

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors, you are summoned to the Ash Parish Council Meeting on Monday 06th October 2025 at 7.00pm in Ash Pavilion.

Clerk to the Council.



The Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 06th October 2025 commencing at 7.00pm, to discuss and take decisions on Parish business as outlined on the Agenda.

Public Forum: Members of the public and press are welcome to join the meeting and are able to speak on any matter for up to 10 minutes during the Public Forum which will take place at the start of the meeting. If the matter is likely to take longer than 10 minutes, notice should be provided to the Clerk by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the meeting.

06th October 2025 AGENDA

Public Forum

1. Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: October 2025
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. To approve and sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 01st September 2025
5. Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)
 - a. Cloud Next /Mark 1 support– update including website archives
 - b. Role Allocation & responsibilities – confirmation of allocations
 - c. SID repair/replacement.
 - d. Car Park Barrier Repair – completed
6. Planning Notifications: Creation of agricultural access Milton Lane – approval.
7. Finance –
 - a. To approve and sign the Bank statements – September 2025 to date.
 - b. To approve and minute payment requests.
 - c. To approve and sign bank reconciliations September 2025 to date
 - d. Accept conclusion of External Auditor's Report & note comment.
 - e. Note WFH allowance/Clerk/Contract.
8. Parish Matters: Christmas Tree/Planning and budget for Christmas celebrations

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050
Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

9. CiLCA – Clerk training agreement

10. Parish Matters – Millennium Wood/misuse/dog fouling

Payments for authorisation.

C Halfhide	Pavilion cleaning materials/replacement loo seat	38.73
Parish Online	Annual subs	45.00
PKF LittleJohn	External Audit	378.00
ICO (Annual DD)	GDPR subs	35.00
Clerk	WFH (as per contract – correct underpayment)	208.00
Feorge Fabrications	Car park barrier repair (£696 - £250)	£696.00

Signed:.....Date:

Somerset Council Report

Ash Parish Council 6th October 2025

1.0 - Somerset News

1.1 - Have your say on Sunday parking charges proposal

Consultation will run for the next six weeks - public urged to take partA public consultation on proposals to introduce Sunday charges in Somerset Council car parks started on Monday, 8 September.

There are currently different charging principles applied across the county's 200+ Council-run car parks, and the system has not been reviewed since Somerset Council came into being in 2023. The Sunday charging proposals are the start of a process aimed at harmonising charging practices across the county. The proposal to consult on Sunday charges, approved by Executive earlier in the year, gives the public a chance to have their say before any final decisions are taken. Under the previous five councils there were different approaches to Sunday charges in car parks. This means that there are currently Sunday charges at many car parks, including for example in Watchet, Minehead, Wells, Glastonbury, Cheddar, Street, Frome, Shepton Mallet, Williton and Burnham-on-Sea. However, there are no charges currently in Taunton, Wellington, Bridgwater, Chard.

Crewkerne, Yeovil and Highbridge. The aim of the proposal is to bring consistency across Somerset while also ensuring the parking service continues to be completely self-funded to cover staffing, serving and

administering penalty notices, and managing and maintaining car parks to a high level. [The consultation starts today \(8 September and runs for six weeks, closing on 20 October 2025\)](#)

The Council's Executive also committed to public consultation on the potential introduction of on-street charging (after a free 30-minute stopover) and charging in free car parks. These proposals will be developed following further engagement on an area by area basis with local members and town and parish councils, and further public consultation. The consultation on Sunday charges will run for six weeks from 8 September until 20 October. The proposals will then be considered at the Council's Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee before final decisions are taken at Executive on 3 December. If agreed, any changes would not come into effect until 2026.

1.2 - Consultation starts on Yeovil town centre Masterplan

Somerset Council has put together a plan looking at potential sites for development in Yeovil's town centre with the aim of promoting business and residential growth and making the centre a more attractive and vibrant place.

The Council is asking residents, businesses and those with an interest in the Yeovil Masterplan to share their views as part of a consultation process which will help shape the town's future. The consultation launched on Thursday 18 September and finishes on 2 November.

People can take part in the consultation online here [Yeovil Masterplan Consultation -Somerset Council - Citizen Space](#) or at Yeovil Library.

The team will also have a stall at Yeovil Super Saturday on 20 September in St John the Baptist Churchyard, Church Street, where you can see the Masterplan and share your views.

Background

The first steps in regenerating Yeovil town centre have been taken thanks to money from the government's Future High Street Fund with the look and feel of central streets changed to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. Glovers Walk has also been demolished, leaving the site open to future development.

The Masterplan pinpoints four potential sites that would kick-start opportunities for Yeovil to become a sustainable, family-friendly town with more town centre housing, a thriving cultural centre and better connected to surrounding towns and villages.

The team is focused on developing Glovers Walk, the Bus Station and Earle Street car park first, and the consultation asks people to rank the three remaining sites in order of preference for development:

- North Lane and Court Ash car parks
- Glovers Quarter South (former Wilko store)
- South Street, Star Lane and Box Factory car park

Views are also being sought on the importance of affordable housing, green spaces, cycling and walking, public transport, the night-time economy – bars and cinemas – as well as feeling safe and secure.

The masterplan document was approved for consultation by the Planning and Transport committee at their August meeting. This followed on from an online briefing for all Somerset Council members on Monday 21 July and a briefing for Yeovil Town Council members on Tuesday 24 June.

1.3 - Somerset Council bolsters social housing stock to support local needs

Somerset Council's Executive Committee has supported recommendations to buy more council housing stock for the benefit of local people currently seeking temporary accommodation.

The decision comes about as a result of an underspend in the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – a legally required, ring-fenced account within the Council's finances for income and expenditure relating to its housing landlord services - held separately from other general council services. This will increase the number of homes under the Council's ownership while supporting the General Fund with temporary placement cost control.

The underspend of approximately £3.3m in the 2024/25 financial year, along with a predicted forecast underspend for the year 2025/26, coupled with the increasing demand for temporary accommodation for those at risk of homelessness across the county, brings forward the proposal to acquire new housing stock.

In the short term the new properties would be used to house residents who would otherwise require emergency accommodation, providing a better option for them and also saving the taxpayer money. In the medium term, these would be made available to those bidding for a property through Homefinder Somerset, where there is currently a long waiting list for suitable homes due to a national shortage.

By purchasing additional new properties in this way, the Council maintains greater control over property suitability, quality and cost compared with temporary placements through B&Bs, hotels or Airbnb accommodation.”

It is anticipated that in the region of 15 properties will be purchased to meet demand, however this will depend on property availability and size. Locations for the new properties within Somerset will be determined in due course and based on the areas of highest demand.

1.4 - Somerset chosen to pioneer drones project

Somerset Council is flying high after being awarded funding from Innovate UK to help bring forward a project that could transform disaster response and environmental protection in the county.

The award for the £191,370 project comes from the Future Flight Regional Demonstration Fund for the Council’s Project RESCUE that will investigate the potential for drones to be deployed to monitor environmental emergencies.

The “eyes in the skies” can be launched quickly, reach inaccessible areas safely and provide real-time footage and data to support the teams on the ground.

The Council will be working with two business partners, experts in the field of both drone operations and regulations to develop a business case and a concept of operations for using drones in emergency situations. These are Somerset based Land & Minerals Consulting Ltd who are currently working with the Civil Aviation Authority on establishing safety cases for flying beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) and innovative start-up Limosaero who are pioneering solar powered fixed wing drones capable of flying long distances.

The Resilience and Emergency Services Coordination Using Enabled-drones (RESCUE) project will also bring together local emergency services, resilience teams, Government agencies and drone service operators to develop the case for adopting the scheme in Somerset.

2.0 - Local Issues

2.1 - Highways and Transport – We are still awaiting an update on 2025-26 plans

- **Speed past Hillview school** – Verbal update

- **Drainage works** between the school and Stapleton Cross planned for inclusion into the 2024/25 following a CCTV survey to be carried out this year works to be designed following survey (done), now with contractor to design, works phased over three years starting in 2025-26. No date yet.

- **Trees between the school and Stapleton Cross**, no safety issues at this time, to be monitored. To be included in next tender. Highways state they are not their responsibility unless they fall on the highway. Ongoing monitoring.

- **Jetting of the system to be arranged on the section leaving Ash towards the A303** following the patching and depending on available budgets (jetting at new school, completed by contractors undertaking new school build) Recent work has been completed to clear outlets near the A303 turn off. Jetting between SEND school and Ash to be carried out on completion of the build in April 2024. No budget available but awaiting review for 2025- 26. More jetting and surfacing to move road camber and water shedding.

- **Burrough Road drainage** – This has been added to the works list for investigation. To be inspected by new inspector to understand the issue more fully. Survey requested

2.2 - Traffic and Safety strategy - ongoing

Long Load and Ash PC's linked to pick up and move forward any agreements about sharing the SIDs between the two parishes. Discuss date for moving forward

Regards

Emily and John

Report it first: useful Links to share with your communities

Visit Report a problem on the road: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

Potholes and road damage

Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>

For traffic updates and roadworks follow @travelsomerset on X and Facebook.

Live travel information

<https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/>

Report a problem with a street light

We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-with-a-street-light/>

Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting

Includes information about non-illuminated bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village name-plate and how to apply for a new road sign Speed limits: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/road-signs-bollards-and-road-markings/>

Speed limits

Request information about new or existing traffic calming measures:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/speed-limits/>

Traffic lights

We maintain over 200 traffic light locations throughout the county

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/traffic-lights/>

Street and roadworks

We maintain the roads and pavements that are managed at public expense in Somerset

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-and-roadworks/>

Sign-up for the latest climate news:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/climate-and-ecological-emergency/newsletter-sign-up/>.

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2025 at Ash Pavillion @ 7pm.

Present: Cllrs S Davey, Chairman, Caz Halfhide, T Groves, A Groves, Z England, M Trebley. Clerk Z Bougourd. Cllr E Pearlstone. Eight members of the public.

25/155. Public Forum. One comment re dog waste bin in Millennium Wood. The current bin has disintegrated. Cllr England noted that a member of the public had offered to fund a replacement. Cllr England to action.

No other comments.

25/156 Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: September 2025. Cllr Pearlstone noted that Junction 26 on the M5 had opened ahead of schedule. Other matters of note are: Closure of local community hospital beds. SC are trying to bring residents needing care closer to their own communities A support package for residents needing dementia/Alzheimer's care is being developed. Local Community Networks – some are working well, Somerset Levels LCN are developing active travel routes. Flood prevention remains a high priority, there are grants available up to 20K. Residents who use the alarm lanyard have been transferred to a digital service.

Cllr England asked about the maintenance of the slip road from Stoke sub Hamdon, currently very overgrown and impeding motorists vision. Cllr Pearlstone advised that the ownership of the land in question was unclear, she will ask if the Highways Agency can cut it back – report back to future meeting. Safety outside Hillside School remains a potential issue. SID outside the Village school is now operational. Clerk asked re cost of local election – current indications are that SC will not fund casual vacancy elections? If the cyclical election will be funded by SC. Indicative costs of local casual elections are circa 4.5K, approximately 9% of the current precept for Ash PC. Cllr Pearlstone will revert to a future meeting.

25/157 Apologies for Absence : Cllr A Britten & Cllr J Bailey

25/158 Declarations of Interest. None

25/159 To approve and sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 04th August 2025 – approved and signed.

25/160 Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)

- a. **Cloud Next /Mark 1 support–** Cllr T Groves noted that Mark1 can support laptop/phone line but they don't offer hosting services. Need NDA to inspect and report back on current email/IT set up.

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050
Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Current costs are £90 per hr billed in 5 minute increments.

Clerk/Cllr Davey to send draft NDA to PC.

- b. Role Allocation & responsibilities** – deferred to future meeting.
- c. SID repair/replacement.** Noted that the SID outside the Village school is now working. Cllrs A & T Groves will charge the batteries for the other SID. Quotes had been obtained for new replacement SIDs – Clerk to forward to Cllrs. Noted that every SID must be relocated every two weeks or turned off according to current SC Highways advice. Noted that the SID should still record data when switched off. Clerk tabled data from Donyatt PC, will send to Cllrs. Ash residents & Cllrs have noted concerns re speeding traffic through the Village.
- d. Car Park Barrier Repair – update.** Following the second accidental damage incident, the person concerned had offered to pay the insurance excess of £250. This was accepted as a pragmatic solution. Repairs will commence as soon as the contractor can schedule the work.

25/161 Planning Applications: 25/01921/FUL

Land Rear Of 17 To 21 Burrough Street Ash Martock

Somerset

Erection of new residential dwelling with associated parking and garden areas. The adaptation of a private drive and alterations/ improvements to the existing access.

Residents who were present expressed concern regarding various aspects of this application. The applicants were also present, and a detailed discussion ensued. It was noted that detailed background reports which covered many of the points raised had already been prepared and published. A summary of comments which were subsequently submitted to Somerset Council Planning Department are copied below.

Ash Parish Council met on 01st September 2025 and have the following observations:

There were seven owners of neighbouring properties to the proposed development present, their comments and the Parish Councils observations are detailed below:

Ash Parish Council can see both sides of this planning application and was neither in favour, nor against the proposal, but would like to make the following comments, many of which were expressed by parishioners at the meeting, in the expectation that they will be considered in the final decision.

1. In the Historical Environment Assessment, point 6.2, the applicant asserts that the land in question "reads more clearly as part of the villages built environment rather than as agricultural land." This is patently not the case. The land in question is very much agricultural land as is borne out by the undeveloped barn (albeit with planning permission) which is currently on the site.

2. In the Historical Environment Assessment, point 6.4, the applicant hints that "historic use of the site for orchards will have impacted on below ground deposits"

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050

Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to draw attention to the fact that there is a history of significant archaeological discoveries being made in Somerset orchards, including a Roman Villa being discovered in an orchard in Littleton/Compton Dundon in 1822, a large Roman mosaic being discovered in a former orchard in Lopen in 2001 and early medieval/post-medieval ditches and gullies (with possible late prehistoric features) being located in Shaw's Orchard, Bawdrip in 2012.

These illustrates that the fact that this is a former orchard will in no way diminish the potential for archaeological discoveries, and we request that a full archaeological survey with published report should be carried out on the land before any development, and appropriate actions taken.

3. A number of parishioners asserted that the badger sets on the land are currently active, and that the derelict barn on the property and a number of trees are home to a number of bats. We strongly suggest that another survey with published report be carried out by a different surveyor in order to obtain a definitive assessment.

4. At the meeting the applicant stated that they had revised their tree plans and were no longer planning on chopping down a number of walnut trees. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission.

5. Similarly, the applicant made a commitment that the proposed property would be kept as a family home and not be used as any form of hotel, bed and breakfast or holiday let. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission and made binding on any future occupant.

6. Similarly, the applicant made a commitment that the driveway will always be of some porous construction, whether gravel or a more advanced porous material to help mitigate any flooding potential. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission and made binding on any future occupant.

7. The Parish Council would like to draw attention to local flooding issues experienced by the occupants of the Manor Farmhouse, 23 Burrough Street Ash. These are the result of issues with the drains and have repeatedly been notified to Somerset Council and previously to South Somerset Council. Should the access road not be a porous construction, then this issue is likely to be made worse by the extra flow resulting from the proposed development, and so we suggest that the resolution of this issue should be made a condition of any planning permission to avoid further issues

25/162 Planning Decisions: None to note

25/163 Finance –

- e. To approve and sign the Bank statements** – August 2025 to date. Approved and signed.
- f. To approve and minute payment requests.** Approved. Invoice for barrier repair included powder coating frame prior to re-installation.
- g. To approve and sign bank reconciliations** August 2025 to date. Approved and signed
- h. Clerk/Cllr Training.** Clerk noted that currently training is as considered necessary and relevant by the Clerk, however there is a cost for the clerk to enroll & complete CILCA

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050

Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

next year. Agreed that Ash PC will pay the percentage share as advised. Pre CILCA meeting scheduled for 11th September 2025. Clerk noted that there is a webinar covering Neighbourhood Planning, details will be forwarded to Cllr T Groves.

- i. **Advance notification re 2026/7 budget items.** Clerk noted that with the potential election costs, budgets may prove challenging for the next financial year. Cllr T Groves noted that the groundsman's contract was due for renewal before the start of the next financial year. Tenders will be sought before the budget is finalised.

25/164 Parish Matters: To discuss the placement, costs and timing of tree planting in the Recreation Ground. After discussion it was agreed to approve the installation of a small low-level orchard with a maximum budget of £2,600 pending a play area report. Cllr M Trebley will arrange the play area report.

25/165 Parish Matters: To consider plan to upgrade recreation field lighting(sports/football users). The PC confirmed that subject to any necessary planning permission and local consultation, the upgrading of the sports field lighting was approved

25/166 Parish Matters – Pavillion Cleaning/user responsibility. It was noted that some users of the Pavillion may not be leaving the premises in a clean state. Agreed to post reminder notices in relevant areas.

25/167 Parish Matters: Pavilion closure request. This request was noted, however it was agreed that the Pavillion working party will arrange a meeting during October to discuss these matters in more detail.

25/168 Parish Matters – Grit bins – locations and preparedness. Grit bins remain in noted locations – Lengthsman to report back on level of grit and advise if further supplies are needed.

25/169 Insurance renewal 01/10/25– payment due before next meeting – to be agreed via email. The premium will fall due before the next meeting. Clerk to check recorded location of PC sheds, one on Recreation ground one in Millennium Wood. Agreed that this can be paid after email notification.

Payments for authorisation.

PG Fire & Security	Intruder Alarm Maintenance with Smart phone monitoring for 12 month/s from 24/09/25.	£199.99
Defib Store	Reimburse A Groves	£162.00
Invoices received after publication of the Agenda	Feorge Plant & Fabrication – barrier repair (April)	£736.80

Signed:.....Date:

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050
Email: clerk@ashpcsomerset.com

Name of Parish Council		Ash Parish Council	
Application ref number		25/01921/FUL	
Address		Land Rear Of 17 To 21 Burrough Street Ash Martock Somerset	
Date of response		02/09/2025	
1: Supporting the granting of permission		With conditions	
Please explain below the main grounds on which you support the proposal			
2: Object to the granting of permission			
Please explain below the main grounds on which you object to the proposal			
MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS		EXPLANATION OF GROUNDS	
1: Overlooking, loss of privacy or overbearing/overshadowing nature of proposal		Concern from neighbouring properties re loss of privacy	
2: Design and appearance, impact on public visual amenity		Not visible from the public highway	
3: Layout and density of building		N/A	
4: Effect of listed buildings and/or conservation areas		Comments re listed structure adjacent to driveway	
5: Loss of trees or ecological habitats		Applicants have indicated that more trees will be retained than indicated on the current plan	
6: Inadequate parking and/or servicing areas		N/A	
7: Access, highways safety or traffic generation		Concern re increased traffic onto an already difficult junction	
8: Noise, smells or disturbance from the scheme		N/A	
9: Flood risk		Localised flooding is well documented, see observations.	
10: Other reason – please explain		N/A	
3: Comments only.			

General observations:

Ash Parish Council met on 01st September 2025 and have the following observations:

There were seven owners of neighbouring properties to the proposed development present, their comments and the Parish Councils observations are detailed below:

Ash Parish Council can see both sides of this planning application and was neither in favour, nor against the proposal, but would like to make the following comments, many of which were expressed by parishioners at the meeting, in the expectation that they will be considered in the final decision.

1. In the Historical Environment Assessment, point 6.2, the applicant asserts that the land in question "reads more clearly as part of the villages built environment rather than as agricultural land." This is patently not the case. The land in question is very much agricultural land as is borne out by the undeveloped barn (albeit with planning permission) which is currently on the site.
2. In the Historical Environment Assessment, point 6.4, the applicant hints that "historic use of the site for orchards will have impacted on below ground deposits"

The Parish Council would like to draw attention to the fact that there is a history of significant archaeological discoveries being made in Somerset orchards, including a Roman Villa being discovered in an orchard in Littleton/Compton Dundon in 1822, a large Roman mosaic being discovered in a former orchard in Lopen in 2001 and early medieval/post-medieval ditches and gullies (with possible late prehistoric features) being located in Shaw's Orchard, Bawdrip in 2012.

These illustrates that the fact that this is a former orchard will in no way diminish the potential for archaeological discoveries, and we request that a full archaeological survey with published report should be carried out on the land before any development, and appropriate actions taken.

3. A number of parishioners asserted that the badger sets on the land are currently active, and that the derelict barn on the property and a number of trees are home to a number of bats. We strongly suggest that another survey with published report be carried out by a different surveyor in order to obtain a definitive assessment.
4. At the meeting the applicant stated that they had revised their tree plans and were no longer planning on chopping down a number of walnut trees. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission.
5. Similarly, the applicant made a commitment that the proposed property would be kept as a family home and not be used as any form of hotel, bed and breakfast or holiday let. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission and made binding on any future occupant.
6. Similarly, the applicant made a commitment that the driveway will always be of some porous construction, whether gravel or a more advanced porous material to help mitigate any flooding potential. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission and made binding on any future occupant.
7. The Parish Council would like to draw attention to local flooding issues experienced by the occupants of the Manor Farmhouse, 23 Burrough Street Ash. These are the result of issues with the drains and have repeatedly been notified to Somerset Council and previously to South Somerset Council. Should the access road not be a porous construction, then this issue is likely to be made worse by the extra flow resulting from the proposed development, and so we suggest that the resolution of this issue should be made a condition of any planning permission to avoid further issues.

ROLE ALLOCATION September 2025					
BUDGET	CAZ				
FINANCE	CAZ				
HR	CAZ				
EVENTS	CAZ	MARYISA			
VILLAGE HALL LIAISON	CAZ				
CARPARKS	ZAK	ALAN			
STRUCTURAL/PAVILION	ZAK	ALAN			
CEMETERY	STEVE	ZAK			
CHURCHYARD	STEVE	ZAK			
GROUND MAINTENANCE	STEVE				
LENGTHSMAN	STEVE				
SCHOOL LIAISON	MARYSIA	ZAK			
COFFEE MORNING	MARYISA				
DEFIBRILATORS	AG				
HIGHWAYS/TRAFFIC	AG				
STREET SCENE	AG				
SPEEDWATCH/SID	AG				
WEBSITE/COMMUNICATIONS	AG				
ENVIROMENTAL CHAMP	ALAN				
MILLENNIUM WOOD	ALAN				
PAVILION	CAZ	STEVE	TIM	AG	
PLAY AREA / REC	CAZ	TIM	AG		
TREES	TIM				
PLANNING	TIM				
Working Groups					
Cemetery/FEES/RULES REGS	STEVE	TIM	AG	CAZ	
Rec/Pavilion	STEVE	TIM	AG	CAZ	JACK P
Rec/Pavilion	ALAN	ZAK	MARYISA		

Ash PC September 2025 Bank recs for signature					Instant Call savings account					
Date	Type	Payee	Description	Money rec'd	Payments	Date	Type	Payee	Money rec	Payments
28/08/2025	SO	Clerk	Salary		399.66	02/09/2025	TFR			2000
28/08/2025	SO	HMRC			94.92	05/09/2025	TFR			2000
01/09/2025	SO	EVIS RA			458.33	08/09/2025	TRF			2000
01/09/2025	SO	KL BUNGAY			102	09/09/2025	Interest		72.31	
02/09/2025	DD	BT GROUP			37.37				72.31	6000
02/09/2025	TFR	Transfer from reserve		2000						
03/09/2025	FPO	A Groves	Reimburse defib supplies		162	Opening balance		115262.92		
03/09/2025	FPO	PG Fire & Security			199.99	Income				
03/09/2025	FPO	FEORGE	Barrier repair		736.8	Payments		6000		
03/09/2025	FPI	Hughes		265		Closing balance		109262.92		
05/09/2025	FPO	RA EVIS lengthsman	May/June/July/August		1306.68					
05/09/2025	FPO	HMRC			100	95 day call account				
05/09/2025	TFR	Transfer from reserve		2000		Opening balance		30/06/2025 52636.92		
08/09/2025	DEB	Virtual LL			6.5	Interest		0		
08/09/2025	TFR	Transfer from reserve		2000		Closing balance 30 06 2025		52636.92		
09/09/2025	DEP	500077		165						
09/09/2025	FPO	Insurance renewal			3064.7					
12/09/2025	FPI	Barrier damage		250						
16/09/2025	FPI	Trusson		10						
19/09/2025	PAY	Bank charges			8.5					
28/09/2025	SO	Clerk			399.66					
28/09/2025	SO	HMRC			94.92					
				6690	7172.03					
Opening Balance										
20th August 2025	3170.49									
INCOME	6690									
EXPENDITURE	7172.03									
BALANCE C/F	2688.46									
SIGNED										
NAME										
DATE										

Ash Parish Council

Notice of conclusion of audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2025

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

	Notes
1. The audit of accounts for Ash Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2025 has been completed and the accounts have been published. 2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return including the auditor's certificate and opinion is available for inspection and copying by any local government elector of the area of Ash Parish Council on application to: Mrs Z Bougourd St SLCC (a) Clerk/RFO 9 Redgate Park Crewkerne Somerset TA187NL (b) Monday – Friday by prior arrangement during normal office hours for the period: 30th September 2025 – 15th October 2025 3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector of the area on payment of £5.00 (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.	This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website. The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for; the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years. (a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR (b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised (c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs
Announcement made by: (d) Zannette Bougourd StSLCC	(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice
Date of announcement: (e) 29th September 2025	(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

ENASH PARISH COUNCILITY

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			✓

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

06/05/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

MI 25/98 REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

Clerk

<https://ashpcsomerset.com>

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

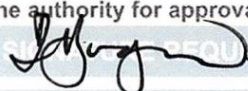
ENASH PARISH COUNCILITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	91,864	88,517	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records. Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	43,723	50,900	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	9,670	14,821	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	11,381	4,865	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	45,359	24,508	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	88,517	124,865	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	88,517	124,865	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	319,792	334,092	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

 REQUIRED

Date

06/05/2025

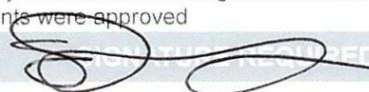
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

06/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

25/99 REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

 REQUIRED

Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2024/25

In respect of

Ash Parish Council – SO0004

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2025; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2024/25

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The smaller authority has not restated the prior year figure when revaluing assets in Section 2, Box 9. Please note that the Practitioners’ Guide allows smaller authorities to use any reasonable valuation method, provided that the prior year figure is restated for consistency and comparability.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

23/09/2025

Name of Parish Council		Ash Parish Council	
Application ref number		25/01921/FUL	
Address		Land Rear Of 17 To 21 Burrough Street Ash Martock Somerset	
Date of response		02/09/2025	
1: Supporting the granting of permission		With conditions	
Please explain below the main grounds on which you support the proposal			
2: Object to the granting of permission			
Please explain below the main grounds on which you object to the proposal			
MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS		EXPLANATION OF GROUNDS	
1: Overlooking, loss of privacy or overbearing/overshadowing nature of proposal		Concern from neighbouring properties re loss of privacy	
2: Design and appearance, impact on public visual amenity		Not visible from the public highway	
3: Layout and density of building		N/A	
4: Effect of listed buildings and/or conservation areas		Comments re listed structure adjacent to driveway	
5: Loss of trees or ecological habitats		Applicants have indicated that more trees will be retained than indicated on the current plan	
6: Inadequate parking and/or servicing areas		N/A	
7: Access, highways safety or traffic generation		Concern re increased traffic onto an already difficult junction	
8: Noise, smells or disturbance from the scheme		N/A	
9: Flood risk		Localised flooding is well documented, see observations.	
10: Other reason – please explain		N/A	
3: Comments only.			

General observations:

Ash Parish Council met on 01st September 2025 and have the following observations:

There were seven owners of neighbouring properties to the proposed development present, their comments and the Parish Councils observations are detailed below:

Ash Parish Council can see both sides of this planning application and was neither in favour, nor against the proposal, but would like to make the following comments, many of which were expressed by parishioners at the meeting, in the expectation that they will be considered in the final decision.

1. In the Historical Environment Assessment, point 6.2, the applicant asserts that the land in question "reads more clearly as part of the villages built environment rather than as agricultural land." This is patently not the case. The land in question is very much agricultural land as is borne out by the undeveloped barn (albeit with planning permission) which is currently on the site.
2. In the Historical Environment Assessment, point 6.4, the applicant hints that "historic use of the site for orchards will have impacted on below ground deposits"

The Parish Council would like to draw attention to the fact that there is a history of significant archaeological discoveries being made in Somerset orchards, including a Roman Villa being discovered in an orchard in Littleton/Compton Dundon in 1822, a large Roman mosaic being discovered in a former orchard in Lopen in 2001 and early medieval/post-medieval ditches and gullies (with possible late prehistoric features) being located in Shaw's Orchard, Bawdrip in 2012.

These illustrates that the fact that this is a former orchard will in no way diminish the potential for archaeological discoveries, and we request that a full archaeological survey with published report should be carried out on the land before any development, and appropriate actions taken.

3. A number of parishioners asserted that the badger sets on the land are currently active, and that the derelict barn on the property and a number of trees are home to a number of bats. We strongly suggest that another survey with published report be carried out by a different surveyor in order to obtain a definitive assessment.
4. At the meeting the applicant stated that they had revised their tree plans and were no longer planning on chopping down a number of walnut trees. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission.
5. Similarly, the applicant made a commitment that the proposed property would be kept as a family home and not be used as any form of hotel, bed and breakfast or holiday let. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission and made binding on any future occupant.
6. Similarly, the applicant made a commitment that the driveway will always be of some porous construction, whether gravel or a more advanced porous material to help mitigate any flooding potential. We suggest that this commitment should be made a condition of any planning permission and made binding on any future occupant.
7. The Parish Council would like to draw attention to local flooding issues experienced by the occupants of the Manor Farmhouse, 23 Burrough Street Ash. These are the result of issues with the drains and have repeatedly been notified to Somerset Council and previously to South Somerset Council. Should the access road not be a porous construction, then this issue is likely to be made worse by the extra flow resulting from the proposed development, and so we suggest that the resolution of this issue should be made a condition of any planning permission to avoid further issues.

Coombes
C/o Mr George Russo
Symonds and Sampson
2 Court Ash
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HG

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England)
Order 2015
DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING
PERMISSION (FULL)**

APPLICATION NO **25/01095/FUL**
APPLICANT **Coombes** PARISH: **Ash**

DESCRIPTION: **Creation of an agricultural access.**
LOCATION: **Land At 346869 121767 Milton Lane Ash Martock Somerset
(GR:346870/121768)**

In pursuance of powers under the above Acts and Orders Somerset Council gives you notice that its decision upon your application described above and in the plan(s) which accompanied that application is to:

GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

01. The proposal, by reason of location, size, scale, materials, design and use does not adversely affect the character of the area, visual amenity, residential amenity, highway safety or any other ecological concern in accordance with the aims and objectives of policies SD1, EQ1, EQ2, EQ4, and TA5 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-28) and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

01. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To accord with the provisions of section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

02. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

Amended location plan received 6 August 2025

Amended site plan received 6 August 2025

Drawing no. 25-009 received 6 August 2025

Amended Drawing no. IMA-25-070 001 received 6 August 2025

Drawing no. 25-008

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

03. Before the access is first brought into use, the proposed access over the distance from the carriageway to the proposed gate, shall be properly consolidated and surfaced (not loose stone or gravel), and thereafter maintained at all times.

Reason: In the interest of highway safety in accordance with policy TA5 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

04. Provision shall be made within the site for the disposal of surface water so as to prevent its discharge onto the highway. Such provision shall be installed before first use of the access hereby approved, and thereafter maintained at all times.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety, in accordance with policies EQ1 and TA5 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) and the planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.

05. Any entrance gates shall be hung to open inwards and permanently retained in such fashion.

Reason: In the interest of highway safety in accordance with policy TA5 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

06. There shall be no obstruction to visibility greater than 600 millimetres above adjoining road level in advance of lines drawn 2.4 metres back from the carriageway edge on the centre line of the access and extending to points on the nearside carriageway edge 43m either side of the access. Such visibility shall be fully provided before the development hereby permitted is brought into use and shall thereafter be maintained in perpetuity.

Reason: In the interest of highway safety in accordance with policy TA5 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Informatives:

01. The developers are reminded of the legal protection afforded to nesting birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In the unlikely event that nesting birds are encountered during implementation of this permission works must stop and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist at the earliest possible opportunity. The nest must remain in situ until all young have fledged.
02. The applicant/agent is hereby reminded that they will require a S.184 license from the Highways Authority (Somerset Council) to allow access across the Highway verge.



Alison Blom-Cooper MRTPI

Chief Planning Officer

Somerset Council

Date: 9 September 2025

NOTES:

(1) Please read the above condition(s) very carefully. This permission has only been granted on the basis that all of the conditions are fully complied with. Applicants are advised that failure to comply with the requirements of each and every condition as detailed may become the subject of enforcement action by the Council.

(2) The applicant has a right of appeal against this decision, which, amongst other things, is explained in the attached notes. That right of appeal is only available to the applicant; it is not available to those who made representations on the application.

(3) In accordance with paragraph 38 of the NPPF, the council, as local planning authority, approaches decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way, working proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area by:

- offering a pre-application advice service, and
- as appropriate updating applications/agents of any issues that may arise in the processing of their application and where possible suggesting solutions.

(4) It is the legal responsibility of Somerset Council to issue and register all new postal addresses. If appropriate in this case, please contact the Street Name and Numbering Department at <https://somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/street-naming-and-numbering/> prior to commencement of development for details of the appropriate process.



Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) 1990

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT

You are requested to notify the Planning Authority **21 days** prior to commencement of development or use of land approved under planning permission **25/01095/FUL**.

Many planning permissions have conditions imposed upon them which require the submission of details prior to commencement of development or use of land. Failure to comply with such conditions prior to commencement may mean that the development becomes the subject of enforcement action by the Council.

Please ensure you notify the Planning Authority prior to starting work (see form below for your convenience).

.....

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT – RETURN FORM

please return this completed form to

To: PlanningSouth@somerset.gov.uk or post to Planning South, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT

Planning Permission: **25/01095/FUL** Case Officer **Louisa Brown (Senior Planning Officer)**

It is intended to implement the above planning permission on:

Date: / / Signed: Print:

Address

.....

Phone Number Email

APPLICANT: **Coombes**

DESCRIPTION: **Creation of an agricultural access.**

LOCATION: **Land At 346869 121767 Milton Lane Ash Martock Somerset**

Unmetered Supplies – Festive Illuminations

In anticipation of the upcoming 2025 Festive period we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if ASH PARISH COUNCIL intends to have festive lighting connected this year, you are required to provide us with the inventory details so that a certificate of consumption may be issued.

The information we will require in order to perform this calculation is listed below:

- Number of lights & displays
- Wattage of lights
- Daily burn hours – operation hours, switched on & off times
- Period of operation – Festive lighting start & end dates

Learning Agreement for the Certificate in Local Council Administration

This is an agreement between the trainer, the candidate, and the council. It provides a clear statement of the responsibilities of each party with regards to the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

The terms of this agreement can be amended on discussion between the parties.

Name of the training organisation	Somerset Association of Local Councils
Trainer's name	Sam Winter, recognised CiLCA trainer
Mentor's name	Sam Winter (ongoing support over 12mths)
Name of the candidate	
Name of the council	

The training organisation, SALC (represented by the trainer), agrees to:

- provide access and signpost to relevant learning materials
- provide a trainer and a mentor to facilitate the study of CiLCA including a review of selected items of the candidate's work
- ensure that the candidate is supported in understanding the requirements of CiLCA, enabling the award of CiLCA within an agreed timescale.
- provide a programme of learning, guidance, and support
- treat students with respect at all times
- ensure students are aware of their responsibilities
- offer help to the candidate to manage time and remain motivated for studying CiLCA.

The candidate agrees to:

- apply for CiLCA through the SLCC and acquire The Portfolio Guide from SALC or the SLCC, which must be read and brought to the training sessions

- attend and participate in the programme of training and support to facilitate completion within the agreed timescale
- regularly reflect on progress and report progress to the council
- accept that private study and research are essential elements of CiLCA
- treat the trainer/mentor and fellow students with respect at all times
- notify the trainer of difficulties with making progress or attending sessions
- seek advice from the trainer if guidance on feedback from the assessor is needed.

If the candidate withdraws from CiLCA, all fees paid are non-refundable.

The training organisation will withdraw support if progress is not being made as agreed.

The Council agrees to:

- support the candidate throughout their studies
- facilitate remunerated study time
- cover the costs of training and travel (see contract of employment for guidance)
- take note of reports and updates on achievements and progress
- undertake regular two-way performance appraisal conversations
- monitor the candidate's workload and limit new projects during the period of study
- recognise the importance of CiLCA and its benefit to the council

This agreement is signed by:

Party	Name	Signed	Date
The trainer representing the training organisation	Sam Winter LLB(Hons) Assoc.CIPD		
Candidate			
Representative of the council			

Email re Millennium Wood/Dogs
27/09/25

Dear Steve and Ash Parish Council,
Earlier today I visited the Millennium Wood.

As I was jogging, an off-the-lead dog accompanied by a man and a woman jumped up at me placing its legs on mine and obviously stopped me from running. I said to them that dogs should be under control or on a lead which elicited a verbally aggressive response of ' he/she is under control, what do you expect, you ran at the dog' or words to that effect. As Mick Wooden happened to be in the Wood I immediately discussed the unfriendly encounter with him. As you will see I am copying Mick into this email as Mick encouraged me to report the matter to you. Mick told me that he would like dogs to always be on leads in the Millennium Wood. Mick and I also discussed a woman who walks around with 4 dogs. I've seen one of the dogs probably 20 to 30 yards behind her. So much for keeping dogs within sight at all times!

The temporary sign in the Wood is evidently not having the desired effect despite having been in situ for at least 6 months. **Has the permanent sign been ordered?** I suggest that if it hasn't yet been ordered, that the matter is given serious reconsideration before any expenditure.

The unpleasant dog poo problem in Ash remains ongoing. Today I noticed fouling in the middle of the footpath running between Back Street and Witcombe Lane and also close to the gate at the entrance to the path in Witcombe Lane