

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Section 14(1) on 18th May 2026 at Ash Pavillion

- 26/a Attendance: Cllr Steve Davey, Chair APC, Cllr E Pearlstone and nine members of the public
- 26/b To approve and sign the minutes of the last annual Parish Meeting (May 2025). Minutes were approved and signed.
- 26/c To receive the Chair's report. Cllr Davey presented his report, see **Appendix A**: Cllr A Britten has notified of his intention to resign from the council due to work commitments, he would like to return in the future.
- 26/d Public comments and questions on the Chair's report – no comments or questions.
- 26/e To receive reports from local organizations.
- Cllrs A & T Groves presented the report from Ash in Bloom: see **Appendix B**: Due to the decreasing number of parishioners who are willing to assist with the maintenance of the Village floral displays, this year will be the last year that Ashin Bloom are active. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Trebley will contact the Schools and ask if they would adopt a planter, local residents who have a planter close to their houses may also be able to maintain a planter. It was agreed that the Village benefits greatly with well maintained planters and the Christmas Tree/decorations. Agreed to put a request for volunteers in the next Ash newsletter and on social media. Ash in Bloom may request a grant later in the year to cover costs.
- 26/f Any Parish items or matters residents may wish to discuss in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972. – none noted
- 27/g A question to be decided by a parish meeting shall, in the first instance, be decided by the majority of those present at the meeting and voting thereon, and the decision of the person presiding at the meeting as to the result of the voting shall be final unless a poll is demanded.- none noted.

Meeting closed @ 7.29pm.

Appendix A – Chair's report 2025- 2026

This year the Parish Council has worked hard to continue to administer the parish as economically as possible on behalf of all our residents, and yet again we believe that we have left it in a financially secure and well run condition. In the face of pointless wars and financial crises we have managed to only increase the Parish Precept by less than inflation. This is despite the financial issues being experienced by Somerset Council, which will have a knock on effect on our finances.

The Councillors, who are all volunteers, have worked tirelessly to make this Parish a better place, and I thank them for that. Unfortunately, though, I do have to report the resignation of Alan Britten from the PC, so would especially like to thank him for his time with us. This is a real shame as I am not the only one who thinks that he would have made a fantastic Chair.

In the coming year we have plans to continue to improve accessibility in Parish facilities, improve the recreation ground and pavilion and also to take measures to improve road safety.

Even though we are subject to increasing red tape from central government, our Clerk, Zannette, continues to keep us on the straight and narrow, and in ensuring our continued compliance with all of the regulations we have to adhere to. Many thanks to her for the continued support.

The Parish continues to look fantastic, and punches well above its weight in many areas, in no small part thanks to the work of the Millennium Woods Group, Ash in Bloom and Ryan Evis who maintains all of the public areas.

This summer will also see another Ash Fete, organised by the Ash Parish Fete Planning Group. It is heartening to see that a call for more volunteers has seen many more people step forward to ensure the continued success of the hopefully annual event.

I have mentioned the dependence that the Parish has on volunteers before; without them Ash Parish would not be such a good place to live. Thanking them is the easy part; joining them is something that we should all aspire to.

