



ASH PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE BOARD

April 2025

Editor: Antoinette Groves Email: ashalertemails@gmail.com



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The parish council would like to extend its thanks to Lesley Andrew for her time and service as a council member. Her contributions to the council's work have been appreciated, and we wish her all the best for the future.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? Now's your chance!

If you have some time to spare each month, you can use it to make a real difference in your community.

As a Councillor, you can:

- Represent the views of residents
- Have a say on issues that matter to our community
- Help decide how local funds are spent
- Support projects that improve Ash Parish
- Ensure our community receives the services it needs

No special qualifications are required, just a passion for making a difference! Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Pavilion in Ash.

Who Can Apply? To be eligible, you must be 18 or over and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be a registered local government elector in Ash Parish
- Have lived in the parish or within 3 miles of it for the past 12 months
- Have worked in the parish for the past 12 months
- Have occupied land or property in the parish as an owner or tenant for the past 12 months

Interested? Get in touch! Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com Phone: 01935 571050

Want an informal chat about the role? Contact the Chair, Cllr Steve Davey

Email: steve.davey@ashpcsomerset.com

For more information and Application Form follow the link to: [Co-Option Pack - Information and Application Form](#)

INVITATION TO RESIDENTS, CLUBS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

We're preparing for our next **Parish Meeting** and would love to showcase what you and your organisation have been doing!

Date & Time

- **Parish Meeting: Tuesday, 6 May 2025, 7:00 pm**
- **APC Annual Meeting (AGM):** Follows immediately at **7:30 pm**

Send Us Your Report

If you represent a local club, society, charity, business, school, or informal community group, please send a short-written update (½–1 page is perfect) covering:

1. Key achievements over the past year
2. Current projects or events
3. Anything you need help with or wish to highlight

Unable to attend in person? No problem, email your report, and we'll read it out on the night.

Deadline

Please email your report to clerk@ashpcsomerset.com by **Tuesday 29th April 2025** so we can circulate papers ahead of the meeting.

Why Contribute?

- Celebrate successes and thank volunteers
- Let neighbours know how to get involved
- Raise awareness of funding or support needs
- Strengthen links across our community

We encourage every group, large or small, to take part. Residents are also welcome to submit individual comments or questions for inclusion.

See you on 6th May and thank you for helping make our parish stronger!

Ash Parish Council

2025 ASH PARISH SUMMER FETE SATURDAY 24TH MAY

2 - 8pm

ASH RECREATION GROUND

FREE ENTRY – EVERYONE WELCOME

LIVE MUSIC
MORRIS DANCERS
MARTIAL ARTS DISPLAY
DOG SHOW
GAMES FOR ALL AGES
FERRET RACING
VILLAGE PLAYGROUND
ICE CREAMS
'VE DAY' TEAROOM
OUTDOOR BAR
BURGER & HOT DOG STAND
TOMBOLA
RAFFLE
LOCAL PRODUCE & CRAFT STALLS

Our special VE Day Tearoom will celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th 1945 with an opportunity to donate to charities supporting veterans and today's servicemen and women. The other proceeds from the Fete will go towards supporting future village events and local good causes.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A STALL, BE A VOLUNTEER, DONATE PRIZES FOR OUR RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA, OR HELP WITH THE FETE IN ANYWAY, PLEASE CONTACTS US BY EMAIL ashparishfete@gmail.com or call Jack Parker on 07855 818588



ASH IN BLOOM – 2025 UPDATE

Over the past year, our group of active supporters has become smaller, so our plans for 2025 will be more modest. However, with the dedication of our volunteers, we're confident we can still achieve our goals.

Our focus will be maintaining the summer floral displays and Christmas decorations along Main Street, from the Old School House to the village's lower end.

One of our biggest challenges is keeping the planters watered throughout the summer. This is a vital task, and last year, three kind residents volunteered to water planters near their homes. We are incredibly grateful for their support! However, we still need more volunteers to help with this crucial job. If you're able to water a planter near your home, even just once a week, your help would make a huge difference! Please contact us at ashinbloom123@gmail.com or call 01935 825020 if you can assist.

We always welcome new volunteers for planting, maintenance, and occasional tasks. If you're interested, please get in touch.

Thank you for your support!
Antoinette Groves, Chair, Ash in Bloom

A FRIENDLY ASK TO ALL DRIVERS

Many of us walk Main Street every day, with prams, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, dogs, and little ones on scooters. When cars sit up on the pavement, the rest of us are forced into the road and straight into fast-moving traffic. It's scary and dangerous.

Could we ask a simple favour?

Please keep all four wheels on the road or in a proper parking bay. Even popping two tyres onto the kerb blocks the path for someone.

Why it matters

- Kids, parents with buggies, and anyone with limited mobility can't squeeze past a parked car.
- One near-miss last week saw a toddler's push-chair pushed into the road, luckily no one was hurt.

Need to stop briefly?

Use available lay-bys or side-street spaces. If there's nowhere else, stay with your car so you can move quickly if needed.

Let's look out for each other and keep our pavements clear and safe. Thanks for helping make Ash a nicer place to live and walk!

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Dear Residents and Visitors,

With ongoing roadworks and temporary closures across the area, more vehicles are being diverted onto smaller, quieter roads many of which are narrow, unfamiliar, and not designed for high traffic volumes.

We urge all drivers to **slow down and take extra care** on these routes.

Recently, we've seen concerning incidents, including a van in Milton ending up in a ditch and a near-miss at the junction of Back Street and the lane to Burrough Street. These events highlight the serious risks posed by speeding and inattention.

These roads are shared daily by:

-  Children
-  Horse riders
-  Pets
-  Walkers and joggers

Even if you're familiar with the route, others might not be so please **respect all signage, observe road closures, and keep your speed down.**

Let's work together to keep our roads safe for everyone during this period of disruption.

Thank you for your care and continued vigilance.

GREEN HONDA CR-V LEFT IN PAVILION CAR PARK

A green Honda CR-V (currently untaxed) has been sitting in the Pavilion car park for several weeks. Because this car park is open to the public, it is classed as a "road" under Section 192(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, so normal rules on road-tax, insurance and roadworthiness apply.

Parking space in the parish is limited, and an abandoned or unroadworthy vehicle takes up a much-needed spot and creates extra work for local services.

If you know who owns this vehicle, please pass the message on or, if it's yours, please either:

1. **Move the vehicle elsewhere, or**
2. **Bring its tax and insurance up to date** before leaving it on site again.

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Summary of Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Ash Parish Council held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 19:00hrs at Ash Pavilion

Present: Cllr J Bailey, Cllr E Pearlstone, Cllrs S Davey, Chairman, Cllr Halfhide, Deputy Chairman, Cllrs Z England, A Britten, A Groves, T Groves. Clerk Z Bougourd. Two members of the public and planning representative M Williams, on behalf of the owners of land area east of Burrough Street.

Public Forum. It was noted that the compost bin adjacent to the cemetery had discarded Christmas grave wreaths alongside it. It was also noted that some of the paving slabs adjacent to the Pavilion were cracked and potentially hazardous – Cllr A Groves will contact the ranger and ask if he can repair the affected area.

25.60: Somerset Councillor report: SC have yet to notify details of future plans for 2025/6, including the replacement appointment for the highways officer who retires at the end of April 2025. It was noted that the SC have written to the 10 residents who recently submitted objections to Footpath orders 11, 13 & 14 asking them to withdraw their objections. APC are not aware of any resident who has withdrawn, concern was noted that SC may be experiencing reduced staffing levels; however these objections will now be considered. There is a general move across Somerset to upgrade footpaths to bridleways. Potholes in Widcombe Lane & Paynes Lane have been partially repaired, others are marked and are due for repair. Damage in Paynes Lane may be due to oversized farm vehicles.

25.61: Apologies. None received

25.62 Declarations of interest. None noted.

25.63. Minutes 03/03/25. The minutes of the meeting held on the 03rd March were approved and signed.

25.64: Matters arising(other than those on the Agenda). None noted.

25.65:

- Martock SID – check functionality of equipment – Nothing to report
- Signage Millennium Wood/play area - signage
- HMRC/payroll arrangements – HMRC have now updated the contact details: 09/04/25, HMRC website notes that an activation code has been posted.
- Pavillion door replacement – ongoing, awaiting installation date
- VE Day- a flag has been purchased. Cllr England will attach it to the Church flagpole with due regard to health & safety.

25.66 Planning decisions report. None as at 30/03/25

25.67 Planning Applications:

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved for Erection of two dwellings and formation of joint vehicular access

Location: Land East Of Burrough Street Adj Broad Ham Burrough Street Ash Martock Somerset TA12 6NZ

Application Number: 25/00463/OUT. Mr M Williams(Planning advisor) presented a background report on behalf of the landowners. After discussion it was agreed that as an outline application it would be approved. Design detail would need to be considered carefully with regard to overlooking neighbouring properties and access to the land area behind the dwellings. It was agreed to revert to SC Planning noting concerns re potential surface water flooding adjacent to the site.

24.68 Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to dwelling

Location: Manor Farm Cottage Milton Lane Ash Martock Somerset TA12 6AL

Application Number: 25/00733/HOU

No objections/comments

24.69 Proposal: Rear single storey and two storey extension.

Location: 84 Main Street Ash Martock Somerset TA12 6PB

Application Number: 25/00764/HOU

No objections/comments

24.70 Finance – To APPROVE the regular payment schedule as detailed below, regular payments to be reviewed at the AGM or when the payment amount changes, whichever is sooner. Payment schedule approved and signed

24.71 Finance: To discuss the payment requests as detailed below & minute decisions. Payment requests approved and signed. Noted that the Virtual Landline account is now paid via the Council current account/debit card.

24.72 Finance: To approve & sign the Bank reconciliations - March 2025 to date. Approved and signed

24.73 Finance: To approve & sign the Bank Statements – March 2025 to date. Approved and signed.

24.74 Finance: To approve the year end bank reconciliations. The year end reconciliations were approved and signed.

24.75 Finance: To update allocation of reserves: Balance of funds for allocation totalled £28643.38. It was agreed to allocate 50% to the carpark resurfacing fund 25% to pavilion upkeep & 25% to administration reserve. Clerk will update exact figures for final approval at the next meeting. No budget was set for reserves in 2025/6 due to underspend in 2024/5.

24.76 Council Matters: Consider moving Ash PC website to gov.uk domain. After discussion it was agreed that moving to a gov.uk domain was considered best practice and will be progressed in due course. There are some concerns regarding mailbox size and back up criteria. Cllr Davey will take this forward and report back to the next meeting.

Parish Matters: Consider quote for installing an exterior lighting for ramp to Ash Pavilion. The quote was accepted. Cllr England will progress this matter.

24.77 Parish Matters: Consider quote to replace/repair carpark barrier. The quote was accepted, it was agreed not to claim on the PC insurance. Cllr England will progress this matter.

24.78 Council Matters: Consider policies and adoption of policies as required. Cllr T Groves had provided a list of the current legally required policies: It was agreed that the Clerk will now update these Policies where required and the Grant Policy & Co-option Policy be added to this list. Other policies may be

added as considered necessary. The Asset List was also considered and will be updated by the Clerk for tabling & approval at the next meeting. It was noted that the Risk Policy & Risk Assessment are separate documents. The Risk Assessment will be considered and updated at the next meeting.

1. **Standing Orders** – Rules governing how the council operates, including meetings, decision-making, and delegation of powers.
2. **Financial Regulations** – Rules controlling financial management, budgeting, and procurement.
3. **Code of Conduct** – Sets out the ethical standards and expected behaviour of councillors (Localism Act 2011).
4. **Data Protection Policy** – Compliance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, including privacy notices and data retention.
5. **Freedom of Information Publication Scheme** – Required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, outlining how the council provides access to information.
6. **Complaints Procedure** – A process for handling complaints from the public and stakeholders.
7. **Risk Management Policy** – Identifying and managing financial and operational risks.
8. **Equality and Diversity Policy** – Ensures compliance with the Equality Act 2010, preventing discrimination.
9. **Health and Safety Policy** – If the council employs staff, a policy must be in place under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
10. **Employment Policies** – If the council has employees, it must have policies covering grievance, disciplinary procedures, and contracts of employment (Employment Rights Act 1996).
11. **Grant Application Policy.** Organisations who make a positive contribution to Ash Parish can apply for a grant from the PC
12. **Co-option Policy & Application form.** Following notification of a casual vacancy for Councillor with no election requested. A resident can apply to be coopted onto the Council subject to noted criteria.

24.79 Date and time of next meeting. Parish Meeting, Monday 12th May 2025 @ 7pm, APC Annual Meeting to follow @ 7.30pm **Post meeting updated to Tuesday 6th May @ 7pm, APC AGM to follow @ 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 21.25hrs

Schedule of Regular Monthly Payments, for report only.

Monthly	S Davey	Virtual Landline	£6.50	SO Report
Monthly	R A Evis	Ground Maintenance	£458.33	SO Report
Monthly	KL Bungay	Pavilion cleaning	£102.00	SO Report

Payment requests as at 30th March 2025

Z Bougourd	SLCC	Renew membership 50%	£90.00	
RA Evis	March 2025	Lengthsman	£235.00	Invoice due
Millennium Wood Invoice	Annual fee		£1060.00	Due 1 st April (2025/6)

Direct Debit payments between 28/02/25 – 30/03/25

28/02/25	BRITISH GAS	Utility	214.55	
31/03/25	BT GROUP	Utility	34.46	

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH ASH ALERTS

Ash Parish Council's **Ash Alert Emails** bring you quick updates on council news, events and village life. To join just email your name, email address, postal address, and phone number to ashalertemails@gmail.com and request to be added to the Ash Alert Emails list. Your privacy is secure: we never share your contact details or make them visible to others, and you're free to unsubscribe at any time if you wish to stop receiving updates.

Let's try to get everyone connected - sign up now!

Please spread the word to neighbours and friends.

Other quick and easy ways to get news and updates from **Ash Parish Council**:

Website: Visit www.ashpcsomerset.com

Ash Alert Emails: Sign up for Ash Alert Emails at ashalertemails@gmail.com

Facebook: Follow us on Facebook: [Ash Alerts](#)

Clerk to Ash Parish Council: Zannette Bougourd Tel: 01935 571050 E-mail: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com Address of Clerk: 9 Redgate Park, Crewkerne. TA187NL