

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 31 January at 19:30hrs

Present – Councillors

Steve Davey (Chair), Caz Halfhide, Nick Bluck, Henry Guy, Antoinette Groves, Roger Coombes.

In attendance:

J Ferguson – Clerk, Neil Bloomfield - County Councillor & 4 members of the public.

County & District Councillors Reports.

Councillor Bloomfield reported on Unitary Council progress, corruption allegations at SSDC reported in The Leveller and agreed to request a central white line at the top end of Main Street with the yellow lines around the corner of Witcombe Lane be completed as previously agreed.

Public Open Session

Reports of dog mess and ideas for the Jubilee weekend were discussed.

19:55 – Meeting opened

21/133 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Mock and Councillor Clarke

21/134 Declarations of interests

None.

21/135 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.

21/136 Matters to report from the previous meeting

Councillor Coombes offered details of a solicitor that could be approached for the cemetery legal issues.
Councillor Davey agreed to contact them.

ACTION: Councillor Davey

21/137 Clerks Report & Correspondence

The following items were reported:

- Tree works on the corner of Burrough Street had been completed by SSDC at a cost of £327.84 + VAT and the tree was now safe. Responsibility for the tree & the land it stands on needed to be established before further costs were incurred. (Land registry and Solicitor)
- Application to the 'Reconnecting Communities' fund had been submitted for £1250 & the PC would find out in a few weeks if they were successful.
- PC Election planned for 5th May 2022.
- Status of unsafe play equipment (now removed).
- Promise of a £500 donation from the Somerset Freemasons and a request for donation to be noted on a plaque once the work is complete. (Agreed & thanks to be sent).

21/138 Planning Decisions Report.

None.

21/139 Planning Applications.

None.

21/140 Finance - To report the following payments:

Clerk's salary and expenses	£885.38
HMRC – PAYE	£18.80
SSDC – Ranger Nov/Dec '21	£372.96

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Pinnacle Accountancy – Payroll services	£42.00
Play Inspection company – Annual inspection	£96.00

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

21/141 Finance – To approve the cashbook and bank reconciliation

RESOLVED: The cashbook and bank reconciliation was unanimously approved.

21/142 Finance – To approve the precept for the financial year 2022-23

RESOLVED: A precept request of £42,250 was proposed and unanimously approved.

21/143 Finance – To discuss Scribe annual renewal

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to cancel the Scribe annual renewal and the clerk agreed to look at the package that Lloyds bank offered its business customers.

21/144 Finance – To approve a grant request for £260 for a new Millennium Wood gate

RESOLVED: It was unanimously approved to a grant request of £260 for a new Millennium Wood gate.

21/145 Parish Council Matters – Councillors Roles & Responsibilities

Individual roles and responsibilities remain as previously agreed, with Councillor Davey taking on the unallocated responsibilities:

Councillor Bluck – Planning, Village Hall Liaison, Cemetery & Churchyard & Pavilion Committee

Councillor Coombes – Environment, Cemetery & Churchyard

Councillor Groves – Ranger, Highways (inc. traffic & Speedwatch, village car park & Streetscene), School Liaison, Website & IT & Pavilion Committee.

Councillor Guy – Pavilion, Recreation & Playground & Pavilion Committee

Councillor Halfhide – Finance, Budget, Pavilion, Recreation & Playground & Pavilion Committee

Councillor Mock – Planning (others to be agreed at a future meeting) & Pavilion Committee

Councillor Davey – Environment Champion, Trees, Millennium Wood

It was acknowledged that Jack Parker was also still a member of the Pavilion Committee.

21/146 Parish Council Matters – To approve the Millennium Wood Memorandum of Understanding

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to approve the Millennium Wood Memorandum of Understanding subject to an agreement for an annual review by the PC and also clarification of the insurance liabilities should the management group take out additional insurance to ensure the policies don't conflict or duplicate cover.

ACTION: M Wooden, Councillor Halfhide & Parish Clerk

21/147 Parish Council Matters – To approve additional clerk hours to support a review of the Standing Orders

The Parish Council felt that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations needed to be reviewed and updated to cover procedural arisings and best practices. All councillors were asked to become familiar with the documents & highlight areas that may need updating. The clerk agreed to assist in this process and to provide clerical support as necessary.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to allow the clerk to incur additional hours and support the PC to review & update the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

ACTION: All

21/148 Parish Matters – To discuss upgrades to village hall car park, inc. disabled parking spaces

Councillor Davey presented the PC with a solution for facilitating 2 disabled bays and 3 additional parking spaces. Enforcement was discussed and an 'IN/OUT' on the ramp with a white line. It was agreed that more detailed plans were needed and it was agreed to revisit on a future agenda, with costings when Councillor Mock was present.

21/149 Parish Matters – To discuss approaching the school regarding parking issues

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Further to the previous agenda item, Councillor Davey offered to speak with representatives from the school to free up further spaces in the car park for visitors to the Millennium Wood throughout the day.

ACTION: Councillor Davey

21/150 Parish Matters – To discuss the condition of the concrete slabs beneath the Burrough Street bench

This was deferred to a future meeting as Councillor Mock wasn't present.

21/151 Parish Matters – To discuss plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee village celebrations

It was decided that a single organising 'committee' would be advantageous to field ideas and plan for the day/weekend. It was agreed to hold an initial meeting and invite anyone who wished to be involved to attend, on 16th February 2022 at 7pm. Councillor Groves was asked to send out an Ash Alert.

21/152 Pavilion, Recreation Area and Playground – To discuss the condition of the car park

This was deferred to a future meeting as Councillor Mock wasn't present.

21/153 Pavilion, Recreation Area and Playground – To note Ash Recreation Ground Annual Inspection Report

The annual report had been received and sent to all Councillors.

21/154 Pavilion, Recreation Area and Playground – To agree future maintenance plans for existing play equipment

Councillors Bluck & Coombes had removed the redundant and faulty play equipment and believed that very soon the smaller apparatus would need to be removed also. It was hoped that the new equipment would give a much-needed boost to the play area, being the first phase of a larger & longer plan.

21/155 Pavilion, Recreation Area and Playground – To consider & approve scheme for new play equipment installation

Councillor Guy presented two packages for PC consideration, with a recommendation that the larger installation represented better value for money and would make a more significant impact on the field. It was agreed that this would be the first phase, with the next phase hopefully securing some grants in addition to PC match funding. Concern over the surface installation detail was expressed and councillor Guy agreed to speak to HAGs to agree the best option for this location.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to instruct HAGs to install play equipment at a cost of £29,744.73 (fixed cost), subject to site location and surface installation detail agreement.

ACTION: Councillor Guy & Parish Clerk

21/156 Cemetery & Churchyard – General report

There was nothing to report at this time

21/157 Date of next meeting – 7th March 2022.

21:45 - Meeting closed