

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors, you are summoned to the Ash Parish Council Meeting on Monday 04th August 2025 at 7.00pm in Ash Pavilion.

Clerk to the Council.



29th July 2025

The Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 04th August 2025 commencing at 7.00pm, to discuss and take decisions on Parish business as outlined on the Agenda.

Public Forum: Members of the public and press are welcome to join the meeting and are able to speak on any matter for up to 10 minutes during the Public Forum which will take place at the start of the meeting. If the matter is likely to take longer than 10 minutes, notice should be provided to the Clerk by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the meeting.

04th August 2025 AGENDA

Public Forum

1. Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: July/August 2025
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. To approve and sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 07th July 2025
5. Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)
 - a. Cloud Next – update & website administration/support
 - b. Role Allocation & responsibilities – confirmation of allocations
 - c. Change Pavillion Committee designation to Pavillion Working Party
 - d. SID repair.
6. Planning Applications: None received.
7. Planning Decisions: None to note
8. Finance –
 - a. To approve and sign the Bank statements – July 2025 to date.
 - b. To approve and minute payment requests.
 - c. To approve and sign bank reconciliations July 2025 to date
 - d.

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

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

- 9. **Parish Matters:** To consider quotes to resurface access path to Recreation Ground/Play Area
- 10. **Parish Matters:** To consider quote for Ash Recreational ground – Play Park Platform
- 11. **Parish Matters.** To confirm tree planting schedule and costs.
- 12. **Parish Matters –** To consider request to upgrade recreation field lighting(sports/football users)
- 12 **Parish Matters:** Review of 2025 Playground inspection report & identify any further works required.
– deferred from July meeting.
- 13 **Parish Matters –** damage to carpark barrier.
- 14 **To consider insurance renewal –** due 01/10/25
- 13. **Parish Matters/Reports to note:** Somerset Council Planning updates.

Payment requests as at 29th July 2025

S Davey	Track Lease fee(reimbursement)	£10.00

Signed:.....Date:

Somerset Council Report

Ash Parish Council 7th July 2025

1.0 - Somerset News

1.1 - Transforming Social Care Challenges into Success: Somerset Council's 'My Life, My Future' Wins National Award

Somerset Council's adult social care transformation, 'My Life, My Future,' has received national recognition, winning a prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award. The programme has saved £10 million over the first two years, significantly improved support for residents across the county and will continue to make savings in future years.

The need for this transformation stemmed from financial pressures, including government funding reductions and an ageing population, which increased demand for social care. Somerset's decision, under the previous Conservative-led Council, to freeze Council Tax for six years from 2010 to 2016, contributed to a steep revenue shortfall of approximately £27 million annually, impacting the council's finances. Despite these challenges, the current Lib Dem leadership has focused on enabling residents to achieve independence, leading to better outcomes and fewer costly residential placements.

However, the government has avoided directly addressing these ongoing challenges, instead initiating another review that is likely to delay a clear plan until 2028. The Lib Dems at Somerset Council have been calling for immediate, urgent action to address and fix social care now.

Despite these challenges in Somerset, 'My Life, My Future' has supported more people to stay at home, saving £8.6 million for older adults through improved reablement services, which help individuals regain independence after hospital stays. It has also saved £1.4 million in support for people with learning difficulties, with over 40 actively engaged in plans for greater independence.

Lead Member for Social Care Councillor Sarah Wakefield praised the dedication of the adult social care teams, emphasising that overcoming financial challenges required innovative and systematic change. This award recognises Somerset's leadership in transforming social care and demonstrates how resilience and strategic decision-making can deliver positive outcomes even in difficult circumstances. The council remains committed to extending this success further, continually improving lives and saving money for the future.

1.2 - Update on Yeovil Maternity Unit Closure: We Are Listening and Taking Action

Somerset Lib Dems at all levels are working hard to address the ongoing concerns surrounding the closure of Yeovil Maternity Unit. We are working tirelessly to champion the needs of local families and ensure their voices are heard.

The planned closure of Yeovil Maternity for at least six months comes amid warnings from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) about the hospital's paediatric services, following a series of critical reports on Somerset's maternity care. We understand the anxiety this situation causes to expectant mothers and families across the region.

Our leadership, including Lead Member for Public Health, Councillor Graham Oaks, and Somerset Council Leader, Councillor Bill Revans, have met with senior hospital managers to explore options for reopening the unit as soon as possible. Councillor Oaks has called for the adoption of a Midwife-led unit, and we are actively pressing for a clear date for the reopening. We are closely monitoring developments and doing everything we can to advocate on behalf of residents.

MP Adam Dance has also been prominent in this effort, calling on the Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting MP, to ensure that Somerset's needs are not overlooked in the upcoming national review into maternity services. The review, initially focusing on ten of the most at-risk units, must include Yeovil and Somerset to prevent further gaps in vital maternity and paediatric care. Adam has launched an online petition <https://www.yeovil-libdems.org.uk/maternity-unit-campaign> calling on NHS Somerset and the Hospital trust to reopen the unit as soon as possible. Separately Adam has met with staff who have been impacted to hear their concerns directly which he has taken up with NHS leaders.

In a recent House of Commons debate, Adam raised serious concerns about the abrupt closure, warning that leaving a "dangerous gap in care" could result in avoidable harm. He highlighted the impact on expectant mothers who are forced to travel over an hour for care, and the pressure on neighbouring hospitals and staff.

We will continue to hold NHS leaders to account and push for immediate action to reopen Yeovil Maternity without delay.

We are taking ownership of trying to solve this NHS Somerset crisis (on behalf of residents) and remain committed to securing the future of safe, accessible maternity services for all families in Somerset.

1.3 - Progress on Improving Somerset's Roads: Report Potholes and Learn More about What We Are Doing to Meet the Challenge!

Did you know that every week in Somerset, we repair between 600 and 800 potholes? Thanks to our extensive preventative surface treatments program — which covered over 1 million square metres of road last summer — we've reduced the number of potholes by 4,000 compared to last year.

We've made significant progress in improving the condition of local roads, but the challenge remains ongoing. We're continually investing in targeted repairs and preventative measures to ensure safer, smoother journeys for everyone.

If you notice a pothole, you can report it quickly and easily at <https://orlo.uk/wEawl>. There's no need to email or call. Your report goes directly to a team member, who will visit and assess the issue. We aim to respond within 3 working days, and depending on the size and location, repairs will be completed within 28 days — or sooner in emergencies.

We've received some questions about this, so to clarify:

We run a comprehensive resurfacing program throughout the year. Additionally, where roads are in good condition, surface dressing can significantly extend their lifespan. Find out more at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads.../surface-dressing/>.

We are committed to building on this progress and ensuring Somerset's roads continue to improve. Thanks to dedicated teams and ongoing investment, we are making tangible strides toward meeting the challenge of maintaining high-quality roads for our communities.

Potholes and road damage can be reported here:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>

1.4 - Have Your Say on the New Somerset Council Boundaries

Residents are invited to comment on proposed changes to Somerset Council's division boundaries as part of a 10-week consultation running until 11 August 2025.

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has proposed that Somerset Council should have 96 single-councillor divisions, with all boundaries changing to better reflect communities and balance representation.

You can view the proposals and give feedback via the [LGBCE Somerset page](#), or by email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk, or by post. Your input will help make the new divisions clear, understandable, and effective for local communities.

1.5 - Youth Parliament 2025: Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open for Somerset's 2025 Youth Parliament elections. Young people aged 11–17 who live and study in the county are encouraged to apply.

Three Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) will be elected to represent their peers, run campaigns on issues that matter, and work with local services and organisations. A support group of young people aged 10–25 will help develop campaigns and organize activities.

The Youth Parliament is a great space to learn new skills, share views, and make a difference.

The deadline for nominations is 3 November 2025, with elections in December. Full details and voting links will be available in September.

Young people aged 11–17 can register to nominate themselves at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/your-council/youth-parliament>.

The Somerset Youth Parliament Advisory Group is free to join and open to anyone aged 10–25 who lives, works, or studies in Somerset. More information is at the same link.

1.6 - Lib Dem Leader Cllr Bill Revans Argues for Mandatory Solar Power on All New Homes

Cllr Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset Council, advocates in his weekly local media article for making solar panels compulsory on all new homes. He highlights that advances in technology have made solar more efficient and affordable, helping to lower bills and reduce emissions. Currently, laws prevent councils from requiring this due to industry lobbying.

Cllr Revans recalls that in the 1990s, he taught at Broadoak School, where MP Max Wilkinson, now in Cheltenham, introduced the ‘Sunshine Bill’ to mandate solar energy on new builds. The government declined support at the time, citing housing supply concerns, but recent changes represent a step forward.

Following Wilkinson's campaign, the government announced that all future new homes will include renewable energy technology as part of the updated Future Homes Standard. With renewables now supplying nearly 25% of UK energy, while gas accounts for just 6.85% and prices remain volatile, this move is a major step towards tackling climate change and cutting costs. Cllr Revans urges councils and the government to adopt this common-sense approach without delay.

1.7 - 2025 SEND Satisfaction Surveys Now Open

Parent carers and professionals are invited to share their views on education, health, and care support for children and young people with SEND. Developed in partnership with Somerset Parent Carer Forum CIC, Somerset Council, and NHS Somerset ICB, your feedback will help shape future improvements. Complete the parent carer survey at [Special Educational Needs and/or Disability annual satisfaction survey \(2025\) parent carer survey](#)

1.8 - Help Shape the New Learning Disability Partnership Board

We need your input to design the future of Council and NHS services for people with learning disabilities in Somerset. Join a relaxed, accessible session at Taunton Library on 1st of July. To register, contact sarah.codling@somerset.gov.uk. If you can't attend but want to be involved, get in touch. The practitioner survey closes on 6 July 2025; support is available at 01458 259384 or getinvolved@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk.

1.9 - Unpaid Carers' Week

Somerset Council will promote free support resources and community events for around 50,000 unpaid carers during Carers Week 2025. A poem by former unpaid carer Alison Birket will highlight the emotional toll of caring, raising awareness of the support available. Full details are at [Carers Week 2025 Activities - Somerset Carers](#)

1.10 - Dino Day at Ham Hill

Families can enjoy ‘Iggy the Iguanodon’ street theatre on July 26 at Ham Hill. The event explores fossils and dinosaurs, celebrating 50 years of Ham Hill Country Park, with activities suitable for all ages. Details can be found at [Dino Day – A date with a dinosaur](#).

1.11 - Flood Prevention & Water Management

The Somerset Rivers Authority has published its tenth annual report covering flood prevention activities for 2024-25. The scheme has been vital for reducing flood risks, despite tight budgets. The report highlights ongoing efforts in dredging, flood defence, and climate adaptation. You can view it and provide feedback at <https://somersetivers.org>.

2.0 - Local Issues

2.1 - Highways and Transport – We are still awaiting an update on 2025-26 plans

- Speed past Hillview school

There have been no recent comms on any concerns. The below is still relevant. The school is also reporting any incidents of note.

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 starting in 2025-26

- **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 for 2025- 26

- **Burrough Road drainage** – This has been added to the works list for investigation.

- **School Sign** - to be moved out of eyeline of turning vehicles

2.2 - Traffic and Safety strategy - ongoing

Long Load and Ash PC's linked to pick up and move forward any agreements about sharing the SIDs between the two parishes.

Regards

John and Emily

Report it first: useful Links to share with your communities

Visit Report a problem on the road: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

Potholes and road damage

Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>

For traffic updates and roadworks follow @travelsomerset on X and Facebook.

Live travel information

<https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/>

Report a problem with a street light

We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-with-a-street-light/>

Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting

Includes information about non-illuminated bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate and how to apply for a new road sign Speed limits:<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/road-signs-bollards-and-road-markings/>

Speed limits

Request information about new or existing traffic calming measures:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/speed-limits/>

Traffic lights

We maintain over 200 traffic light locations throughout the county

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/traffic-lights/>

Street and roadworks

We maintain the roads and pavements that are managed at public expense in Somerset

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-and-roadworks/>

Sign-up for the latest climate news:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/climate-and-ecological-emergency/newsletter-sign-up/>.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 07th July 2025 at 7.00pm, Ash Pavilion.

Present: Cllrs S Davey, Chairman, Caz Halfhide, A Groves, T Groves, A Britten, Z England. Z Bougourd Clerk
One member of the public

Public Forum – it was noted that Ash Pavillion does not currently have accessible toilet facilities. This was highlighted at the Village Fete. After some discussion it was agreed that Cllrs England & Britten will obtain a “ballpark figure” to convert part of the existing changing room area to an accessible w.c. This will be tabled at the next Pavillion working party meeting. It was also agreed to table changing the Pavillion Committee title to the more accurate Pavillion Working Party at the next PC meeting. Cllr T Groves advised that stage 3 of the tree plan for the recreation area would be tabled at the next meeting of the working party.

25/122 Somerset Council, Councillor’s Report: July 2025. No report was available.
Cllrs Pearlstone & Bailey sent apologies

25/123 To Co-Opt Member to the Parish Council. Following an application for co-option from Marysia Trebley the Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the application and welcomed Marysia to the Council.

25/124 Acceptance of office – co-option. Marysia Trebley signed the acceptance of office, witnessed and counter signed by the Clerk.

25/125 Apologies for Absence – no apologies were given, all Cllrs were present

25/126 Declarations of Interest – no declarations were given.

25/127 To approve and sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 02nd June 2025 Approved.

25/128 Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)

- a. **Role allocation.** After discussion the following allocation was proposed – subject to confirmation by Cllrs at the next meeting.

Cllr Davey:, Cemetery, Churchyard and Pavilion, Lengthsman, Grass Cutting/Ground Maintenance.

Cllr Halfhide: Finance, Budget, Village Hall Liaison, Pavillion, Play area and Recreation ground , Events Co-Ordinator and HR Representative. Cemetery/fees/rules

Cllr T Groves: Trees, Pavilion (Committee to be updated as working party), Play Area and Recreation Ground and Planning

Cllr A Groves: Website and communications, Pavilion (Committee to be updated as working party) and Highways – includes traffic, speed watch, street scene and Play area and Recreation Ground

Cllr England : School Liaison, Cemetery and Churchyard, Structural/ Pavilion, Carparks

Cllr Britten: Structural/ Pavilion, Millennium Wood, Environmental Champion, Carparks

Cllr Trebley: School Liaison/Hill View School, Village Events, Village coffee morning/surgery when available.

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

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- b. **Lengthsman Contract.** It was noted that the specification on file was not a list of regular tasks, but an indication of tasks that may be required during the year. Some are seasonal and there are occasions when additional tasks are required. Clerk to draft contract for Lengthsman. Noted that the Ranger contract was correct – clerk to remind contractor to sign a copy.

25/129

Matters for report:

Cloud Next – migrate PC domain update. Compliant domain name Ash-somerset-pc.gov.uk.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Cloud Next to instruct the migration of the current site to ash-somerset-pc@gov.uk. After some discussion regarding IT support, all Counsellors recognised that Cllr A Groves has provided reliable and highly appreciated IT support for a considerable time, however with recent IT issues which are proving challenging to resolve, it was considered prudent for future planning to source an IT support company. Cllrs T Groves & A Britten will use their contacts to investigate this matter further.

Pavillion Door replacement: Date for fitting. August 09th 2025. After discussion it was agreed to cut 15 keys for distribution to current key holders.

25/130

Planning Applications:

Proposal: Conversion, partial demolition and extension of The Old Stables to provide a single dwellinghouse, together with a change of use of adjoining land.

Location: Stone Farm 110 Main Street Ash Martock Somerset TA12 6PB

Applicant: Mr & Mrs D Dunning

Application Type : Full Application

Application Number: 25/00673/FUL

This is a minor boundary amendment – no objections

Proposal: Creation of an agricultural access.

Location: Land At 346869 121767 Milton Lane Ash Martock Somerset

Applicant: Coombes

Application Type : Full Application

Application Number: 25/01095/FUL

No objections.

25/131 **Planning Decisions:** None to note

25/132 **Planning Notifications:**

Proposal: Application to reduce the whole crown of No. 4 trees (3 Limes and 1 Horse Chestnut) by 20% as shown by the Yeovil District Council (ASHO 1) 1984 Tree Preservation Order.

3 Lime Trees (Ash No.1 TPO 1984 GR: 347497/120644). 20% crown reduction to maintain health and structure of trees and ensure sufficient clearance below overhanging branches in neighbouring gardens.

Location: Highlands House 21 Main Street Ash Martock Somerset TA12 6NU

Applicant: Mr Jolyon Woodard

Application Type : Tree Preservation Order

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Noted

25/133 Finance –

To approve and sign the Bank statements – June 2025 to date. Signed

To approve and minute payment requests. – Signed

To approve and sign bank reconciliations June 2025 to date- Signed

Cllr Trebley enquired re the funds currently held in two deposit accounts and allocation rationale – Cllr Halfhide & Clerk will send breakdown to Cllr Trebley. Additionally all allocations are available on the website.

2. **Parish Council Matters:** Email retention Policy. Tabled and approved unanimously.
3. **Parish Matters:** To consider and approve Risk Assessment – Millennium Wood Festival. Approved.
4. **Parish Matters:** Track Lease fee – to agree and note payment. Noted
5. **Parish Matters:** Access path to Recreation Ground/Play Area. It was noted that the current surface could prove difficult for some users. Cllr England will revert with a quote to replace the surface with tarmac
6. **Parish Matters:** Review of 2025 Playground inspection report & identify works required. – Deferred to next meeting
7. **Parish Matters:** Somerset Council Enhanced Highways Maintenance update. - Noted

External reports to note:

- a) **Cartgate development -noted, no comments**
- b) **SC Transport Plan - noted**

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.

Nominations for Chairs Award 2025: Cllr A Groves presented her nomination; this was agreed unanimously and will be submitted to Somerset Council by the Chairman. Closing date 18th July 2025

Meeting closed at 21.10hrs

Next meeting August 4th @ 7pm

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

Hi Antoinette,

Below is an email with contact details of Stuart from Long Load who is part of the speed watch group there, that is wishing to help with the reconditioning of the SID that Martock has handed over to Ash PC.

He is enthused about taking this challenge completely off your hands should Ash PC be happy for that to move it's dilapidated state toward fully working order.

He's hoping you'll be happy for either yourself or Zanette to give him a call to work out if this is achievable and potentially a successful endeavour to allow for Long Load to utilise the equipment in the future.

Best wishes
Emily

Cllr Emily Pearlstone
Martock Division
Somerset Council

Ash PC July 2025 Bank recs for signature					
Date	Type	Payee	Description	Money rec'd	Payments
30/06/2025	FPI	M Trusson	Pav hire	20	
30/06/2025	SO	HMRC			90.48
30/06/2025	SO	Clerk			381.9
01/07/2025	SO	RA Evis			458.33
01/07/2025	SO	K Bungay			102
01/07/2025	DD	British Gas			152.91
02/07/2025	DD	BT GROUP			37.37
07/07/2025	DEP		500074	272.5	
07/07/2025	DEB	Virtual Landline			6.5
08/07/2025	FPO	Cloud Next	Domain hosting		59.99
08/07/2025	FPO	Clerk	refund ILCA/FILCA		144
14/07/2025	FPI	M Trusson		20	
21/07/2025	PAY	Bank charges			8.5
21/07/2025	TRF	Transfer from instant call		1500	
23/07/2025	BCG	AJ Wakeley		165	
28/07/2025	SO	HMRC			90.48
28/07/2025	SO	CLerk			381.9
28/07/2025	DD	British Gas			116.85
				1977.5	2031.21
Opening Balance					
17th June 2025		3772.28			
INCOME		1977.5			
EXPENDITURE		2031.21			
BALANCE C/F		3718.57			
SIGNED					
NAME					
DATE					

Instant Call savings account					
Date	Type	Payee	Money rec	Payments	
21/06/2025	Transfer to C/A			1500	
09/07/2025	Interest		76.78		
			76.78	1500	
Opening balance			116602.47		
Income			76.78		
Transfers out			1500		
Closing balance			115179.25		
95 day call account					
Opening balance		30 05 2025	52502.54		
Interest			134.38		
Closing balance 30 06 2025			52636.92		

BRIAN PAYNE CONSTRUCTION
CABSCOT
MERRIOTT ROAD
SOUTH PETHERTON
TA13 5JT
Tel: 07766 256142
Email: bpayneconstruction@gmail.com

27/07/25

Ash parish council

JOB REF CONCRETE SLAB OUTSIDE PAVILION

Excavate the area in front of the pavilion (approximately 85 m²) and remove all spoil from the site. Raise the entire area with Type 1 stone in preparation for forming the shuttering. Construct the shuttering and pour high-quality, pigment-coloured concrete (various colour options available). The finished floor level will match the top of the existing step, eliminating the need for a sloped disabled entrance and blending seamlessly with the pathway from the car park. The surface will have a slight slope away from the pavilion to allow for proper drainage.

Following this, approximately 20 tonnes of topsoil will be brought in to raise and level the surrounding areas, ensuring they blend smoothly with the new concrete level.

SUPPLY LABOUR / MACHINERY / MATERIALS

TOTAL AMOUNT £8,700

BRIAN PAYNE CONSTRUCTION
CABSCOT
MERRIOTT ROAD
SOUTH PETHERTON
TA13 5JT
Tel: 07766 256142
Email: bpayneconstruction@gmail.com

27/07/25

Ash parish council

JOB REF TARMAC PATH ASH PLAYGROUND

Excavate gravel from the path at the playground (approximately 45m²) Install a new tarmac path with 30mm of topcoat of tarmac.

SUPPLY LABOUR / MACHINERY / MATERIALS

TOTAL AMOUNT £2,475

For the Attention of Zak England,
Ham and Douling Stone Co Ltd,
Tout Quarry,
Charlton Adam,
Somerton,
Somerset,
TA11 7AN

Dear Zak,
REF: Ash Recreational ground – Play Park Platform

Further to your discussion with John, I have pleasure in submitting our quotation for the steelwork as detailed below.

Scope of Work

Remove old platform
To supply material and fabricate for new platform
Galvanise & Powder Coat the finished work
To deliver material to your site, unload and install on prepared and ready site

Material List

4no. posts 101.6 x 5mm CHS.
6no. platform beams 76.1 x 5mm CHS.
4no. higher tie beams 76.1 x 5mm CHS.
4no. concrete for posts.
10mm platework for connections.
1no. platform flooring.
Fixings.

Specification

Execution Class 2 unless specified otherwise
Steel Grade S355
Finish Galvanised and powder coated
Bolts Grade 8.8
Finish Galvanised

Price

The price quoted is based on rates as at 04 July 2025. Unfortunately, we can't guarantee prices at the moment due to the volatile market, therefore the quote may be subject to be re-priced on placement of order for material from steel supplier.

Price £2,075.00+ VAT

Payment Terms

Feorge standard payment terms, a deposit may be required.



BS EN 1090 EXC-2, ISO 9001 CERT 14114.



Feorge Plant & Fabrications Ltd

Unit 4, Transport Depot, Thorney, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DW

T: 01458 253140 M: 07767 894087 E: enquiries@feorgeplant.co.uk W: www.feorgeplant.co.uk

Feorge Clarifications/Provisions

- Price Subject to final design and specification
- No main contractors discount allowed

30 Days Nett

Note-

- If any changes in the current design that will make any additional material, it will be charged as extra.
- Please note, all prices quoted are subject to stock availability and any statutory price rises at time of order.

Program

The steelwork could be ready for delivery in line with the main contractor program.

Q.A. Accreditation

BS EN ISO 9001:2015 CERT 14025

BS EN 1090-1 + A1 Execution Class EXC-2

Responsibilities & Assurances

We look forward to working closely with you to enhance our trading relationship, whilst still incorporating the principles of quality, safety and continuous value enhancement.

Conclusion

I hope the above is satisfactory but if you require any further information or assistance please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Assuring you of our best attention at all times.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of Feorge Plant & Fabrications Ltd

Chris Clark
Draughtsman

John Fevin
Director



BS EN 1090 EXC-2, ISO 9001 CERT 14114.



Feorge Plant & Fabrications Ltd

Unit 4, Transport Depot, Thorney, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0DW

T: 01458 253140 M: 07767 894087 E: enquiries@feorgeplant.co.uk W: www.feorgeplant.co.uk

Dear Parish Clerk & Councillors,

You may have seen Somerset Council's [recent press release](#) about emergency changes to the planning service.

Below is the response issued by the Opposition Conservative Group. If you have any questions, I'll do my best to answer them. However, it's important to stress that this decision was made by the Liberal Democrat administration, and it is they who must take responsibility for any negative impact it will have on your parish council and local communities.

This 12-week emergency shutdown is an admission of failure. After three years in control, the Liberal Democrats have confirmed what many residents and councillors have been saying for months: the planning system in Somerset is failing - and it is they who have failed it.

Residents will be forced to pay full planning fees yet told not to chase updates. New planning applications will take priority over ones already stuck in the backlog for years. Officers are being pulled from meetings, site visits are being replaced with Google Maps, and only minimal engagement with applicants and councillors will be permitted.

This plan creates serious concerns:

- Decisions will be rushed, risking poorer outcomes for communities.
- The democratic role of councillors is already being undermined, with planning committees increasingly side lined, now more decisions are going to be made by officers, and we are being asked to refer less to committees.
- Parish councils and residents will find it almost impossible to be heard by planning officers.
- Planning enforcement will take a back seat as the focus becomes determining planning applications, worsening an already dire enforcement situation.

- There is no cast-iron guarantee these measures will end after 12 weeks.

We are also concerned that this emergency shutdown may be used to push through permanent changes. The creation of a single point of enquiry for councillors, the reduction in member involvement, and hints at tweaking the constitution are deeply troubling.

We want to be clear: we have every sympathy for the planning staff who are doing their best in very difficult circumstances. But this crisis is not the fault of officers. It is the direct result of political failure by the Liberal Democrat administration.

They inherited a well-performing system in the former Conservative-run Sedgemoor District Council - a team that won national recognition, including [Planning Team of the Year in 2021](#) and a [Planning Excellence Award in 2019](#). Instead of building on that success, the Liberal Democrats chose to follow the broken systems of the three other former district councils, all of which they ran. For three years they've failed to integrate ICT systems, failed to recruit and retain planners, and failed to tackle the mounting backlog.

Just a few months ago, the Liberal Democrat administration was actively considering [cuts to the planning workforce](#) — at the very moment when pressures were already mounting. Those proposals were [scrutinised by councillors, who raised serious concerns](#) about enforcement, backlogs, and the risk of special measures. That they even contemplated reducing staff shows a clear lack of leadership and foresight. The current emergency shutdown is the result of poor political judgment.

We are calling for this emergency shutdown plan to be brought to a Scrutiny or Strategic Planning Committee without delay for proper scrutiny and public debate.

The planning 'house' is 'on fire' and Somerset deserves better. The Liberal Democrats must take responsibility for the system they have broken.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Dear Parish Clerk & Councillors,

You may have seen Somerset Council's [recent press release](#) about emergency changes to the planning service.

Below is the response issued by the Opposition Conservative Group. If you have any questions, I'll do my best to answer them. However, it's important to stress that this decision was made by the Liberal Democrat administration, and it is they who must take responsibility for any negative impact it will have on your parish council and local communities.

This 12-week emergency shutdown is an admission of failure. After three years in control, the Liberal Democrats have confirmed what many residents and councillors have been saying for months: the planning system in Somerset is failing - and it is they who have failed it.

Residents will be forced to pay full planning fees yet told not to chase updates. New planning applications will take priority over ones already stuck in the backlog for years. Officers are being pulled from meetings, site visits are being replaced with Google Maps, and only minimal engagement with applicants and councillors will be permitted.

This plan creates serious concerns:

- Decisions will be rushed, risking poorer outcomes for communities.
- The democratic role of councillors is already being undermined, with planning committees increasingly side lined, now more decisions are going to be made by officers, and we are being asked to refer less to committees.
- Parish councils and residents will find it almost impossible to be heard by planning officers.
- Planning enforcement will take a back seat as the focus becomes determining planning applications, worsening an already dire enforcement situation.
- There is no cast-iron guarantee these measures will end after 12 weeks.

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Council takes action to tackle planning application backlog

Somerset Council launches 12-week action plan to reduce planning application backlog and improve response times for residents and developers



About this article



Last updated
July 25, 2025

Author
Molly Venn

Categories
Press Release

Somerset Council is changing the way its Development Management service works to deliver improvements. In the short term, this means that the Council is seeking to free up case officer time to reduce the current high volume of work-in-progress.

Over the past few years, the volume of planning applications received by the Council has increased significantly and the current workload remains high. This has resulted in delays in the determination of planning applications. The Council would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused as a result and are taking a range of actions to reduce the backlog which has been created.

From **Monday 28 July**, the Council will launch a 12-week period of specific critical action focused on reducing this backlog which will have an impact on the level of service delivered. This is necessary to make future service delivery better.

Measures introduced during this 12-week period will include:

- Asking customers, Members and applicants not to chase for updates to allow the time created to focus on decision making. Application progress can continue to be tracked online.
- Planning officers reducing attendance at events or meetings that don't support the objective of reducing the backlog.
- Only accepting amendments to applications in limited circumstances.
- Only undertaking essential site visits.
- With a high volume of applications failing validation, applicants will only be given one chance post submission to provide the required information within 14 days. Full pre-application guidance remains available on our website and this needs to be followed.
- Strict adherence to the call-in criteria (when applications are brought in for committee discussion) as set out in the constitution.
- A new triage approach being introduced when applications are first received to speed up decision making.
- Planning teams having "all in" office-based days to support the above.

Teams will review progress after 12 weeks to determine the next steps or if any of these measures need to remain in place.

The Council is aware that these measures are not ideal, but it is taking critical action now to tackle the immediate issues. This will allow the council to put longer-term plans in place.

The backlog has been caused by a number of issues including difficulties in recruitment and staff retention due to the current challenges; ways of working (there are currently multiple ICT systems in planning following unitarisation – a solution to this is being investigated); and complexity, as there is rarely a simple answer to questions in planning.

The public website will shortly be updated to reflect these temporary changes.

[Cllr Mike Rigby](#), Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation said:

“ This is an incredibly complex problem to solve, and we recognise that this critical action will impact on our residents. But it is necessary to bring work in progress down to a more manageable and sustainable standard and to make Somerset's planning service a great place to work for current colleagues and prospective employees, and, most importantly, to improve our offer to our communities.

These actions are aimed at improving our reputation with service users in the future and we ask for patience while we put these measures in place. It is a critical phase of a much wider programme of work to drive positive change in our service.

This wider programme of improvement work in the Planning service will be taking place through 2025 and 2026 and be ongoing.

The aims of this wider programme of improvement include:

- Building better and more productive working relationships with agents and applicants' planning applications to Somerset Council.
- To build a consistent, effective operational management approach to enable all parts of the service to communicate effectively and using automation wherever possible to drive efficiency.
- To deliver good quality and faster service for customers.
- To create a more professionally rewarding, attractive place to work for planning staff to tackle issues around recruitment and retention.



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Subject **Planning Enforcement in Somerset**
From Councillor Diogo Rodrigues
<diogobridgwater@177740533.mailchimpapp.com>
To <clerk@ashpcsomerset.com>
Reply-To <diogobridgwater@outlook.com>
Date 24.07.2025 07:14



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Dear Parish Clerk & Councillors,

Last month, I wrote to Parish Councils across the county about the serious lack of effective Planning Enforcement by Somerset Council.

Thank you to everyone who responded and shared examples of the ongoing challenges you're facing in your communities. Your feedback has been invaluable.

At last week's Full Council meeting, I raised this issue directly with the administration and highlighted some of the enforcement cases you brought to my attention. You can find below the question I asked and the written response I received from the Council.

QUESTION

The latest figures show a planning enforcement backlog of 873 cases, with staffing levels clearly insufficient to bring this under control. In fact, the number of enforcement cases resolved or closed between January and March 2025 has collapsed by 50% when compared to April to June 2024.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of the enforcement officers currently in post. They are working hard in demanding circumstances, but there aren't enough of them to bring this under control.

For many Parish Councils planning enforcement feels like an afterthought but the consequences are serious, for example:

- Shipham Parish Council only received a substantive response to their enforcement complaints last month - nearly two years after they were first raised. The situation there remains unresolved.
- In Corton Denham, Sparkford, Queen Camel, and South Cadbury & Sutton Montis, concerns have been raised since 2023 about HGV tipper trucks transporting demolition waste. Despite the persistent efforts of local councillors, key issues remain unaddressed.
- In Burtle, a mobile building that was subject to an enforcement notice due to expire in May 2022 still stands, visibly decaying into the ground.

We want the planning system to work for Somerset, so Can the Lead Member tell us when Somerset Council expects to get on top of the planning enforcement backlog, and what's being done to fix the system and restore public confidence?

RESPONSE

Many thanks to Cllr Rodrigues for acknowledging the efforts of the enforcement officers currently in post.

Shipham Parish Council – there are 5 live cases in Shipham. Enforcement action has been ongoing in respect of Long Bottom Farm on the two main issues relating to the site namely the consent for a holiday lodge and the siting of a mobile home. An application to regularise the access arrangements for the holiday lodge is expected shortly and the enforcement are taking action in relation to the mobile home – the original enforcement notice was complied with but another mobile has been placed on the land and further action is now proposed.

The enforcement team are well aware of the issues regarding HGV tipper trucks transporting demolition waste in the Corton Denham, Sparkford, Queen Camel, and South Cadbury & Sutton Montis area and understand that the works have resulted in a high level of traffic on the highway. This has been the subject of four separate investigations which have all concluded that there is no breach of planning control in connection with the site.

The issue at Burtle is still under active investigation and a further visit is to be undertaken to this site shortly.

The structure of the enforcement service was agreed as part of the budget set for 2025/2026. The structure includes a Team Leader Enforcement and Appeals, 4 Senior Enforcement Officers, 4 Enforcement Officers and a Graduate post. We currently have two vacant posts which we were unsuccessful in filling following the recent recruitment exercise and the service is also reliant on agency staff. A Team Leader (Agency) started on 14 July and we hope to fill the Graduate post through the Pathways to Planning Programme starting in September. Steps are being taken to put in place recruitment allowances in order to readvertise the posts using a talent spotter service. The service seeks to deliver in accordance with the Enforcement Policy agreed in February 2023 and to meet the standards set out in the policy – however as set out above the fact that the service is not fully staffed and is handling a number of high profile cases means that this is not always possible. If members have issues planning breaches to report we would ask that these are raised using the online form as this means that they can be properly tracked.

Since the Full Council meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee has met to review the latest [Quarterly report on planning service performance \(Q4 report: January to March 2024/25\)](#).

The data presented only confirmed what many of us already know - Planning Enforcement is failing to deliver. In truth, the wider planning system is struggling too.

Councillor Martin Wale summed up the situation powerfully. You can watch what he had to say by clicking the image below 📌



The blame for the current situation cannot lie with staff. The officers we do have are working incredibly hard and doing all they can under immense pressure.

What we need is a planning system that actually works for you, for your communities, and for the residents we're all here to serve. I, along with the Conservative Opposition, will continue to stand up for Parish Councils and residents who are being let down by a system that simply isn't delivering.

Thank you for all that you do. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are on your side. Please continue to send me any planning enforcement issues that you feel are not being adequately addressed - it helps build a clearer picture of what's happening on the ground.

Best wishes,

Cllr Diogo Rodrigues

Leader of the Conservative Opposition, Somerset Council
Councillor for Bridgwater East & Bawdrip



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Our mailing address is:

Diogo Rodrigues
Old Basin
Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6LJ
United Kingdom

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Pre Renewal Questionnaire

Ash Parish Council

Renewal Date: 1st October 2025

Blenheim House
1-2 Bridge Street
Guildford
GU1 4RY

Tel: 01483 462860

Email: communityrenewals@ajg.com

Web: www.ajg.com/uk



Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

This document sets out details of your current cover. Please review it carefully and contact us with any updated or additional information.

If we do not hear from you, we will issue your renewal documentation based on the information we currently hold. Do please be aware of your disclosure obligations as set out below.

Duty of Fair Presentation

When you answer questions or agree with assumptions during the quotation process, you must disclose material facts or circumstances about the risk(s) you want to insure. A material fact or circumstance is something that would influence the judgement of an insurer in deciding whether or not to insure the risk.

This is known as a 'duty of fair presentation' and includes disclosing the following:

- Information that you, your firm's senior management, or anyone responsible for arranging your insurance knows, or should know in relation to your business; and
- Information that would be revealed by a reasonable search of information available to you or by making enquiries, and could include information held within your business or by someone else (such as your insurance broker).
- Remember that if you fail to meet this duty, it could mean that the policy is void, or that the insurer is not liable to pay all or part of your claim(s).

Examples of material facts or circumstances include the following (please note these have been provided as examples only and the list is not exhaustive):

- Being declared bankrupt, participating in an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) or protected deed of trust in Scotland or making a compromise arrangement with creditors
- Other policies in place covering the same risk
- Previous claims or incidents which may have led to a claim but for which you did not actually submit a claim
- Any caution, charge or conviction of a criminal offence for you or any director/business partner/trustee
- Any motoring convictions or disqualification by any director/business partner/trustee or any driver of a company vehicle in respect of a motor insurance application
- The organisation, directors, partners or trustees having been prosecuted or received a prohibition or improvement notice for failure to comply with any Health and Safety, Welfare or Environmental Protection legislation
- Being declined cover by other insurers or having special terms imposed
- Changes to your business activities
- Changes to the Police response to alarm signals.

Please remember that if any of your details, material facts or circumstances change during the policy period, you must always notify us immediately.

Short Form Privacy Notice

We are the data controller of any personal data you provide to us. We collect and process personal data in order to offer and provide insurance services and policies and to process claims. Personal data is also used for business purposes such as fraud prevention and detection, financial management, to generate risk modelling, conduct analytics including to advise, improve and develop our products and services and to comply with our legal and regulatory obligations. This may involve sharing information with, and obtaining information from, our group companies and third parties such as (re)insurers, other brokers, loss adjusters, credit reference agencies, service providers, professional advisors, our regulators or fraud prevention agencies.

We may record telephone calls to help us to monitor and improve the service we provide as well as for regulatory purposes.

Please see our Privacy Notice for further information on how your personal data is used, shared, disclosed and retained, your rights in relation to your personal data and how to contact our Data Protection Officer. Our Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www.ajg.com/uk/privacy-policy/>. From time to time we may make important updates to our Privacy Notice and these may in turn affect the way we use and handle your data. Please ensure you review our Privacy Notice periodically to ensure you are aware of any changes.

If you are providing us with personal data of another individual that would be covered under the insurance policy we may be placing or services we may provide to you, you shall ensure that you have obtained all appropriate consents, where required, tell them you are providing their information to us and show them a copy of this notice. You must not share personal data with us that is not necessary for us to offer, provide or administer our services to you.

Question	Yes	No
Do you consent for Gallagher marketing activities		
Method of Contact for Marketing and Communications		
Mobile		
Work		
Email		

Sanctions and Trade Restrictions

Gallagher is committed to complying with sanctions laws in the United Kingdom, the European Union, United Nations and United States of America as well as the applicable sanctions laws and regulations in the jurisdictions in which we operate. You should advise us if you trade, directly or indirectly, with:

- any sanctioned party, or those owned or controlled by sanctioned parties
- any parties from or in a sanctioned country, in particular the countries in which Gallagher considers to be of greatest sanctions risk (as advised by your account executive).
- Military items as defined in the UK Strategic Military Control List

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/856510/UK_strategic_export_control_lists_20191231.pdf)

Current Sums Insured

Core Cover

Cover	Standard Cover Applicable (£)	Sums Insured If Standard Cover Not Applicable (£)
Crisis Management	25,000	
Employee Dishonesty	150,000	
Employers' Liability	10,000,000	
Key Person – (per week, up to a maximum of 2,500 per year)	250	
Legal Expenses	100,000	
Libel and Slander	500,000	
Money In Transit	1,000	
Officials and Trustees Liability	500,000	
Personal Accident	100,000/500 per week	
Defibrillator & Cabinet Cover	5,000	
Public and Products Liability	10,000,000	

Optional Cover Extensions

Cover	Standard Cover Applicable	Existing Sums Insured (£)
Equipment Breakdown	Excluded	
Terrorism	Not Included	

Business Interruption

Cover	Existing Sums Insured (£)	Indemnity Period
Increased Cost of Working	10,000	12 Months
Loss of Rent Receivable		
Loss of Revenue	10,000	12 Months
Rent Payable		

Premises

Premises Address	Existing Sums Insured (£)
Building (Pavilion) Timber Shed Main Street, Ash, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6PA	305,894
Parish Council Timber Shed, Main Street, Ash, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6PA	1,604
Parish Council Timber Shed, Main Street, Ash, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6PA	763

Contents Cover

Material Damage Contents Cover	Existing Sums Insured (£)
Office Contents	802
General Contents	2,500
Outside Equipment	4,500
Street Furniture	20,000
Gates & Fences	8,000
War Memorial	0
Playground Equipment	65,843
Mowers and Machinery	1,030
Sports Equipment	0
Other Surfaces	50,000
Natural Surfaces	0
Specified All Risks	0
Civic Regalia	0
Total Contents	152,675

Basis of Valuations

The figures should represent your best estimate of a replacement as new value at renewal date. Include an allowance for:

- the effects of inflation since last renewal
- inflation in the next 12 months and subsequent rebuilding period (unless your insurance is arranged on a Day One Basis)
- an allowance for Debris Removal (Note a separate sum insured for stock debris removal is required) and Professional fees (Architects, Surveyors and Consultants), unless your insurance is arranged on a first loss basis.

It is important that you fully consider increasing your values/sums insured to reflect increases in rebuilding and replacement costs. Whilst we cannot provide inflationary figures to you there are organisations that are able to offer professional advice in this respect.

It is your responsibility to ensure values/sums insured are set correctly. Please note that should generic values (for example, rebuilding costs data) be obtained from independent organisations care should be taken when considering the adoption of these figures as they may not cater for your specific requirements relating to your individual insured property(ies).

VAT Status - to avoid being underinsured, sums insured on material damage policies should make the appropriate allowance for VAT on rebuilding or repair depending on your organisation's VAT status: VAT registered. VAT can usually be reclaimed in full and sums insured should be calculated excluding VAT.

Suppliers of only zero rated goods - normally VAT is recoverable and sums insured should be calculated excluding VAT.

- Exempt or not registered - VAT is not recoverable and sums insured should include VAT.

Underwriting Information

Does your council/organisation have responsibility for any of the following?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • BMX Tracks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Derelict, empty, or disused buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Firework or bonfire events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • River, lake, pond, or any other body of water | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Skate parks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Zip wires | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Events with more than 1,000 in attendance at any one time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Buildings of non standard construction i.e. Walls not made of brick and roofs not tiled or flat roof | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional Information

If you have answered Yes to any of the above questions can you please provide details:

Declaration

Renewal will be negotiated on the basis that any of your officials, trustees or committee members have not:

1. Been convicted or charged (but not yet tried) with a criminal offence other than a motoring offence
2. Received an Official Police Caution in respect of any criminal offence other than a motoring offence
3. Been the subject of any county court judgement (CCJ), winding up order, insolvent liquidation or administration or have made any composition or arrangement with creditors or protected trust of deed or deed of trust in Scotland
4. Been a director or partner of a company which has gone into insolvency, liquidation, receivership or administration or protected trust of deed or deed of trust in Scotland
5. Been declared bankrupt or been disqualified from being a company director
6. Been prosecuted for failure to comply with any Health and Safety or Welfare or Environmental Protection legislation
7. Had an Insurance proposal declined, renewal refused, insurance cancelled or special terms applied

If any of the above statements are inaccurate please provide details below

I/We declare that the information contained within this form is true and we agree that should any of the information given by me/us alter between the date of this questionnaire and the renewal / inception date of the insurances to which this form relates, we will give an immediate notification of the changes.

Completed by:
(Please Print name)

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Return by email suffices for electronic signature

Additional Areas for Consideration

Please indicate if you would like more information or quotations in respect of any of the following:

Product	Yes	No	Comments
• Motor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Cyber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Additional Flood Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Desk Top Building Valuations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Professional Indemnity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Associated Charities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Village Hall Policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Anglican Church Policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Enhanced Risk Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Event Coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide additional details below