

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18th May @ 7.30pm, Ash Pavillion.

Present: Cllr S Davey, Chair, C Halfhide, Vice Chair, Tim Groves, Antoinette Groves, Marysia Trebley & Zac England. Cllr E Pearlstone. Clerk Z Bougourd

26/17 Election of Chair & declaration of acceptance. Cllr C Halfhide proposed Cllr Davey, seconded by Cllr Trebley. Approved, declaration signed and filed.

26/18 Election of Vice Chair and declaration of acceptance. Cllr S Davey proposed Cllr Halfhide, seconded by Cllr England. Approved. Declaration signed and filed.

26/19 Public Forum. Four members of the public were present. Matters raised were the ongoing problem with dogs off leads in Millennium Wood despite signs notifying the public. Concern was raised regarding the pavement near the Bell Inn, Cllr Pearlstone will take this matter forward and notify highways. Concern was also raised regarding the amount of farm traffic, large vehicles and coaches traversing the Village and causing upset to School pupils and members of the public. Noted under item 5b that two speed indicator devices are due to be installed which should reduce vehicle speed and make motorist aware of their speed through the Village. Noted that play equipment for younger children is currently limited - Cllr Trebley advised that the cost of installing new equipment may be too high for the PC alone – local businesses will be approached once more information is available. Cllrs T Groves & M Trebley will bring a report to a future meeting. Concern was also raised regarding the possible change in services in the Parish Church – at this time it is only a suggestion under consideration. A request for the newsletter to be published was noted – residents are requested to pass on items/matters of note to Cllr A Groves without which the newsletter cannot operate.

26/20 Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: May 2026- Cllr Pearlstone noted that the road maintenance schedule continues, progress is being made with regard to pothole repairs. A new initiative "National Conversation" has been launched through Oxford University: <https://www.national-conversation.ox.ac.uk>. This is a forum for anyone to contribute and express their views through the online questionnaire.

26/21 Apologies for absence - Cllr A Britten – apology noted and accepted.

26/22 Declarations of Interest – none noted.

26/23 To approve and sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th April 2026 – approved and signed.

26/24 Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)

- a. Newly consecrated Cemetery – update re fees/rules/regulations. – ongoing Cllr Davey will revert to a future meeting.
- b. SID – location identification/what three words – Cllrs England & Davey will progress this matter

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- c. Investment options for reserved funds – Clerk tabled three options for placing reserves into long term call accounts. Hinckley & Rugby quote the most favourable rates: 2.8% for a 90 day call & 3.43 for a 160 day call. Clerk to ascertain if withdrawals are allowed outside of the notification period.
- d. Notice board door – the door arrived damaged, unfortunately the damage was not found within the return time – Cllr T Groves requested that going forward any items ordered and delivered by closely inspected at point of delivery. Noted.

26/25 Finance:

- e. **To approve and sign the Bank statements** – April 2026 to date – approved and signed
- f. **To approve and minute payment requests.** See Appendix A- approved and signed
- g. **To approve and sign bank reconciliations** April 2026 to date -approved and signed
- h. **Public Rights notification 2026-** start date of 3rd June 2026 noted, Cllr A Groves will upload on website just prior to the commencement date.

26/26 Planning:

Proposal: Application to Discharge Section 106 Agreement dated 21st December 1994 between Mr P R Rodford and South Somerset District Council. The Agreement was varied by way of letter from South Somerset District Council Solicitor dated 10th June 1997 which reduced the land area by 11.68 Hectares. The Agreement was further varied by Deed of Variation dated 15th December 1997.

Location: Lavenoak Racing Stables Burrough Street Ash Martock Somerset TA12 6NZ

Applicant: Paul And Judith Rodford

Application Type : Discharge of Planning Obligation

Application Number: 26/00992/DPO

Noted – no response required

Proposal: Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of dwelling to replace scheme permitted by 25/00673/FUL

Location: Land At Stone Farm Main Street Ash Martock Somerset

Applicant: Barney Sharp

Application Type : Full Application

Application Number: 26/00854/FUL

The applicant attended the meeting, this application does not result in additional buildings - noted – no objections raised. Clerk will revert to SCPD

26/27 Village Fete –consider risk assessment. The risk assessments for the setup, event and clean up were tabled and approved. Confirmed that the lengthsman is aware of the date.

26/28 Update re playground equipment. Cllrs T Groves & M Trebley are progressing this project and will bring more information to a future meeting.

26/29 External water supply at Pavillion. Cllrs A&T Groves noted that an external water supply with lockable tap would enable easier watering of the planters and other areas as required. Cllr Trebley & England will liaise together to progress this matter. Estimated cost circa £170.

26/30 Maintenance & update re community defibrillators. Clerk noted that all three defibrillators are up to date and are checked monthly by the Clerk. Bleed kits will be added to each cabinet – one kit had been purchased and

Clerk to the Council: Zannette Bougourd. Tel: 01935571050

Email: clerk@ash-somerset-pc.gov.uk

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approved; Clerk will purchase two additional kits. Clerk will update the area map and include the
///What three words reference for each unit.

26/31 Standing Items:

- i. **Parish Matters** – Noted that the hatched area adjacent to the Village Hall is regularly used as a parking space, possibly by a parent collecting children from School – agreed to monitor the area and contact the School if necessary.
- ii. **Fire exit at Pavilion** – Clerk to purchase sign for new door.
- iii. **Cllr Davey is aware of an unauthorised tyre & rope “swing” in the Millennium Wood** – Mr. Wood has been asked to remove it.
- iv. **Dog signs in Millennium Wood** are proving effective, there are still some dogs which are walked off lead.
- v. **Query re business operating out of domestic premises:** Unauthorised activity should be reported to SC Planning enforcement department.
- vi. **Pavillion door keys:** 12 additional keys will be cut for distribution.
- vii. **Update website** – Cllr Davey will contact quote provider myparishcouncil.
- viii. **Play Area** – Cllr T Groves queried why the spring-operated item had been removed, the play inspection report did not find it dangerous – this was agreed at the last meeting. Cllr A Groves queried what action had been taken with the quote to replace the play platform – minutes 04th August note that it was uneconomic to repair the equipment and it would be removed.

26/32 Review Existing Policies: See Appendix B. A table of current policies and updates had been circulated prior to the meeting. All policies were adopted. Policies are reviewed annually; changes are made as required during the year or if legislation changes.

26/33 Dates for meetings 2026/7.

The Council meet on the first Monday of each month, unless otherwise advised or if falling on a Bank Holiday. The June meeting was scheduled for two weeks after the APCM – agreed that next meeting will be held on the 06th July 2026

06th July 2026
03rd August 2026
07th September 2026
05th October 2026
02nd November 2026
07th December 2026

04th January 2027
01st February 2027
01st March 2027
05th April 2027
03rd May 2027

Meeting closed @ 9pm, date of next meeting 06th July 2026 @ 7pm, Ash Pavillion.