

**Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in
Ashill Village Hall on Monday 3rd March 2025 at
7.30 pm**



ASHILL
PARISH COUNCIL
Serving Ashill and Surrounding Hamlets

ASHILL, HASTINGS, KENNY, RAPPS, SOUTHTOWN, STEWLEY,
WINDMILL HILL & WOOD

Present : Cllrs P Varney (Chairman), R Fry, A Crouch, N Harvey and R Batty.

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk), 1 member of the public and Somerset Councillor S Osborne

86/24 Apologies

Apologies were received by Cllr Crocker who also tendered his resignation from the Parish Council.

87/24 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman thanked Jason Crocker for his time spent serving on the Parish Council. The Chairman also noted that he was due to have an operation within the next two weeks and reminded all present that Cllr. Harvey was Vice Chair.

88/24 Public Participation

A member of the public pointed out that:

1. Windmill Hill Lane, within the parish, had suffered with very bad bank slippages due to hedges being removed and nothing keeping the bank in place. It was also noted that lorries were increasingly using the lane and causing more damage, and despite the road sign indicating that the road was not suitable for wide vehicles, Sat Nav directed traffic up the lane.
Councillors requested that the Clerk speak with highways regarding this issue.
2. Notices of births, deaths and marriages in the parish magazine (which is the Church magazine) come from the church register. As not all villagers use the church, not all births, deaths and marriages were published. The Chairman offered to introduce an announcement page on the website, and would be happy to upload details of births, deaths, marriages and other announcements. Details of any should be sent to the Parish Council.

Somerset Councillor Sue Osborne gave an update from Somerset Council:

- Somerset Council were considering additional parking charges overnight and adding parking charges to the free car parks in the county. A decision had been made today to postpone the overnight parking charges but Somerset Council had been considering limited waiting bays in the town which were not currently charged.
- The Constitution and Governance for the boundary commission change had not been forwarded to Town and Parish Councils, however the Boundary Commission had extended the deadline to March 4th. Somerset Council had forwarded an amended plan to them and findings were due to be published in early June, before a second consultation. There would be a third consultation before their final decision.
- Somerset Council would set its budget on March 5th. The Council could not go into deficit and Somerset Council was awaiting the results of the Capitalization Directive. In the last financial year (2024/25) the commercial asset portfolio was being sold off. Setting a balanced budget for 2025/26 should be possible but 2026/27 may be difficult. Central Government had allowed Somerset Council to increase Council tax by an extra 2.5%, which brought the total increase to 7.5%
- The staff restructure was ongoing.

Cllr. Batty asked Somerset Councillor Osborne if gulleys would be cleared within the parish. Gulleys within areas of flooding have been cleared but Cllr Batty cleared the gulleys outside his own property as Somerset Council had not cleared them, although the curb stones had been replaced. However, Cllr Batty

suggested that the standard of work was not acceptable. Cllr. Osborne suggested making a complaint direct to Somerset Council if he was not happy with the standard of work. She also suggested that the Parish Council continue to chase Somerset Council regarding gulley clearance.

89/24 Declarations of Interests

None

90/24 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th January 2025.

The minutes were unanimously approved.

91/24 a) Planning – To consider the following planning application:

25/00068/DOC1 Land West Of School Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset

Discharge of Conditions No. 8 (Drainage), No. 9 (Foul Water Drainage) and No. 16 (Street Lighting) of Planning Application 17/04328/OUT.

Awaiting decision

24/02935/HOU Hastings Gate Thickthorn Lane Ashill Iminster TA19 9LR

Replacement Garage/Store

Awaiting decision

25/00141/COL Leverets School Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset TA19 9LY

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed removal of existing conservatory and erection of a new conservatory with solid pitched roof.

Withdrawn

25/00112/OUT The Builders Yard Wood Road Ashill Iminster TA19 9NP

Outline Application for 3 Dwellings with all matters reserved save Access and Layout.

Awaiting decision

The Parish Council had no concerns with these applications.

b) The following decision notices from Somerset Council were noted.

None

92/24 Playing Field

a) To receive the inspection report for the playing field

Cllr Fry reported the following:

- No change to the previous report. The field had been recently cut but there was ongoing damage from moles and rabbits.
- The board on the gate into the muga had been replaced.
- There was more graffiti on the muga.
- Generally, the playing field was in good condition.

b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Playing Field.

None

93/24 Highways / Footpaths

To receive for consideration any matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.

The kissing gate from the church to the footpath had completely fallen over and had been reported to Somerset Council.

94/24 Health / Environment/ Parish Assets

To receive for consideration any matters regarding Health / Environment / Parish Assets.

The notice board at Rapps had been rehung following the storms.

95/24 Village Hall

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

The outside of the village hall would be painted in March.

96/24 Communication

a) To receive any updates from the most recent LCN meeting or working groups

None

b) To Receive any update regarding an event to mark VE day 80 in May 2025

The Ashill community would celebrate VE day at the village hall with a marquee, hog roast, ferret racing, skittles and singer Ivy Bell performing war time music. This would be followed by a disco. There was a licence in place for a bar.

The plan would be to sell 150 tickets to cover costs. Charges would be £10 for adults and £5 for children and tickets would be available via a booking website. A link and QR code to the booking website would be on the poster.

c) To receive an update regarding matters from the Church

A Church maintenance day had been organised for Saturday 15th March.

d) To approve meeting dates for 2025

The future meeting dates were approved unanimously.

e) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding communication / processes.

Cllrs Varney and Harvey had attended a recent meeting with residents regarding the development at Admirals Field. The main concern from the residents was of increased risk of flooding and increased surface water running onto the road.

The Parish Council would work to ensure that any conditions of the development were adhered to.

97/24 Finance

a) To note bank reconciliations for 2nd and 3rd Quarters have been completed.
Noted.

b) To note bank reconciliations for January and February 2025 have been completed.
Noted

c) To consider a speed indicator device (SID) and/or gates for the village. Funded through CIL monies.

Somerset Council had confirmed the amounts of CIL payments and expected payment dates with the Clerk. These were due in March 2025 £1323.00 and September 2025 £3970.00

The Clerk would investigate costs of a SID along with guidelines from Somerset Council on where to place them. Highways had confirmed the cost of Village gateways in 2024, which was approximately £900 per unit. Somerset Council would charge to install these. However, it was agreed that the preferred option was a SID.

21.14 Somerset Councillor Osborne left the meeting.

d) The following payments were approved.

Cost description	Total Value	Date Paid	Invoice Reference
EDF Energy		Due Feb 25	DD

Ashill Village Hall	£16	23 02 25	430
SALC	£30	23 02 25	1527
Rosanne Fry	£21.00	23 02 25	Expenses – Tens payment
Victoria Haste – Singer VE Day	£50.00	23 02 25	Deposit VE Day event singer

In addition to the payments above, Councillors approved a payment of £ 28.83 for materials to re-install the noticeboard damaged in the recent storm.

Councillors agreed unanimously to give delegated authority to Cllr. Fry and the Clerk to make payments required for the VE Day event:

£650 Hog Roast

£250 Ivy Belle - Singer

£150 Ferret man

Any other ad hoc expenses for the event providing they were within the budget.

98/24 To consider the offer of a second defibrillator awareness session from South West Ambulance Trust.

Cllr Fry suggested including the awareness session in the Coffee and Chat mornings which took place on Thursdays. Cllr Fry would ask the organisers if that was a possibility and if not, the clerk would book the village hall.

99/24 Action Status Report

The report was circulated and noted.

100/24 Matters for Report

None

101/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.26

Signed : (Chairman)
12th May 2025