Our partnership with local community groups is critical to ensuring that the help reaches those who need it most."

For more information, visit: [Somerset Household Support Fund](#).

In addition to the Household Support Fund, the following support is available for Somerset communities:

Food support for families – Anyone in need of urgent food supplies can find out about food support here: [Food support for families in Somerset](#).

Foodbanks and pantries – There are many food banks in Somerset where individuals can go to collect free food. Find out more and see an interactive map here: [Food banks \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#).

Libraries – All Somerset libraries have been designated as Warm Welcome Spaces, which means anyone in the community is welcome to come and spend time in the library. Find a local library here: [Our libraries \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#).

Pension Credit – Residents are also encouraged to check if they could be eligible for Pension Credit, which provides extra money to help with living costs for people over state pension age and on a low income. Apply online at [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](#), or call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234.

Help4All – There is further information and advice, including help with Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction and Public and Community Transport on the Help4All website. Find out more: [Help4All\(connectsomerset.org.uk\)](#).

1.2 - Somerset Council invites public opinion on the future of Somerset's pharmaceutical services

Somerset Council is calling on residents to help shape the future of pharmaceutical services in the county.

The council is conducting a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) consultation for the public to share their thoughts and contribute to the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment statutory report produced by the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board.

The PNA is a comprehensive assessment of the current and future pharmaceutical needs of the local population and is used to review local community pharmaceutical services and evaluate whether they adequately meet the county's needs. NHS commissioners use the results of the PNA to work out if any changes might be needed in local pharmacy services. Despite the name, the PNA does not review the quality of pharmaceutical provision, it helps to inform decisions.

We encourage the people of Somerset to share their thoughts and experiences by completing the online survey before 1 January 2025.

To take part please visit: [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Consultation](#)

Somerset Council's Lead Member for Public Health, Climate Change and Environment, Councillor Graham Oakes said:

"I firmly believe that access to high-quality pharmaceutical services is essential for the health and well-being of our residents. A robust pharmaceutical service ensures that residents receive the medications and advice to manage their health effectively. Pharmacies also play a critical role in preventative care, helping to reduce the burden on our healthcare system. By participating in the consultation, we can work together to identify areas for improvement."

1.3 - New Changing Places Facility opens at the Quedam Shopping Centre, Yeovil

Somerset Council and The Quedam Shopping Centre are proud to announce the opening of a new Changing Places facility.

Located within the Quedam Shopping Centre in Yeovil, the new Changing Places facility is designed to meet the needs of individuals with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as other disabilities that severely limit mobility. It provides a safe, clean, and fully equipped space, ensuring dignity and comfort for all users.

This state-of-the-art facility is the result of a successful partnership between the Quedam Shopping Centre and Somerset Council, and has been funded through the central government's [Changing Places Toilets Fund](#).

Key Features of the Changing Places Facility:

Height-adjustable adult-sized changing bench - Ceiling hoist system - Ample space for carers - Centrally located toilet with room on both sides for assistants - Privacy screen

Councillor Federica Smith Roberts, Lead Member for Communities, Housing Revenue Account, Culture and, Equalities and Diversity said:

"The new Quedam Changing Places facility marks a significant step forward in making Yeovil a more inclusive and accessible town for everyone. We are grateful for the support from the central government's Changing Places Toilets Fund and look forward to seeing the positive impact this facility will have on visitors to the shopping centre."

James Tovey, Manager of the Quedam added:

"We are thrilled to see the completion of the Changing Places facility at the Quedam Shopping Centre. This project underscores our commitment to inclusivity and providing essential amenities for all members of our community."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held today, Monday 11 November, when it was officially opened by Councillor Federica Smith Roberts and Quedam Manager James Tovey who were accompanied by Adam Dance MP and Dave Crisfield, former Community and Equalities Officer at Somerset Council.

1.4 - Consultation on Local Validation Checklist for Somerset

Views are being sought on a new Local Validation Checklist covering the Somerset Council area.

Local Validation Checklists (LVCs) help inform applicants and agents about the type of documents and level of information required to be submitted in order for the Council to validate a planning application and/or other consents.

Each of the former councils which make up Somerset Council had an adopted LVC reflecting the Local Plans for their area.

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are required to maintain an up to date LVC and review it every two years.

This will be the first LVC for the Somerset Council area and where necessary it includes specific requirements from the former LPA's adopted Local Plans while a new Local Plan for Somerset is being prepared.

Cllr Mike Rigby, Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets, said: "We are committed to providing a professional and efficient service for all potential applicants and agents.

"The LVC will help them to prepare their submissions and ensure they can be validated and determined as swiftly as possible. I would urge all interested parties and members of the public to share their views with us."

The consultation runs for six weeks from 11 November to 23 December 2024 and can be found here – [Local validation checklist consultation - Somerset Council - Citizen Space](#)

The Council will consider all comments on the draft LVC which may be amended to take account of comments, observations and updates that assist with the content and clarity of the document.

The proposed final version will be considered before a decision is taken to adopt the new LVC in 2025.

1.5 - Improved Council payment systems introduced

An improved 24-hour payment system is on the way for anyone wishing to pay for key Somerset Council services online or over the phone. From 5 December, residents will be able to pay for the following services over the phone at any time of the day, seven days a week using the new automated system: Council Tax - Business rates - Housing and garage rents - Parking fines

Once the new system is in place, there will be no need to wait in a queue and customers will use their phone's keypad to enter their payment details. The system will also allow people to pay invoices, for example paying for a Somerset Lifeline subscription. Customers will be transferred to the new system, known as Touch Tone, when they call from Thursday 5 December. Other ways to pay – including Direct Debits, standing orders, bank transfers, or by visiting a Pay Point or Post Office – will continue as before. Alongside the updates to the phone payment line, Somerset Council's online payment system will also be upgraded. Payments for other types of services will need to be completed online. To prepare for the switchover, Somerset Council's current phone and online payment systems will be unavailable from Tuesday 26 November to Wednesday 4 December.

During this time customers will still be able to pay in the following ways: Bus gates and parking penalties by bank transfer or Invoices by bank transfer

Council Tax, housing and garage rents, Business Rates at the Post Office or a Pay Point. Setting up a Direct Debit is recommended to make future payment easy. Customers will need to use a valid reference number to make the payment.

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts, Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture, said:

"Our customer service team take more than 30,000 payments a year and it's important that we have a service that meets the needs of residents and the council. The new improved payment system means people will be able to make some of the most important and frequent payments, 24/7 throughout the year rather than having to wait on the phone for a member of staff. Moving to one modern payment system means that customers can pay at a time convenient to them."

The quickest and easiest way to pay for most council services is online. Residents can pay by visiting www.somerset.gov.uk. When the payment system re-opens customers will be transferred to the new platform.

2.0 - Local Issues

2.1 - Highways and Transport - ongoing

- Speed past Hillview school

Ongoing discussions about concerns for the school entrance and the speed of the road. School are monitoring, recording and reporting incidents of near misses or risks.

All near misses should be reported by local residents who should be encouraged to do this as data collection of such incidents adds to the weight of receiving official monitoring the road.

- Drainage works between the school and Stapleton Cross planned for inclusion into the 2024/25 following a CCTV survey to be carried out this year works to be designed following survey (done), now with contractor to design, works phased over three years.

-Trees between the school and Stapleton Cross, no safety issues at this time, to be monitored. To be included in next tender

-. Jetting of the system to be arranged on the section leaving Ash towards the A303 following the patching and depending on available budgets (jetting at new school, completed by contractors undertaking new school build)Recent work has been completed to clear outlets near the A303 turn off. Jetting between SEND school and Ash to be carried out on completion of the build in April 2024. No budget available but awaiting review.

2.2 - Traffic and Safety strategy - ongoing

Long Load are interested in utilising the SIDs if and when available. To be discussed in the future between the two parishes once it is available.

Regards

John and Emily

Somerset Council Report

Ash Parish Council 6 th January 2025

1 Somerset News

1.1 - Coming soon: Local Plan Call for Sites

Somerset Council will be launching a Call for Sites in the new year as it prepares to develop its first Local Plan. The Call for Sites is a six-week period where landowners, developers, and site promoters are invited to submit land they want to be considered for future development. Submissions can be for various uses including housing, economic development, gypsy and traveller pitches and plots, and renewable energy installations.

The Call for Sites is one of many ways the Council will be gathering information for the Somerset Local Plan. It is not encouraging submissions in particular locations. Submitting a site is not a planning application and does not grant planning permission or any other status.

The Local Plan guides decisions on future development proposals based on the needs and opportunities of the area, identifying where development should take place and areas where development should be restricted. Understanding potential supply of development sites is a key early step in this process. The new Somerset Local Plan will generally supersede all existing former district council Local Plans, which will remain part of the Development Plan until they are officially replaced.

1.2- Yeovil Refresh: Triangle set to re-open early in the New Year

One of the most exciting areas in the rejuvenation of Yeovil town centre is well underway to being fully unveiled to the public in early January 2025.

The area known as ‘The Triangle’ at the eastern end of the town has been the focus of complex and extensive redevelopment and upgrade, in a transformation designed to boost much needed investment in Yeovil’s economy.

The creation of the state-of-the-art amphitheatre style entertainment space came about after local people and businesses shared ideas about what they would like to see in their town, for their community.

The space features seating for about 100, around an open space that incorporates a water feature which will be commissioned in the spring. The thoughtfully designed open space in the heart of town will be a place for people to gather or simply take time out during the day. A raised stage with large screen for live performances and screened events, as well as art installations commissioned and co-created with local community groups during the Covid pandemic, will create what is hoped will become a popular focal point for the community.

Works to complete the new entertainment space will continue and an official opening of the Triangle will take place early in the new year. Further details will follow.

1.3 - Leaders welcome Devolution White Paper

The Leaders of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils are optimistic that they can work with Government to progress proposals for the Heart of Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority following the publication of the Devolution White Paper. In a joint statement, the leaders of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils, Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Bill Revans, and Cllr Richard Clewer, said:

“We welcome the publication of the Devolution White Paper as a significant step forward in our journey towards achieving devolution for the Heart of Wessex region. This milestone reflects the Government’s commitment to empowering local communities and enabling regions like ours to collaborate on our shared vision.” Government has made it clear that if strategic authorities are going to maximise the funding opportunities available devolution deals will require a mayor and minister will be able to impose mayors and geographies on local councils. The establishment of the Heart of Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority represents a fantastic opportunity to have a champion for the Wessex region who will be able to deliver

meaningful change for our residents and advocate for our interests in Westminster. This will also offer the likely opportunity for increased funding and investment to our council regions. We want to make the Heart of Wessex a thriving region whose unique interests are heard and understood by central government.

“This proposal ensures clear, accountable leadership to drive economic growth, improve public services, and invest in vital infrastructure across the region. This model will see additional powers handed down from central government and redefine local decision-making, unlocking significant opportunities for our residents and businesses. “The Heart of Wessex encompasses real strengths in sectors such as defence, digital, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and clean energy, and devolution offers the opportunity to secure additional funding for the critical infrastructure needed with the ability to attract additional private sector investment.

“We have made clear our strong desire to be considered in the first tranche of devolution agreements. We look forward to working with Government to discuss how quickly we can progress devolution to lead change in local government.” If the devolution proposal is approved, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire councils will continue to exist and are expected to have the same responsibilities as they do now. The offer to Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council and Swindon Borough Council to join the Heart of Wessex partnership remains

1.4-New fostering campaign - which launches today (20/12/24)- on ITV and Sky

Sent to all Members on behalf of Cllr Heather Shearer regarding Somerset Council’s

Dear friends,

Every child deserves to have a safe and loving home, and I am asking you for your help, as Corporate Parents, to achieve this please. We have a fantastic history of excellent fostering families in Somerset. Many of us know them well or are carers ourselves. However, as you know, the number of children needing to be in our care is rising, so we need to encourage more families to become foster carers. One thing we can each do is to promote our latest fostering campaign within our communities. I have been raising this with all of my Parishes and they are all keen to help. Today, we are launching our latest promotional film which will air from 20 December 2024, until 16 February 2025.

Look out for the film during ad breaks on ITV and Sky. You can also view it here
<https://youtu.be/BZc-vespgeE>

We have produced a fostering campaign toolkit that contains a link to the video, social media posts and content for your newsletters and community group emails, or even your own reports to your Parish, Town, and City councils. Please can you share these new promotional materials with your communities and your contacts. We know many of you have been sharing our fostering messages already – thank you for your ongoing support. If you would like any more information about fostering options and the differences we can make to children’s lives, please let me know and we’ll gladly help.

Many thanks,

Heather

For further info – 08005879900-www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk

2.0 - Local Issues

2.1 - Highways and Transport - ongoing

- Speed past Hillview school

Ongoing discussions about concerns for the school entrance and the speed of the road. School are monitoring, recording and reporting incidents of near misses or risks.

All near misses should be reported by local residents who should be encouraged to do this as data collection of such incidents adds to the weight of receiving official monitoring the road.- Verbal update by Emily

- **Drainage works** between the school and Stapleton Cross planned for inclusion into the 2024/25 following a CCTV survey to be carried out this year works to be designed following survey (done), now with contractor to design, works phased over three years.

- **Trees between the school and Stapleton Cross**, no safety issues at this time, to be monitored. To be included in next tender. Highways state they are not their responsibility unless they fall on the highway

- **Jetting of the system to be arranged on the section leaving Ash towards the A303** following the patching and depending on available budgets (jetting at new school, competed by contractors undertaking new school build)Recent work has been completed to clear outlets near the A303 turn off. Jetting between SEND school and Ash to be carried out on completion of the build in April 2024. No budget available but awaiting review.

- **Burrough Road trees** – Verbal update from Emily

2.2 - Traffic and Safety strategy - ongoing

Long Load are interested in utilising the SIDs if and when available. To be discussed in the future between the two parishes once it is available. Awaiting transfer of SID to Ash

Regards

John and Emily

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors, you are summoned to a meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.00pm in Ash Pavilion.

Clerk to the Council.



31st December 2024

Councillors will be discussing all the items listed on the Agenda.
Members of the Public and Press are invited to attend all Council Meetings.

Equality Act 2010

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and any disability), Gender Equality, Crime & Disorder, Biodiversity, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Recording of Council Meetings

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 allows both the public and press to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media).

Any member of the public wishing to record or film proceedings must let the Chairman of the meeting know prior to, or at the start of, the meeting and the recording must be overt (i.e., clearly visible to anyone at the meeting), but non-disruptive. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during the time allocated for Public Comment who do not wish to be recorded or filmed, need to inform the Chairman who will instruct those taking a recording or filming to cease doing so while they speak.

Members of the Public and Press are invited to attend all Council Meetings
(*Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (15 minutes)

This section (at the Chairman's discretion may last up to 15 minutes) is not part of the formal meeting of the Council and minutes will not be produced. Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s 100.

OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- ◆ Somerset Councillors – report dated 2nd December to note.
- ◆ Somerset Councillors – report dated 6th January 2025.

- ◆ Outside bodies/groups

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

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Ash Parish Council will be discussing all the items listed below:

The agenda specifies the business that it is proposed to transact (Local Government Act 1972 Sch.12 para 10 (2)(b)) and the Council cannot lawfully decide any matter which is not specified in the agenda (Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119).

6th January 2025 AGENDA

24/171 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

24/172 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).

24/173 To APPROVE and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2024
(LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1)).

24/174 Matters to report from a previous meeting.

- Martock SID
- Signage Millennium Wood/play area
- Website – update from Councillors re current content and relevance.
- HMRC/payroll arrangements
- Pavillion door replacement
- Tree damage/Burrough Street
- Auditor update

24/175 Planning decisions report.

24/176: Planning Applications: Install EV charging point, listed building 52 Burrough Street.

24/177 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.

24/178 Finance: To discuss the payment requests as detailed below & minute decisions

24/179 Finance: To approve & sign the Bank reconciliations - December 2024

24/180 Finance – to approve & sign the Bank Statements November - December 2024

24/181 Finance – to approve budget for financial year 2025/6

24/182 Finance – to approve precept request for financial year 2025/6

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

24/183- Parish Matters: VE Day 2025, to consider Parish events for VE Day

24/184 – Parish Matters: to consider letter from SCC detailing bin emptying charges for 2025/6

24/185 Parish Matters –To note Footpath modification orders numbers 11, 13 & 14.

24/186 Parish Matters – to consider correspondence regarding revised expression of Interest in devolution, committing to a Mayoral Combined Authority for the Heart of Wessex region.

24/187 – Parish matters – to consider footpath access to playground.

24/188 Exempt Session – Exclusion of the Press & Public

The Council is recommended to resolve that under section 1, paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

24/190 To consider completion of Parish Clerk's contracted probation period and set pay scale.

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

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

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.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

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.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Signed: Date:

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

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 06th January 2025

06/01/25	S Davey	Post & Chain Barrier Kit	131.96	
06/01/25	PG FIRE & SECURITY	Alarm maintenance	33.60	
06/01/25	Bristowes Electrical		145.54	

Signed:.....Date:

Direct Debit payments between 28/11/24- 31/12/24

28/11/24	BRITISH GAS	Utility	103.38	
04/12/24	BT GROUP	Utility	34.46	
17/12/24	BANK CHARGES		8.95	
30/11/24	BRITISH GAS	Utility	181.81	

Signed: Date:

Ash PC December 2024 Bank recs for signature						
Date	Type	Payee	Description	Money rec'd	Payments	Balance
28/11/2024	OB					4370.61
28/11/2024	SO	Z BOUGOURD			286.23	4084.38
28/11/2024	DD	BRITISH GAS			103.38	3981
02/12/2024	DEP	M Trusson		10		3991
02/12/2024	SO	EVIS RA			458.33	3532.67
02/12/2024	SO	KL BUNGAY			102	3430.67
03/12/2024	SO	S DAVEY			6.5	3424.17
04/12/2024	DD	BT GROUP			34.46	3389.71
04/12/2024	FPO	HAM & DOULT STONE			300	3089.71
04/12/2024	FPO	KL BUNGAY			25.5	3064.21
04/12/2024	FPO	PINNACLE			98.4	2965.81
04/12/2024	FPO	WATER4BUSINESS			149.27	2816.54
04/12/2024	FPO	BATTENS SOLICITORS			45	2771.54
05/12/2024	FPO	BRISTOWS ELECTRICAL			324	2447.54
05/06/2024	FPO	PAULLS MARTOCK			120	2327.54
09/06/2024	DEP	PAULLS MARTOCK		120		2447.54
12/12/2024	FPO	BELL INN			120	2327.54
17/12/2024	PAY	BANK CHARGES			8.95	2318.59
30/12/2024	DEP	M Trusson		40		2358.59
30/12/2024	SO	Z BOUGOURD			286.23	2072.36
30/12/2024	DD	BRITISH GAS			181.81	1890.55
				170	2650.06	
Opening Balance						
DECEMBER	5037.5					
INCOME	170					
EXPENDITURE	2650.06					
BALANCE C/F	2557.44					
SIGNED						
NAME						
DATE						

Zannette Bougourd (Ash P.C.)

Clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

Date: 5 December 2024

Our Ref: **24/02568/LBC**

Anthony Garratt (Specialist)

Email: anthony.garratt@somerset.gov.uk
01935 462446

PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL CONSULTATION
Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Dear Zannette Bougourd (Ash P.C.)

Proposal: Add an electric car (EV) charging pod to an external wall to the rear of the property.

Location: The Grange 25 Burrough Street Ash Martock Somerset TA12 6NZ

Applicant: Mr Mark Wilson

Application Type : Listed Building Consent

Application Number: 24/02568/LBC

The Council has received the above application and the documents are available on the website, [Planning Search \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://somerset.gov.uk/planning-search)

Comments are welcome by **26 December 2024**. If you need more time to consider this application, please contact the Planning Officer as early as possible to agree an extension.

The application is being dealt with by Anthony Garratt (Specialist) who can be contacted by email at anthony.garratt@somerset.gov.uk or by telephone on Tel No: 01935 462446

You can Comment, Support or Object to the proposal but material planning reasons must be provided. Please use the response template issued to the Clerk to submit your comments. Any comments made will be taken into account in any Officer recommendation. Please do not submit them via the public comment facility on the Council's website above, this facility is currently only for use for members of the public and your comments may not be logged correctly.

Your response should be returned by email to PlanningSouth@somerset.gov.uk Please do not send direct to the Case Officer or include signatures or any other personal information that may need redacting.

Anthony Garratt (Specialist)
Planning Team South
Somerset Council

Parish precept calculator Band D

Ash

Type in the precept per band D required and it will work out the %

	24/25	25/26	Increase/(decrease)		Cost Per Week (Rounded to 2dp)		Increase/(Decrease)	
			amount	%	24/25	25/26	Amount	%
Precept per band D	182.75	52100.00	51,917.25	#####				
Tax Base	278.52	283.50	4.98	1.79%				
Total Precept	50,900.00	#####	#####	#####				
A 6 / 9	121.83	34733.33	34,611.50	#####	2.34	667.95	665.61	28408.63%
B 7 / 9	142.14	40522.22	40,380.08	#####	2.73	779.27	776.54	28408.63%
C 8 / 9	162.45	46311.11	46,148.67	#####	3.12	890.60	887.47	28408.63%
D 9 / 9	182.75	52100.00	51,917.25	#####	3.51	1,001.92	998.41	28408.63%
E 11 / 9	223.36	63677.78	63,454.41	#####	4.30	1,224.57	1,220.28	28408.63%
F 13 / 9	263.97	75255.56	74,991.58	#####	5.08	1,447.22	1,442.15	28408.63%
G 15 / 9	304.59	86833.33	86,528.75	#####	5.86	1,669.87	1,664.01	28408.63%
H 18 / 9	365.50	104200.00	103,834.50	#####	7.03	2,003.85	1,996.82	28408.63%

Parish precept calculator Total Precept

Ash

Type in the total precept required and it will work out the %

		24/25	25/26	Increase/(decrease) amount	%	Cost Per Week (Rounded to 2dp)		Increase/(Decrease)	
						24/25	25/26	Amount	%
Tax Base		278.52	283.50	4.98	1.79%				
Precept		50,900.00	52,100.00	1,200.00	2.36%				
Band D amount		182.75	183.77	1.02	0.56%				
A	6 / 9	121.83	122.52	0.68	0.56%	2.34	2.36	0.01	0.56%
B	7 / 9	142.14	142.94	0.80	0.56%	2.73	2.75	0.02	0.56%
C	8 / 9	162.45	163.35	0.91	0.56%	3.12	3.14	0.02	0.56%
D	9 / 9	182.75	183.77	1.02	0.56%	3.51	3.53	0.02	0.56%
E	11 / 9	223.36	224.61	1.25	0.56%	4.30	4.32	0.02	0.56%
F	13 / 9	263.97	265.45	1.48	0.56%	5.08	5.10	0.03	0.56%
G	15 / 9	304.59	306.29	1.70	0.56%	5.86	5.89	0.03	0.56%
H	18 / 9	365.50	367.55	2.05	0.56%	7.03	7.07	0.04	0.56%

22 July 2024

Dear Clerks,

Litter Bin and Dog Waste Bin charges 25/26

I am writing about the proposed changes to the emptying of litter and dog bins on city, town or parish council owned land for the financial year 25/26.

Historically there has been **no charge** for collections in the former **Mendip and South Somerset Districts, on non-council owned land.**

However, this is inconsistent with the former Somerset West and Taunton and Sedgemoor Districts, where collections are chargeable on non-council owned land.

The Council's intention is to begin charging for litter and dog bin emptying on non-council owned land from April 1st, 2025, in those areas where there has not previously been a charge.

A consistent, countywide cost per empty is yet to be decided, but as a guide, the charge in the former Somerset West and Taunton is £7.82 +VAT a collection.

To do this, we need to verify that our data is correct, and we are clear which bins are Somerset Council-owned and which are owned by you, in the parishes.

A combined list is provided (attached)

For clarity, we would like you to note that attached is a **combined list of both Somerset Council owned and city, town or parish owned bins** which is taken from our collection schedule.

We are asking each city, town and parish council to confirm:

- That the total combined number of bins is correct.

- The type (dog or litter) and location of the bins (What3Words would be helpful, but a road name or similar is fine)
- Which bins are Somerset Council-owned, and which bins are city, town or parish owned.

Please email your responses to: somersetbinproject@somerset.gov.uk

We appreciate that these records may not be 100% accurate, but validating our data is an important first step and allows us to set our emptying costs accurately.

Local knowledge is very much appreciated in helping with this.

Next steps

Once we have verified this information, we will be able to offer the following three options to you for the bins that are on city, town or parish land:

- A cost for Somerset Council to empty the bins. This will be per bin per collection.
- Devolve the bin emptying to the city, town or parish council. This will allow the city, town or parish council to arrange for their own disposal of the waste.
- Remove the bin(s).

There will be no charge passed on to city, town or parish councils for emptying Somerset Council-owned bins.

The service will continue as normal, during 25/26.

We ask that this information is returned to us by Friday 9th August so that there is time for Somerset Council to respond and for councils to make decisions ahead of setting budgets for 25/26.

To further support decision making, we would also like to offer a bin consultation to city, town and parishes (subject to available resource). This is an extension of the scheme offered in the former South Somerset District Council area, where officers advise on different types of bins that are available and how this can reduce the number of bins and collections required.

If this is something your city, town or parish council would like to request, please can you also let us know in your email response.

We have a team working on this so if you have any queries, I can arrange for an officer to make contact and talk any problems through.

We also recognise that some city, town or parish councils have large numbers of bins, and it may not be as easy to provide the information we have asked for. If this is the case, then again please let me know and I will arrange for an officer to call.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Stevens

Head of Operations

Somerset Council

somersetbinproject@somerset.gov.uk

Hi,

I write in regard to the litter and bin charges for your parish areas that were communicated in the attached letter back in the summer.

Thank you to everyone for their responses and input on locations of bins. It is very much appreciated.

I am pleased to say that we have completed the task of bringing together the dog and litter bin process across the county. The process is the same now for all parishes. I am also pleased to say that we have been able to set the provisional charge per bin, per collection at £6.50 +VAT, which is lower than the suggested figure in the letter.

Therefore, a single bin, emptied once a week, will be charged at £338 +VAT a year.

To reiterate, this is a charge for bins on non-council owned land only. There is no charge for the collection of bins on Somerset Council land. This includes highways bins.

I do need to caveat that the charge is provisional until our fees and charges are formally approved by Full Council in January.

Officers will be in touch in the new year to confirm whether this is a service you wish to continue with, and arrangements for invoicing etc if it is.

Any questions in the meantime, please direct them to somersetbinproject@somerset.gov.uk.

Thank you,

Jonathan

Jonathan Stevens

Head of Operations, Regulatory & Operational Services

Somerset Council



A Greener, More Sustainable Somerset



**SECTION 53(2) AND SCHEDULE 15
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
The Somerset Council
(No. 11) Modification Order, 2024
Parish of Ash**

The above Order, made on 29 November 2024 under Section 53(2)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by:

1. Upgrading to a restricted byway that part of Footpath Y 1/17, in the parish of Ash, which starts at the junction with Burrough Street (point A on the order plan H59-2024) and runs north (a section known as Ash Drove) for approximately 1,293 metres to OS grid ref ST 48684 21890 (point X on order plan H59-2024).

The width is as excluded from surrounding hereditaments on the Finance Act Plan except between OS grid ref ST 48549 21543 (point Xi on the order plan H59-2024) and OS grid ref ST 48060 20872 (point Z on the order plan H59-2024) where it is 9.14 metres.

2. Upgrading to a restricted byway that part of Footpath Y 1/17, in the parish of Ash, which starts at OS grid ref ST 48684 21890 (point X on the order H75-2024) and runs west (a section known as Thornhill Drove) for approximately 950 metres to OS grid ref ST 47781 22090 (point W on order plan H 75-2024)

The width varies between 4.2 metres and 12 metres as shown shaded yellow on the order plan H 75-2024.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge by appointment (Tel: 01823 355 644) at Somerset County Council, County Hall, The Crescent, Taunton, TA1 4DY from 9.00am until 3.00pm Monday to Friday. Copies of the Order and plan may be obtained there free of charge or by contacting rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk.

Any representation about or objection to the Orders may be sent in writing to Rights of Way, Somerset Council, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY, to be received not later than 20 January 2024. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Somerset Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State may itself confirm the Order. If the order is submitted to the Secretary of State any representations or objections which have been duly made and not withdrawn will be sent with it. The Council's Privacy Statement relating to representations and objections made to an order can be viewed here: www.somerset.gov.uk/dmmo-downloads

Dated 6 December 2024
Andrew Turner Strategic Manager - Highways Maintenance
County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

**THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT**

**The Somerset Council
(No. 11) Modification Order, 2024**

Parish of Ash

This Order is made by the Somerset Council under section 53(2)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ("the Act") because it appears to that authority that the County of Somerset Definitive Map and Statement require modification in consequence of the occurrence of an event specified in:

Section 53(3)(c)(ii) of the Act namely, the discovery by the authority of evidence which (when considered with all other relevant evidence available to them) shows that a highway shown in the map and statement as a highway of a particular description ought to be there shown as a highway of a different description.

The authority has consulted with every local authority whose area includes the land to which the order relates. The Somerset Council hereby order that:

1. For the purposes of this order the relevant date is 29 November 2024.
2. The County of Somerset Definitive Map and Statement shall be modified as described in Part I and Part II of the Schedule and shown on maps H 75-2024 and H59-2024 attached to the Order.
3. This order shall take effect on the date it is confirmed and may be cited as the Somerset Council (No.11) Modification Order, 2024.

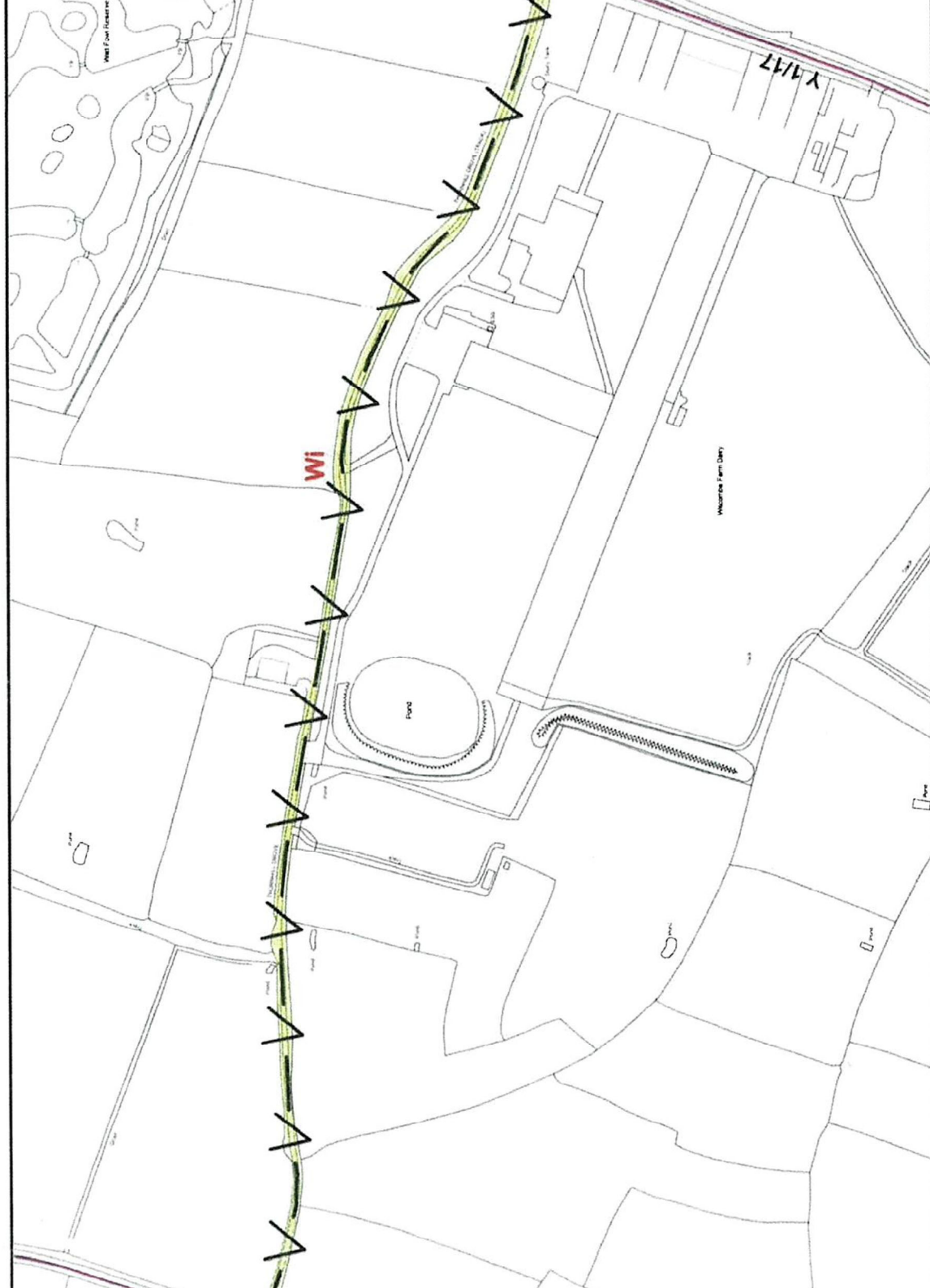
Dated 29 November 2024

THE COMMON SEAL of the
SOMERSET COUNCIL
Was hereunto affixed in
The presence of:


Authorised Officer



Number in Register CH4-286



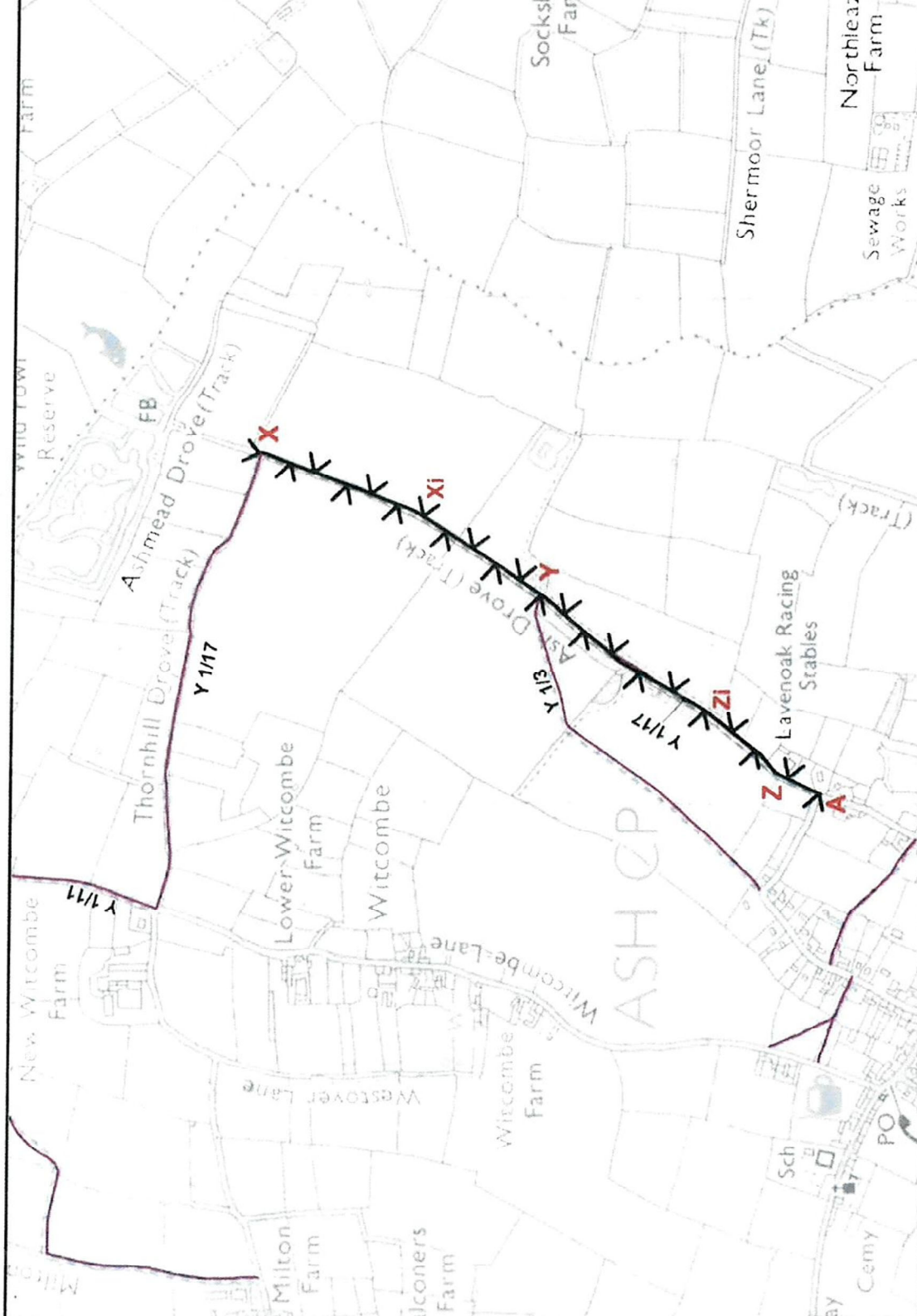
Parish: Ash
 District: South Somerset
 Date: 19/11/2024
 Drawing No: H75-2024
 Drawn By: MHardwill
 Centre Grid Ref: 348202, 121939
 Scale: 1:3,500

The County of Somerset Definitive Map and Statement

 Somerset Council
 (no. 11) Modification Order, 2024
 Parish of Ash



Definitive Footpath
 Footpath to be upgraded to a Restricted Byway (shown X-Wi-W)

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS DEPT
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 Survey AC0000861332. Additional Information © Somerset Council



Parish: Ash
 District: South Somerset
 Date: 12/11/2024
 Drawing No: H59-2024
 Drawn By: MHardwill
 Centre Grid Ref: 348900, 123700
 Scale: Not to set scale

THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
 The Somerset County Council
 (No. 11) Modification Order, 2022
 Parish of Ash

Definitive Footpath 
 Path to be upgraded
 shown A-Z-Zi-Y-Xi-X 

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IMPORTANT – THIS COMMUNICATION AFFECTS YOUR PROPERTY



Somerset
Council

**SECTION 53(2) AND SCHEDULE 15
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
The Somerset Council
(No. 13) Modification Order, 2024
Parish of Ash**

To Ms Z. Bougourd Of Ash Parish Council 9 Redgate Park Crewkerne TA18 7NL

The above Order, made on 29 November 2024 under Section 53(2)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by:

Upgrading that part of Footpath Y 1/11 in the Parish of Ash which starts from the County Road (point V on the order plan) and runs in a generally northerly direction for approximately 1366 metres to OS grid ref ST 48196 23371 (point T on the order plan) is to be upgraded to a Restricted Byway.

The width is as shown excluded from the surrounding hereditaments on the 1910 Finance Act Record Plan except at:

- OS grid ref ST 4813 2317 (point U on the order plan) where the width between the eastern boundary and the junction with Shaldron Mead Drove is 12.5 metres;
- OS grid ref ST 4810 2306 (point i on the order plan) where the width between the western boundary and the junction with Ham's Drove is 11 metres;
- OS grid ref ST 4803 2284 (point ii on the order plan) where the width between the eastern boundary and the junction with Ox Leaze Drove is 13 metres; and
- OS grid ref ST 4791 2259 (point iii on the order plan) where the width between the western boundary and the junction with Hurst Drove is 12 metres.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge by appointment (Tel: 01823 355 644) at Somerset County Council, County Hall, The Crescent, Taunton, TA1 4DY from 9.00am until 3.00pm Monday to Friday. Copies of the Order and plan may be obtained there free of charge or by contacting rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk.

Any representation about or objection to the Orders may be sent in writing to Rights of Way, Somerset Council, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY, to be received not later than 20 January 2025. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Somerset Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State may itself confirm the Order. If the order is submitted to the Secretary of State any representations or objections which have been duly made and not withdrawn will

be sent with it. The Council's Privacy Statement relating to representations and objections made to an order can be viewed here: www.somerset.gov.uk/dm-mo-downloads

Dated 6 December 2024

Andrew Turner Strategic Manager - Highways Maintenance
County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

**THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEFINITIVE
MAP AND STATEMENT**

**The Somerset Council
(No. 13) Modification Order, 2024**

Parish of Ash

This Order is made by the Somerset Council under section 53(2)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ("the Act") because it appears to that authority that the County of Somerset Definitive Map and Statement require modification in consequence of the occurrence of an event specified in:

Section 53(3)(c)(ii) of the Act namely, the discovery by the authority of evidence which (when considered with all other relevant evidence available to them) shows that a highway shown in the map and statement as a highway of a particular description ought to be there shown as a highway of a different description.

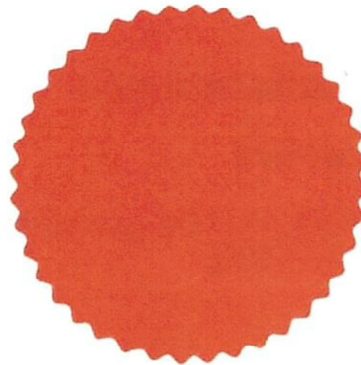
The Authority has consulted with every local authority whose area includes the land to which the order relates.

The Somerset Council hereby orders that:

- 1) For the purpose of this order the relevant date is 29 November 2024
- 2) The County of Somerset Definitive Map and Statement shall be modified as described in Part I and Part II of the Schedule and shown on plan H77-2024 attached to the Order.
- 3) The Order shall take effect on the date it is confirmed and may be cited as The Somerset Council (No. 13) Modification Order, 2024.

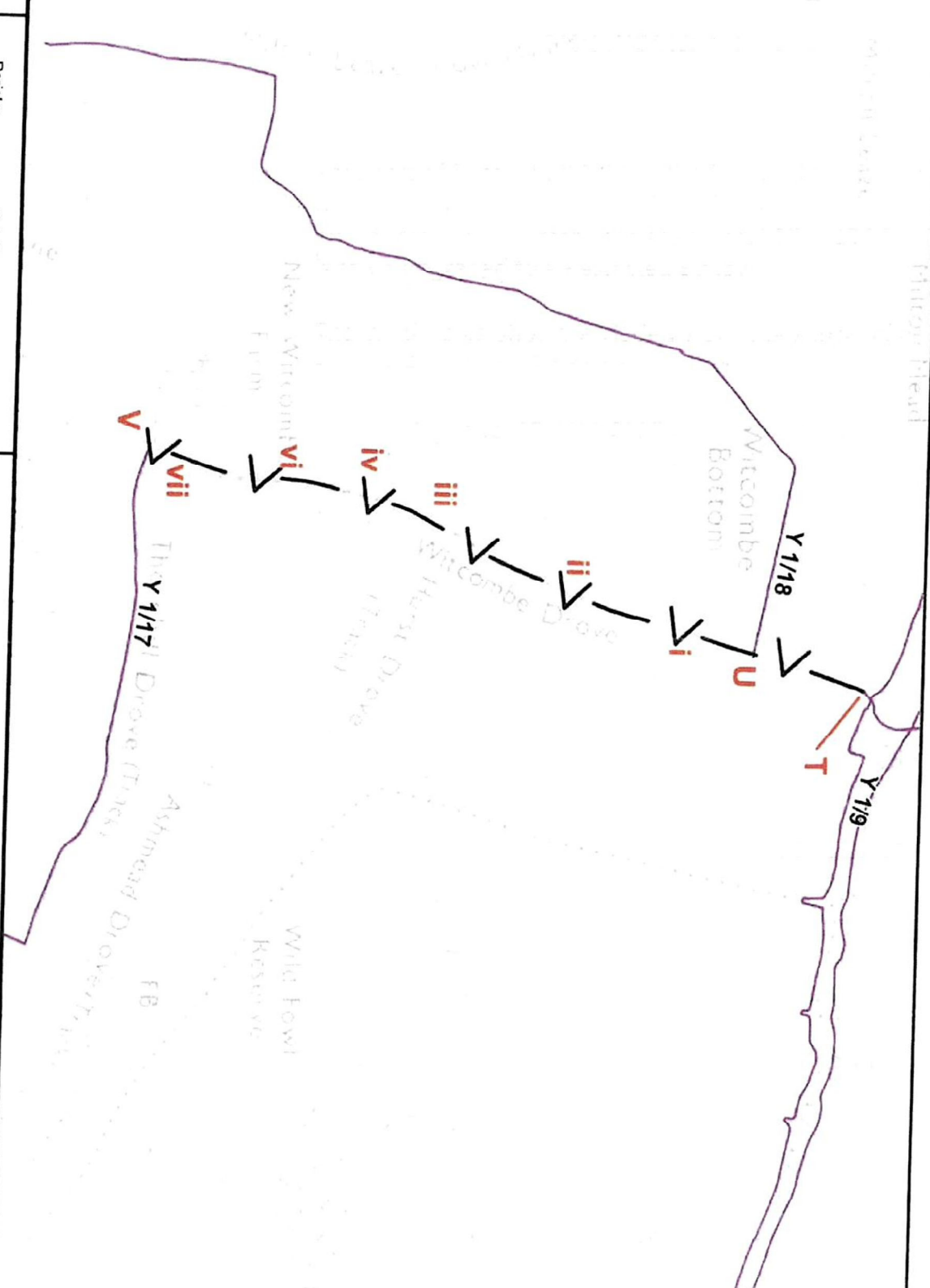
Dated 29 November 2024

THE COMMON SEAL of the
COUNCIL OF SOMERSET
Was hereunto affixed in
The presence of:




Authorised Officer

Number in Register *CH4-285*



Parish: Ash & Long Sutton
 District: South Somerset
 Date: 25/11/2024
 Drawing No: H77-2024
 Drawn By: MHardwill
 Centre Grid Ref: 348900, 123700
 Scale: 1:10,000

The Somerset Council
 (No. 13) Modification Order, 2024
 Parish of Ash

Footpath to be Upgraded to a Restricted
 Byway shown V-vii-vi-iv-iii-ii-i-U-T

Definitive Footpath

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**Somerset
Council**

**SECTION 53(2) AND SCHEDULE 15
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
The Somerset Council
(No. 14) Modification Order, 2024
Parishes of Ash and Long Sutton**

The above Order, made on 29 November 2024 under Section 53(2)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by:

i) Upgrading to a bridleway that part of footpath L 21/49, in the parish of Long Sutton, which starts at the junction with restricted byway L 21/54 (point I on the order plan) and runs south for approximately 69 metres before crossing the Mill Stream via Driveway Bridge at OS grid ref ST 48159 24509. It then continues south for approximately another 374 metres to cross King's Moor Main Drain via an unnamed bridge at OS grid reference ST 48237 24143. From here the bridleway continues south for 444 metres to the junction with bridleway L 21/56 (point K on the order plan).

The width of the path is 9.14 metres except where:

- a) it crosses Driveway Bridge where it is 6 metres wide; and
- b) it crosses King's Moor Main Drain by way of an unnamed bridge where it is 4.2 metres wide

ii) Upgrading to a bridleway that part of footpath Y 1/10, in the parish of Ash, which starts at the junction with bridleway L 21/56 (point K on the order plan) and runs south for approximately 5 metres to OS grid ref ST 48255 23691 where there is a 1.5 metre wide bridge. From here the bridleway runs south for approximately 276 metres to OS grid ref ST 48251 23417 (point S on the order plan), where there is a bridge and ford crossing the River Yeo. From here the bridleway continues south west for another 57 metres to the junction with footpath Y 1/9.

The width is 9.14 metres between the junction with bridleway L 21/56 (point K on the order plan) and the southern bank of the River Yeo.

From the southern bank of the River Yeo to the junction with footpath Y 1/9 the width is 3 metres.

iii) Upgrading to a bridleway that part of footpath Y1/11, in the parish of Ash, which starts at OS grid ref ST 48196 23371 (point T on the order plan) and runs north for approximately 17 metres to the junction with footpath Y1/9.

The width is 3 metres.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge by appointment (Tel: 01823 355 644) at Somerset County Council, County Hall, The

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Somerset Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State may itself confirm the Order. If the order is submitted to the Secretary of State any representations or objections which have been duly made and not withdrawn will be sent with it. The Council's Privacy Statement relating to representations and objections made to an order can be viewed here: www.somerset.gov.uk/dmno-downloads

Dated 6 December 2024

Andrew Turner Strategic Manager - Highways Maintenance
County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

**THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET DEFINITIVE
MAP AND STATEMENT**

**The Somerset Council
(No. 14) Modification Order, 2024
Parishes of Ash and Long Sutton**

This Order is made by the Somerset Council under section 53(2)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ("the Act") because it appears to that authority that the County of Somerset Definitive Map and Statement require modification in consequence of the occurrence of an event specified in:

Section 53(3)(c)(ii) of the Act namely, the discovery by the authority of evidence which (when considered with all other relevant evidence available to them) shows that a highway shown in the map and statement as a highway of a particular description ought to be there shown as a highway of a different description.

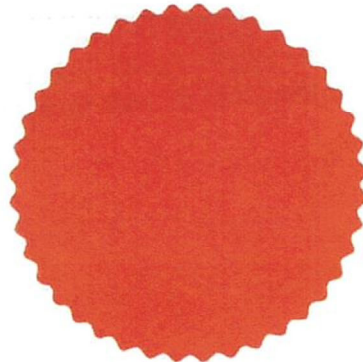
The Authority has consulted with every local authority whose area includes the land to which the order relates.

The Somerset Council hereby orders that:

- 1) For the purpose of this order the relevant date is 29 November 2024.
- 2) The County of Somerset Definitive Map and Statement shall be modified as described in Part I and Part II of the Schedule and shown on plan H78-2024 attached to the Order.
- 3) The Order shall take effect on the date it is confirmed and may be cited as The Somerset Council (No. 14) Modification Order, 2024.

Dated 29 November 2024.

THE COMMON SEAL of the
SOMERSET COUNCIL
Was hereunto affixed in
The presence of:




Authorised Officer

Number in Register *CH4284*

SCHEDULE

PART I

MODIFICATION OF THE DEFINITIVE MAP

Description of path or way to be upgraded

i) Upgrade to a bridleway that part of footpath L 21/49, in the parish of Long Sutton, which starts at the junction with restricted byway L 21/54 (point I on the order plan) and runs south for approximately 69 metres before crossing the Mill Stream via Driveway Bridge at OS grid ref ST 48159 24509. It then continues south for approximately another 374 metres to cross King's Moor Main Drain via an unnamed bridge at OS grid reference ST 48237 24143. From here the bridleway continues south for 444 metres to the junction with bridleway L 21/56 (point K on the order plan).

The width of the path is 9.14 metres except where:

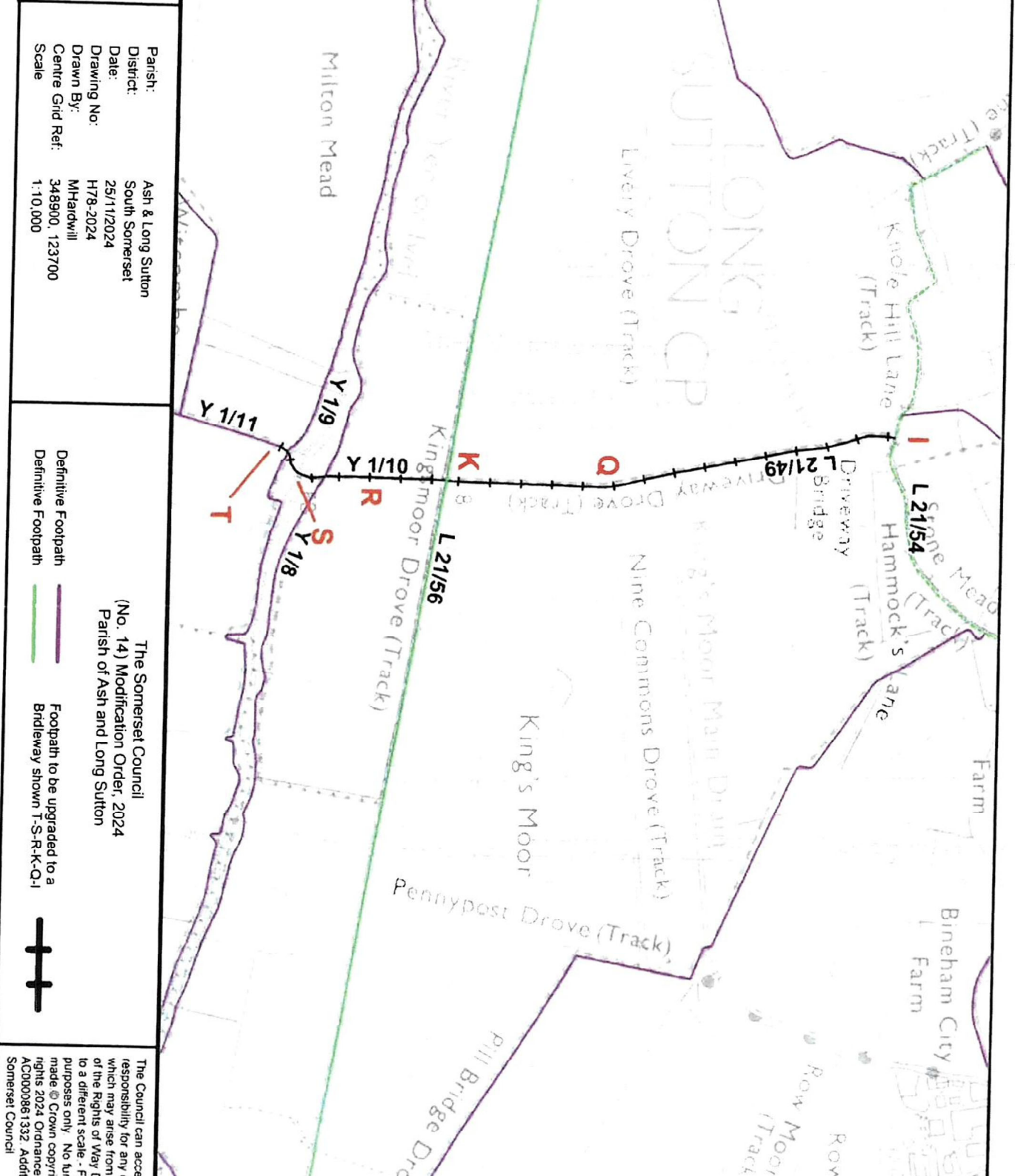
- a) it crosses Driveway Bridge where it is 6 metres wide; and
- b) it crosses King's Moor Main Drain by way of an unnamed bridge where it is 4.2 metres wide

ii) Upgrade to a bridleway that part of footpath Y 1/10, in the parish of Ash, which starts at the junction with bridleway L 21/56 (point K on the order plan) and runs south for approximately 5 metres to OS grid ref ST 48255 23691 where there is a 1.5 metre wide bridge. From here the bridleway runs south for approximately 276 metres to OS grid ref ST 48251 23417 (point S on the order plan), where there is a bridge and ford crossing the River Yeo. From here the bridleway continues south west for another 57 metres to the junction with footpath Y 1/9.

The width is 9.14 metres between the junction with bridleway L 21/56 (point K on the order plan) and the southern bank of the River Yeo.
From the southern bank of the River Yeo to the junction with footpath Y 1/9 the width is 3 metres.

iii) Upgrade to a bridleway that part of footpath Y1/11, in the parish of Ash, which starts at OS grid ref ST 48196 23371 (point T on the order plan) and runs north for approximately 17 metres to the junction with footpath Y1/9.

The width is 3 metres.



Parish: Ash & Long Sutton
 District: South Somerset
 Date: 25/11/2024
 Drawing No: H78-2024
 Drawn By: MHardwill
 Centre Grid Ref: 348900, 123700
 Scale: 1:10,000

The Somerset Council
 (No. 14) Modification Order, 2024
 Parish of Ash and Long Sutton

Definitive Footpath  Footpath to be upgraded to a
 Definitive Footpath  Bridleway shown T-S-R-K-Q-I 

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Press Release

Embargoed: 12.30pm Friday 29 November 2024

Revised Expression of Interest in devolution by Dorset, Somerset, and Wiltshire Councils

Dorset, Somerset, and Wiltshire Councils have revised their Expression of Interest in devolution, committing to a Mayoral Combined Authority for the Heart of Wessex region.

In a joint statement, the leaders of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils, Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Bill Revans, and Cllr Richard Clewer, said:

“We have submitted a revised Expression of Interest to central government for the Heart of Wessex devolution deal. This submission reflects our shared vision for unlocking significant opportunities for our communities through local empowerment and collaboration.

“This is not a merger of the three councils, all three will remain separate local authorities. Devolution is the handing down of powers and decision making from central government to new 'local partnership' areas. The make-up of the individual councils who may work together will not change.

“Whilst our preference would be for not having a mayor, Government has made it clear that all devolution deals will end up with Mayoral Combined Authorities. Ultimately, this model will help secure better funding deals for our region; therefore, our revised proposal aligns with this approach, and we have set out our commitment and intent for a directly elected mayoral governance system. This proposal ensures clear, accountable leadership to drive economic growth, improve public services, and invest in vital infrastructure across the region, working closely with the leaders of the constituent councils.

“The Heart of Wessex encompasses a region of significant potential, and we feel that devolution at scale can support our ambitions to ensure our local economy thrives and is supported by a skilled, secure and well-paid workforce. Mayoral devolution also offers the opportunity to develop a long-term investment plan for the critical infrastructure our counties need with the ability to bring in additional private sector investment.

“We have made clear our strong desire to be considered in the first tranche of devolution deals, recognising the commitment of our councils to lead change in local government and move forward as swiftly as possible.

“With a population of approximately 1.5 million, we believe the Heart of Wessex presents a realistic and ambitious offer which can redefine local decision-making and partnership across the patch, offering the Government an opportunity to showcase what devolution can offer to the region and to the wider UK. The Heart of Wessex has real strengths in sectors such as defence, digital, life sciences and clean energy, and devolution will help ensure the success of these sectors in kickstarting economic growth, making Britain a clean energy superpower and breaking down barriers to opportunity.

“Once an outline of proposals has been agreed with central government, we will need to share these with residents and will be seeking feedback on the detail of any arrangements as part of a formal consultation.”

If the devolution proposal is approved, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire councils will continue to exist and have the same responsibilities as they do now. The offer to BCP Council and Swindon Borough Council to join the Heart of Wessex partnership remains open.

ENDS

DEVOLUTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is devolution?

Devolution is the handing down of powers and decision making from central government to new regional areas.

Why has the government asked Somerset Council to submit a proposal for devolution?

In July 2024 the Deputy Prime Minister wrote to all local authorities without a devolution deal asking them to submit proposals via an 'expression of interest' for a devolution deal. This letter can be found here: [Letter from the Deputy Prime Minister to local leaders: the next steps to devolution - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/letter-from-the-deputy-prime-minister-to-local-leaders-the-next-steps-to-devolution)

This was accompanied by a stated aim that the government "aims to widen and deepen devolution across the country, by pushing power out of Whitehall and into the hands of local people to drive regional growth".

What has Somerset Council asked for in its expression of interest to government?

Following extensive discussions with neighbouring authorities Somerset Council has submitted an expression of interest in September proposing it explores a devolution geography called the 'Heart of Wessex' with Wiltshire and Dorset Councils. Recently, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils jointly revised this expression of interest to make clear they would support a Heart of Wessex geography with an elected mayor.

Why was the expression of interest revised to support an elected mayor?

Government has made it clear that they are committed to devolution deals that include mayors. Therefore, the revised proposal aligns with this approach. This model ensures clear, accountable leadership to drive economic growth, improve public services, and invest in vital infrastructure across the region, working closely with the leaders of the constituent councils.

Devolution at scale can support our ambitions to ensure our local economy thrives and is supported by a skilled, secure and well-paid workforce. Mayoral devolution also offers the opportunity to develop a long-term investment plan for the critical infrastructure our counties need with the ability to bring in additional private sector investment.

Should mayoral devolution be agreed, residents would have the opportunity to vote for a mayor.

What about BCP and Swindon?

Discussions to date have also included BCP Council and Swindon Borough Council. Dorset, Somerset, and Wiltshire councils remain open to the possibility of working with BCP and Swindon across the Wessex region.

When will we hear back from the government regarding the proposal?

There is no formal timeframe for a response from government. However, we are actively engaged in discussions with central government to understand any initial feedback regarding the Heart of Wessex proposal.

Does this mean Somerset Council is committed to the Heart of Wessex geography with no ability to change it?

No. The Leaders of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils have been clear that further guidance is now needed from the government alongside the opportunity to review the draft English Devolution Bill when it is published.

Will Somerset Council be merging with Wiltshire and Dorset if the Heart of Wessex devolution proposal is agreed?

No. There are no plans to share any services between the three councils. The aim of devolution is to unlock additional funding streams from central government and that we would work collaboratively with Dorset and Wiltshire on new initiatives.

If the devolution proposal is approved by government, local councils in Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset will continue to exist and have the same responsibilities as they do now. The current legal, tax-raising and public service responsibilities of individual councils will remain with those councils. Any formal proposals will be subject to consultation.

What will the process of consultation look like?

We expect the process of consultation under this government to be set out in the draft English Devolution Bill so further detail about this is not available at this stage.

How would the Heart of Wessex proposal work in practice? What type of authority would actually be created if devolution is agreed for Somerset?

We expect the governance framework to be based on the combined authority structures provided for in existing legislation. Combined authorities are a legal structure that may be set up by local authorities in England. They can be set up with or without a directly elected mayor. Under the previous government, combined authorities could be set up by two or more local authorities and would take on statutory functions transferred to them by an Order made by the relevant Secretary of State, plus any functions that the constituent authorities agree to share.

The types of functions new combined authorities will be responsible for under this Labour government will likely be those proposed for inclusion in the English Devolution Bill e.g. strategic planning, local transport networks, skills, and employment support.

When will the draft English Devolution Bill be published and come into force?

There is no formal timetable for publication of the draft English Devolution Bill or its introduction to Parliament. However, we expect publication of the draft Bill before the end of 2024.