

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 03rd November 2025 @ 7pm in Ash Pavillion, Ash.

Present:

Cllrs S Davey, Chair, Caz Halfhide, Z England, A Britten, T Groves. Cllr J Bailey. Absent Cllr Trebley.

One member of the public was present for the first part of the meeting.

25/181 Public Forum. Noted that dog control within Millennium Wood remained a problem.

Noted that the meeting papers may not have been circulated through Ash Alerts and the meeting dates may not be readily visible on the website.

Noted that the Poppy display was very well presented by the Ash in Bloom team.

25/182 Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: November 2025. Cllr J Bailey gave a verbal update:

The Millennium Wood area has been designated by Somerset Council as the first community nature reserve.

Long Load PC have enquired about a SID – Cllr Bailey will speak to Cllr A Groves.

First stage of drain maintenance has been completed, and a survey is due to be carried out.

25/183 Apologies for absence. Cllr A Groves & E Pearlstone.

25/184 Declarations of Interest – none noted.

25/185 To approve and sign amended Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 01st September 2025. Approved and signed.

25/186 To approve and sign minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 06th October 2025. Approved and signed.

25/187 Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)

- a. **Role Allocation & Responsibilities** – deferred to future meeting.
- b. **Update re tree planting/orchard within play area at Recreation Ground/confirm costs. The Plan attached to these minutes was approved. Purchase and planting ongoing.**
- c. **Grounds Maintenance/lengthsman contracts.** Cllr Davey tabled a draft tender specification. It was agreed to request testimonials from potential contractors and also ask for a quote to include mulching and one without mulching. Cllr Davey will contact contractors for tender quotes.

25/188 Finance:

- (a) **To approve and sign the Bank statements** – October 2025 to date. Approved & signed.

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- (b) **To approve and minute payment requests.** Approved and signed, noted that the SALC invoice will be paid through Ash PC and Donyatt PC & Horton PC will contribute 1/3 each.
- (c) **To approve and sign bank reconciliations** October 2025 to date – approved and signed.

25/189 Millennium Wood – signage update re dog control/short leads. After discussion it was agreed to purchase a sign to be placed on the entrance gate advising that dogs must be kept on leads and owners must clean up after their dogs. A sign promoting the Nature Reserve status will be discussed with the Wood manager.

25/190 Neighbourhood Planning – report from Cllr T Groves re webinar. Cllr T Groves & Clerk attended a webinar regarding Neighbourhood Planning and possible relevance/value to Ash Parish. Somerset Council no longer provide any funding for Neighbourhood Planning, it is very time consuming & expensive and even if a Plan was approved and adopted, SC can overrule and allow development to meet Government housing targets. It was agreed that this is not a suitable use of resources for Ash Parish at this time.

25/191 To consider purchasing replacement SID device/s using allocated funds (Speedwatch).

After an in depth discussion, it was agreed to purchase two SID devices, solar model, total cost ex VAT £4679.98. These units will be placed on Main Street at both entry points to the Village pending agreement from residents who may be directly affected by the installation of a SID. The purchase will be funded with 4K from the Speedwatch reserve and the balance £679.98 (+£936.00 VAT) would come from the contingency budget. Proposed by Cllr England, seconded by Cllr Halfhide.

Approved unanimously. Cllr T Groves requested that a budget line be added for SID maintenance and future replacement units (every 3 years) Clerk will add to budget.

a) **Update re current SID units.** One existing unit is operational and will be used until no longer functioning.

25/192 To agree 2026/7 Budget meeting date/venue. Meeting to be held on the 8th December 2025 @ The Bell.

25/193 To set date for Annual Parish Council/Annual Parish Meeting. Due to a date error by the Clerk and subsequent diary commitments, it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18th May @ 6.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm.

25/194 Newly consecrated Cemetery – update re proposed fees, rules & regulations. Cllr Davey tabled proposed fees, these to include interment & appropriate grave marking. The PC is responsible for the graveyard maintenance, setting the fees to accrue a maintenance fund is considered

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prudent. It was agreed to approve the charges in principle, subject to updated rules & prices. Suggested to put an interment request on the website to avoid any duplicate requests for the same day/time.

25/195 Somerset Council Community Service Award update. Cllr Davey advised that Cllr M Best will present the award before the next PC meeting on the 01st December @ 7pm immediately prior to the PC meeting @ 7.30pm.

25/196 British Gas – renew energy contract. It was agreed to renew the British Gas contract – Clerk to action.

25/197 Ash Pavilion – Update regarding proposed alterations & refurbishment. Ongoing

25/198 To consider purchasing a replacement PC laptop/determine model and capacity. Agreed to purchase a suitable laptop – Clerk to send spec to Cllrs Brittan & T Groves.

25/199 Reports to note:

- b) **Somerset Economic Development Strategy** - noted
- c) **Planning Update 2025** - noted
- d) **Planning Submission Guidelines** – noted

Meeting closed at 20.45hrs, next Parish Council meeting 01st December 2025 @ 7.30pm.