

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026 (postponed from 05th January 2026) @ 7pm at Ash Pavillion, Ash Parish

Present: Cllr Steve Davey, Chairman, Caz Halfhide, Vice Chairman, Cllrs Tim Groves, Zac England, Antoinette Groves, Alan Britten & Marysia Trebley.

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

25/214 Public Forum. Noted that dog control in Millennium Wood has improved slightly since placing of sign advising dog control. Cllr A Groves noted that Somerset Council were continuing their consultation to update dog control legislation in public places. The wood manager is actively engaging with SC to represent Ash PC's areas of concern, including Millennium Wood, Recreation Ground, Churchyard and Cemetery. The next Somerset Council PSPO (Dog Control) meeting is on the 19th January 2026.

25/215 Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: January 2025. Report was received on 12th January, noted.

25/216 Apologies for absence. Cllrs J Bailey & E Pearlstone sent apologies.

25/217 Declarations of Interest. None declared.

25/218 To approve and sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 03rd November 2025. Approved and Signed.

25/219 To approve and sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 01st December 2025. Approved and signed.

25/220 Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)

- a. Role Allocation & Responsibilities. Cllr A Britten has agreed to take over the duties indicated from Cllr A Groves – Clerk will update list.
- b. Newly consecrated Cemetery –noted watering system may be malfunctioning, some hedging plants appear to have died – Cllr Davey will action.
- c. SID – locations. Cllrs England, Britten & Davey will meet on site to note proposed sites.

25/221 Finance:

- d. **To approve and sign the Bank statements** – December 2025 to date. Approved and signed.
- e. **To approve and minute payment requests.** Approved and signed
- f. **To approve and sign bank reconciliations** December 2025 to date. Approved and signed.
- g. **To approve payment requests.** – Approved and signed.

25/222 Budget: to approve the Budget for 2026/27 and authorise precept request. Note: Somerset Council have advised that payments for precepts over £10,000 will be made in April & September for the next financial year. Budget and precept request approved unanimously – Clerk to send precept request to SC.

Payments for Authorisation:

05/01/26	Lengthsman Nov 2025	£235.00
05/01/26	CiLCA – course textbook	£50.00
05/01/26	CiLCA Dec hrs/mileage/pkg	£212.10
05/01/26	HMRC - CiLCA	£53.02
05/01/26	Pavillion supplies	£27.74

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050
Email: clerk@ash-somerset-pc.gov.uk

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Invoice received after publication of agenda:

Extra insurance premium re SIDs £34.09

The Council is recommended 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.

Parish Matters - Millennium Wood: Signage and usage review. See item 25/214

Historic incident noted, since that time the membership of the Parish Council has changed and now endeavour to be more proactive if and when incidents within the Parish occur. Noted that the PC have installed updated signage at the Millenium Wood and continue to engage with Somerset Council regarding the consultation to consolidate Public Space Protection Orders across Somerset. (Dog Fouling and Dogs on Leads). Suggested that a standing Agenda item is added: Parish Matters (incident reporting).

Parish Matters - Grounds Maintenance / lengthsman contract – review. Cllr A Groves noted that further quotes must be obtained before a decision was made. The PC has received one quote to date from the current contractor; Somerset Council declined to quote – they no longer provide grounds maintenance or lengthsman services. Clerk will endeavour to obtain further quotes.

Meeting closed @ 20.45hrs.

Next meeting 02nd February 2026

ASH PARISH COUNCIL approved 12th January 2026						
Receipts and Payments Summary for the year ending 31st March 2026						
RECEIPTS	Income to date 2025/26					
Precept	£ 52,100.00					
Deposit account Interest	£ 1,695.05					
Cemetery Fees	£ 947.50					
Grants	£ -					
Pavilion	£ 2,982.50					
VAT repayment	£ 875.80					
Other refunds	£ -					
Other receipts	£ 400.00					
Donations	£ 250.00					
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 59,250.85	This Year	This Year	To year end projection	Spend	2026/27
	This Year expenditure to date 2025/26	Allocated budget	Budget remaining	31/03/2026	Variance on last year	Budget
PAYMENTS						
Clerks Salary - increased by 5%	£ 4,629.01	8,000.00	3,370.99	2,100.00	1,270.99	£ 6,500.00
Communications/website - allowed for new Parish Online site & IT Support	£ 49.99	1,800.00	1,750.01	0.00	1,750.01	£ 800.00
Admin Subscriptions	£ 434.84	350.00	-84.84	0.00	-84.84	£ 600.00
Admin General	£ 1,017.83	1,200.00	182.17	766.00	-583.83	£ 750.00
Environment - Ranger	£ 2,330.12	4,000.00	1,669.88	1,750.00	-80.12	£ 4,500.00
Environment - Play area - including path tarmac	£ 2,475.00	1,250.00	-1,225.00	1,100.00	-2,325.00	£ 1,250.00
Grounds maintenance	£ 4,124.97	6,000.00	1,875.03	1,850.00	25.03	£ 6,500.00
Environment - Grass cutting & trees		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	500.00	£ 1,500.00
Environment - Biodiversity	£ 1,060.00	1,500.00	440.00		440.00	£ 1,500.00
Cemetery - Memorials/track lease	£ 10.00		-10.00	0.00	-10.00	£ -
Parish Utilities	£ 1,242.50	2,500.00	1,257.50	1,000.00	257.50	£ 2,000.00
Pavilion maintenance (new doors)	£ 2,409.12	2,250.00	-159.12	5,059.15	-5,218.27	£ 2,500.00
Pavilion Car Park (barrier repair)	£ 1,194.00		-1,194.00		-1,194.00	£ 2,000.00
Audit	£ 540.00	500.00	-40.00	0.00	-40.00	£ 650.00
Insurance	£ 3,064.70	4,000.00	935.30	0.00	935.30	£ 3,500.00
Defibrillator		500.00	500.00	200.00	300.00	£ 500.00
Training CILCA including course fees 1/3 share	£ 516.00	750.00	234.00	720.00	-486.00	£ 1,440.00
Parish Projects (To reserves at EOY)		500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	£ 600.00
Grants (includes Millenium Wood)	£ 600.00	3,000.00	2,400.00	0.00	2,400.00	£ 1,500.00
Memorial Inspection		1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	£ 500.00
SCC Devolved services		3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	£ 2,000.00
Contingency - balance to reserves at Y/E		4,500.00	4,500.00	679.98	3,820.02	£ 2,250.00
To reserves- currently increased by annual underspend						£ 6,250.00
Legal costs	£ -	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	£ 500.00
Election	£ -	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	£ 2,250.00
VAT	£ 603.33	2,500.00	1,896.67	1,733.83	162.84	£ 1,000.00
Speed Indicator Devices maintenance/replacement budget			0.00	4,679.98	-4,000.00	£ 700.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 26,301.41	52,100.00	25,798.59	23,138.94	3,339.63	£ 54,040.00
Funds transfers/precept retention/ring fenced funds to C/A	£ 25,300.00					
Balances b/fwd 31/03/2025	£ 124,865.46					
Instant Call Account	£ 70,024.81					
95 Day Call Account	£ 52,236.33					
Current Account	£ 2,554.93					
Balances c/fwd						
Reconciliation with bank accounts - 29th December 2025						
Lloyds Business Account 43300060	£ 97,518.43	Interest 644.22				
Lloyds Current Account 22/12/25		7,009.32				
Lloyds Deposit Account notice account 29/12/25	£ 53,352.40	Interest 1116.07				
Total reserve balances at bank to date 22/12/25	£ 150,870.83					
Balance of Current Account c/f 31/03/25	2554.93					
Total receipts to date	5455.80					
Transfers from instant Call Account	23200.00					
Balance of precept - retained in current account	2100.00					
	33310.73					
Expenditure to date	26301.41					
Current Account Balance 22/12/25	7009.32					