

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson. Chilthorne Knapp, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, BA22 8QZ

Tel: 07783 475200

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Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 6 December at 19:30hrs

Present – Councillors

Caz Halfhide (Chair part-time), Steve Davey (Chair part-time) Nick Bluck, Henry Guy, Jonathan Mock, Antoinette Groves.

In attendance:

Julie Ferguson - Parish Clerk, Neil Bloomfield – County Councillor & 9 members of the public.

Question & answer session with representatives from Martock & South Petherton Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Mr Paul Harding (Chair), Lisa Tabner (Practice Manager) & Dr Maeve McInerney attended the meeting to hear concerns & offer assistance to parishioners who were struggling to contact their surgery and make appointments.

They explained that it had proved difficult to communicate the process of registering for Patient Access and 'Ask My GP' widely around parishes during the Covid pandemic and were still exploring opportunities to reach out to those patients who were not confident using the internet. They still took phone calls & regularly talked patients through signing up for 'Ask My GP', as this was the system that now logged all appointments & allocated patient priorities.

Concern around elderly parishioners who were still falling through the cracks was expressed and the PC offered to include surgery leaflets explaining the steps required to get access and to distribute them along with the monthly PC Newsletter, ensuring everyone had been reached. A further suggestion of placing a regular advert in The Leveller would be looked into, with cost being a factor.

The team were thanked for coming along and speaking at the meeting.

County & District Councillors Reports.

Councillor Bloomfield reported on Unitary authority progress and the impact on election dates and of potential ward boundary changes.

Public Open Session

Councillor Groves & her team of willing volunteers were thanked for their efforts towards the Christmas decorations & Tree. The PC thanked a parishioner, Mr Aaron Brown for his kind donation of £50 towards the defibrillator fund.

19:45 – Meeting opened

Councillor Halfhide took the Chair.

21/118 To elect a Chair.

RESOLVED: Councillor Davey was proposed, seconded and duly elected as Chair.

21/119 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Coombes (work commitments).

21/120 Declarations of interests

Councillor Davey declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13b (21/132 b).

21/121 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

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21/122 Matters to report from the previous meeting

Councillor Mock reported that the speed humps on the Pavilion accessway had been installed and were DDA¹ compliant. Councillors thanked Councillor Mock for his efforts.

21/123 Planning Decisions Report - 21/02433/HOU - Lansdale, Burrough Street, Ash. Erection of a single storey extension & garage conversion. Approved.

Noted.

21/124 Planning Applications – 21/02312/LBC – Lower Witcombe Farm. Alterations to roof & openings of existing garage.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council supported the application as an improvement on the building.

21/125 Finance - To report the following payments:

Clerk's salary and expenses	£1707.06
Wessex Water – Pavilion (6 mths)	£77.44
SSDC – Ranger Sept & Oct	£372.96
JTM Construction – Speed humps & signage	£605.06

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed that all payments be made.

21/126 Finance – To approve a grant request of £500 for Ash In Bloom

RESOLVED: The grant of £500 was unanimously approved.

21/127 Finance – To note receipt of CIL² payment of £1699.20

Noted.

21/128 Finance – To agree 2022-23 budget

RESOLVED: The 2022-23 budget was unanimously approved to be used as the basis for setting the precept (Appendix A).

21/129 Parish Council Matters – To consider appointing a solicitor for general legal advice

The requirement to have a solicitor pre-arranged to instruct at short notice should issues requiring legal expertise occur was agreed & the clerk was asked to obtain rates from local firms for agreement at a future meeting.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

21/130 Parish Matters – To discuss the re-painting and enforcement of parking in the disabled bays in the Village car park.

Councillor Davey reported that the disabled bays were badly in need of re-painting and continually occupied by vehicles not displaying a disabled badge. It was agreed to re-paint the faded marking & to consider penalties & enforcement tactics in consultation with the School Head Teacher.

ACTION: Councillors Davey & Mock

21/131 Pavilion and Playground – To report on the meeting with HAGS regarding replacement play equipment.

Councillor Guy reported on a recent meeting with a representative from play equipment supplier & installer HAGs, Councillor Davey & the clerk were also in attendance. He put forward 3 large items

¹ Disability Discrimination Act 2005

² Community Infrastructure Levy

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of play apparatus to replace & enhance the current equipment in the play area. Questions relating to the surface that would be installed and concerns over the ongoing maintenance of any surface were discussed and Councillor Guy agreed to enquire. The clerk agreed to look for additional suppliers and quotes for comparison. Councillor Guy was thanked for making considerable progress towards updating the play area equipment and everyone agreed that this needed to be treated as a priority.

ACTION: Councillor Guy & Parish Clerk

Date of next meeting – 10th January 2022.

21/132 Exempt Session – Exclusion of the Press & Public.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed 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.

- a. To agree clerk's contractual details.
- b. To agree the Cemetery accessway lease.

22:00 - Meeting closed

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Appendix A – Agreed 2022-23 Budget

Budget Line 2022-23	FINAL
PARISH	
street planting scheme	£500.00
Ranger	£2,000.00
Millennium Wood maintenance grant	£600.00
General maintenance - Grass & Grounds	£4,200.00
General Maintenance - Trees	£1,000.00
Play area safety inspection	£200.00
fencing and play area repairs/maintenance	£500.00
Pavilion maintenance(inc. servicing & cleaning)	£1,000.00
Parish utilities (Electric, water, WiFi)	£1,100.00
Pavilion car park and accessway maintenance	£1,000.00
Defibrillator maintenance	£200.00
TOTAL	£12,300.00
OFFICE & ADMIN	
clerks salary	£9,000.00
audit fees	£500.00
insurance	£1,600.00
Subs (Parish online, Scribe, NALC& SALC,ICO)	£550.00
S137 Grants	£1,000.00
General admin	£1,500.00
Communication costs (RENAME)	£500.00
Training (Councillors & Clerk)	£280.00
Legal costs (FOI, data protection)NEW	£1,000.00
TOTAL	£15,930.00
PROJECTS (*ring fenced)	
*Defibrillator - replacement unit & parts fund	£100.00
*pavilion refurbishment	£3,000.00
*churchyard walls & gate maintenance	£1,000.00
*laptop replacement fund - NEW	£150.00
*Website & software updates - NEW	£0.00
*Bus stop shelter	£0.00
*play area equipment replacement	£6,770.00
Cemetery extension	£3,000.00
TOTAL	£14,020.00
TOTAL	£42,250.00