

**Meeting Minutes**

## Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held inAshill Village Hall on Monday 7 November 2022 at 7.30 pm

**Present :** Cllrs P Varney (Chairman), R Abel, R Fry, N Harvey, B Pyle, Mrs C Ball (Incoming Clerk) & 2 members of the public.

**36/22 Apologies**

It was **resolved** for reasons given to be noted from the outgoing Clerk (Mrs J Davidson), Cllr J Crocker, County Cllr S Osborne and District Cllr R Buckler

**37/22 Casual Vacancies**

It was noted the Parish Council has one Casual Vacancies to be filled by co-option.

**38/22 Chairmans’ Opening Statement**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the 2022 / 23 Parish Council. Chairman gave thanks to the outgoing Clerk (Mrs Davidson) and welcomed the incoming Clerk (Mrs Ball). The chair also passed on his thanks to Cllr Harvey for the progress made with the installation of the new Parish noticeboards. The clerk also passed on the feedback received from a resident on Windmill Hill thanked the council for the new noticeboards.

**39/22 Public Participation**

* One resident asked about the community hub / shop. The resident spoke of The Plunkett Foundation who can support community projects. It was noted that membership to the foundation is £200/year which can support the initial feasibility survey for such an endeavor. The Council commented that they would be in favour of supporting this idea but there is not significant funding available from the council budget to support. would help support this idea if there was public demand for a
* A resident requested if there were any plans for a warm hub – it was **resolved** the Clerk to contact Village Agent to clarify if there is a need for a warm hub in Ashill Parish. It was also **resolved** that Cllr Varney will speak with District Cllr Buckler to understand what neighboring councils are planning. It was suggested by Cllr Fry suggested to open the village hall for 2hrs on a Friday morning in January 2023 – this will be tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.
* 2 residents have complained about the style access on the footpath from the churchyard towards Wood Court that it’s dangerous (Stile: 11196). It was **resolved** Cllr Fry will contact SSC footpaths about the access challenges. [**Post meeting note**: Cllr Fry has contacted Sam Jackson the footpath warden to discuss the issues with this stile. It is noted an issue at the same stile was raised in July 2021 – issue: 62798). Cllr Fry has requested a meeting with Mr Jackson to discuss this issue further].
* A resident asked about the Millenium Pond and the lack of water. Cllr Fry confirmed that the pond is a drainage pond that only fills during the winter.
* Cllr Harvey has received a complaint about a pot hole on Windmill Hill lane, beside the chapel. It was **resolved** Cllr Harvey would provide the details to the Clerk for submission to highways.[**Post meeting note**: The Clerk has reported the road defect to Somerset Highways using the online portal. The issue reference is: 661737].

**40/22 Declarations of Interests / Dispensation Requests**

The incoming Clerk confirmed that planning application number 22/02496/S73A is for her property. It was **resolved** the outgoing Clerk would communicate any council comments to SSC.

**41/22 Minutes**

It was **resolved** for the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2022 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

**42/22 Planning**

The following planning application submitted to SSDC since the last meeting was noted:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Application No. | 22/02496/S73A |
| Proposal | S73A application to remove Condition 2 (Agricultural tie) of the Permission 780244 (Errection of a dwelling house and garage, conditionally approved 13.06.78). |
| Location | Trumpland House, Windmill Hill Lane, Ashill, TA19 9NT |

It was **resolved** the Cllrs confirmed have no comments on planning application number: 22/02496/S73A.

**43/22 Playing Field**

1. Cllr R Fry provided a verbal report of her inspection of the playing field for November 2022. It was noted the chains on the climbing tyres are lose from the ground anchors and need to be removed. Cllr Fry confirmed she would action removal of the chains. It was also noted that the signage in the playing field requires updating to provide the Parish Council Clerk email address as the point of contact. It was **resolved** the Clerk would make these updates.
2. Cllr R Fry confirmed that since the last council meeting she has submitted 2 grant applications to provide capital towards renovating the MUGA at the playing field:
* Clarks Foundation - £2000 requested. Decision meeting in December 2023.
* National Lottery Grant - £6600 requested. A decision should be made within 12wks.

If both awards are received this will cover the majority of repairs required for the MUGA renovation. The additional funding wiil be provided from the ring fenced playing field committee fund. The project is expected to start in March 2023 and finish by September 2023.

1. Cllr R Fry also reported on the renegotiated electricity costs for the playing field flood lights. Disconnection would cost £400 with a possible reconnection of up to £10k. Discussions with EDF confirmed that the standing charge would be reduced to £0.60/day, which will significantly reduce the electricity costs for the playing field. Therefore, the council will review the electricity connection for the playing field next year. It was also **resolved** that the direct debit for the new electricity contract will be moved to the Ashill Parish Council account.

[**Post meeting note**: the incoming clerk has posted the signed direct debit mandate to change the account which pays the direct debit to EDF on 08Nov22].

**44/22 Highways / Footpaths**

1. The National Highways Community Forum Event was held on 19th October 2022 for the A358 Taunton to Southfield Dualling Scheme. A special meeting will be held after the meeting of the council of parishes (scheduled for 17th November). Mr Lang will then brief the Ashill councilors on both the outcome of both of these meetings. A date for this special meeting will follow.

**45/22 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets**

1. Parish Defib training – A training session has been booked for 20th January 2023 in the Village Hall. Cllr Fry will confirm the time and book the hall.
2. Millennium Pond – no further comments made.
3. Bus Shelter – Cllr Pyle received complaints from some residents due to antisocial behavior in the bus shelter. Cllr Fry has removed the book exchange from the bus shelter. Following discussion with the councilors it was **resolved** that the bus shelter can be used for a book exchange if clear rules are laid out. Cllr Fry will replace the book exchange - this will be communicated in the parish magazine. A further decision will be taken for the book exchange after the 6 month trial has completed (May 2023).

**46/22 Village Hall**

1. Consideration for the Village Hall structural survey report was given by the council. The council has accepted the survey and confirmed that the structure of the hall can support the replacement of the roof structure.
2. Cllr R Fry confirmed she attended the Village Hall Committee meeting - held on 26 September 2022 - as representatives of the Parish Council. Cllr Varney confirmed he will replace Cllr Pyle as second Parish Council representative on the Village Hall committee.

**47/22 Church**

Cllr Pyle reported that the All Souls service was held on 6th November, which was well attended. Cllr Pyle also expressed thanks to the resident who kindly sanded and painted the South door of the Church. Cllr Pyle also thanked Cllr Fry for cutting the hedges in the church yard. It was also reported that there had been a flood in kitchen. The tarmac area outside the West door will required replacement with an estimated cost of £880. These repairs will alter the water flow outside the West door to prevent further damage. Finally, Cllr Pyle confirmed that there will be a ‘Carols round the Tree’ on 2nd December, and the Christmas Fayre will be held on 3rd December 2023. Both events will be held at the village hall.

**48/22 Christmas 2022**

Cllrs Fry and Pyle requested consideration for provision of a Christmas Tree for the Parish which will be sited outside the Village Hall. It was **resolved** the council will pay for the tree (Section 137) and Cllr Pyle will submit expenses for mince pies and mulled wine. Mr Lang will be purchasing the tree with the invoice sent to Ashill Parish Council for payment.

**49/22 Communication**

1. Cllr Harvey confirmed the notice board upgrades are progressing. There is one noticeboard is left to fit in Southtown. Each noticeboard has a key, which are held by Cllr Harvey at present. It was **resolved** the clerk will laminate the Ashill Parish council logo for all 5 notice boards. The clerk will also circulate instructions for how Parish members can have notices put up in the new notice boards.
2. Following previous discussions on the new Parish Council website the Chairman reported he had met with TEEC to discuss the website design and management further. Cllr Varney put the council to vote to change the Parish Council website to the TEEC platform. The council voted unanimously in favour of this change therefore the change in Parish Council website was **approved**. It was **resolved** Cllr Varney will contact TEEC to confirm approval and work to swap over the website will start shortly. [**Post meeting note**: Cllr Varney has contact TEEC to confirm approval of the website transition. A planning meeting will be held in due course to begin the transition].
3. Cllr R Fry updated on the sponsorship by the Parish Council of the November Isle Valley News magazine. Cllr Fry thanked all the volunteers who deliver the magazine – in total 85 extra magazines were delivered within Ashill Parish. Cllr Pyle confirmed she has received some additional subscriptions and Cllr Fry confirmed some new additions to the ‘Green Ashill’ FaceBook page. Cllr Fry confirmed an invoice will be received to cover the additional 110 magazines ordered for the Novemeber magaone issue.
4. Following the suggestion at the previous Parish Council meeting a new Parish Council logo has been circulated to councillors by email. It was resolved that the Parish Council approves the new parish logo (as shown on the header of these minutes). It was noted the logo should will be used going forwards on all council communications.
5. Cllr Fry proposed a BBQ to be held in Summer 2023 as an informal’ meet the councillors’ session for Parish residents to attend and meet their councillors. This discussion point will be brought froward to the next council meeting for further discussion.
6. Cllr Abel spoke of the pictoral history mural at Stoke St Mary village hall. Cllr Abel will find out further information about the mural and report back to the council.
7. Cllr Varney also confirmed he will speak to District Cllr Buckler about the options for grant funding to supply a projector and screen for use at future council meetings. [**post meeting note**: Cllr Varney has confirmed hehas arranged to speak with Cllr Buckler about funding options available].

**50/22 Finance**

1. Cllr Varney discussed the recent working finance group meeting, held on 01 November 2022. Further discussion is required and the next working group meeting will be held in December 2023 – Cllr Varney will propose a date in due course.
2. It was **resolved** for the following payments were approved :
* Cllr R Fry – Playing Field Expenses (paid) £ 68.40
* Gown Engineers Ltd. – Willage Hall Structural Inspection (*paid*) £ 360.00
* SLCC – Affiliation Fee & NALC payment 2022/23 (paid) £. 143.94

**51/22 Staffing**

The outgoing Clerk (Mrs J W Davidson) advised she will resign from her role on 25th November 2023. The Parish Council **resolved** to appoint the new Clerk (Mrs C Ball) with effect from 1st November 2022.

**52/22 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

* 2023 / 24 Budget and Precept
* Community warm hub feedback
* Summer 2023 Parish Council event (BBQ).
* Village History Mural / images
* Parish Council projector and screen funding

**53/22 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 23 January 2023 at 7.30pm. This will move from 16 January 2023. It was **resolved** the Clerk will move the hall booking from 16th to 23rd January 2023. [**Post meeting note**: Incoming Clerk has contact Village Hall to reschedule hall booking accordingly].

*The meeting closed at 9 : 25 pm*

Signed : .…………………………………………………..……………………………… (Chairman)

23 January 2023