

# ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 06th July 2026 @7pm, Ash Pavillion.

Present: Cllr S Davey, Chair, Cllrs C Halfhide, T Groves & A Groves. Cllr E Pearlstone. 1 member of the public

## 26/35 Public Forum

**Village Fete report.** The Village fete held on the 20th June 2026 was a great success with several local businesses showcasing their services/products. The Council extended their thanks to all involved, more volunteers are always appreciated.

**26/36 Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: June/July 2026.** Cllr Pearlstone presented the reports, matters of note are:

- Ham Hill, accessibility works are progressing well and are a positive additional facility to the area.
- Hill View School – some remedial works are ongoing
- Stapleton Cross – drainage and road works are ongoing
- SC are always looking for foster families
- Localised – SID replacements. The PC have replaced the old units, owned by SC) with two new units, owned by Ash PC. Cllr Pearlstone will contact Highways notifying them of the change and suggest donation/transfer of units to Longload PC.

**26/37 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Trebley & Z England.**

**26/38 Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Davey declared an interest in Agenda item 9.

**26/39 To approve and sign Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026.** Minutes were approved and signed.

**26/40 To approve and sign minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026.** Minutes were approved and signed.

## 26/41 Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)

**26/41a** Newly consecrated Cemetery – update re fees/rules/regulations. Cllr Davey tabled draft documents prior to the meeting. The Cemetery working group will meet on the 13<sup>th</sup> July @ 7.30 in the Bell Inn, a report will be presented to the next PC meeting.

**26/41b** SID – confirm installation & report effect. Both new units are installed and fully operational. The council confirmed that they do not want to enter into an MOU with SC traffic department.

**26/41c** Investment options for reserved funds – consider call accounts. Clerk reported that all call accounts need notice, none of them are instant access. Agreed that reserve funds (total 50K) will be

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deposited in Lloyds and Hinckley & Rugby. Resolved to authorise Clerk to open an account with H&R & Lloyds, 25K to each provider. Proposed Cllr Davey, Seconded Cllr Halfhide – approved unanimously.  
**26/41d** Notice board door- note installation. Cllr Davey confirmed that the notice board has now been fitted and is operational.

### **26/42 Finance:**

**26/42a To approve and sign the Bank statements** – May 2026 to date. Approved and signed

**26/42b To approve and minute payment requests.** See Appendix A – approved and signed. Agreed to pay KL Bungay final invoice for Pavillion cleaning.

**26/42c To approve and sign bank reconciliations** May 2026 to date. Approved and signed.

**26/42d To approve setting up Direct Debit for HMRC** – Clerk noted that due to fluctuations in salary, a DD was the easiest method of paying HMRC. Clerk also noted that a copy of the DD confirmation has been filed.

**26/42e To note Auditors report.** Noted.

### **26/43 Planning:**

- **Barton Lake House – notification only** – noted - Clerk will reply to SC Planning
- **Dotts Orchard – applicant was present** – no objections were made - Clerk will reply to SC Planning
- **Storys Barn:-** noted, no objections were made, Clerk will reply to SC Planning.

**26/44 Pavillion – to consider current and future hire conditions, including insurance cover.** Cllr T Goves noted that the current insurance documents are not on pCloud (uploaded after PC meeting). After discussion, including noting that previous hirings had resulted in various issues including neighbourhood disturbances, it was agreed that a meeting of the Pavilion working party should be scheduled asap. In the interim no bookings will be taken. Clerk advised that the insurers had advised that a risk assessment should be carried out for each booking – this may prove too onerous but will be discussed within the working party. Noted that the kitchen exterior door should have a fire exit sign and be fitted with a release bar. Also noted that the alarm was not currently operational.

Clerk will notify alarm company & door suppliers. It was noted that the work is essential for the security of the building and should be carried out asap.

**26/45 To consider allocation of tasks to the Clerk/RFO.** Noted that the Clerk takes instruction from the PC as a whole, not individual Councillors. Recent email chains have started with one subject which has developed into another subject, causing potential confusion. The Clerk recognised that there may be occasions when information is needed between meetings, however email subjects should be clear and specific. The Scheme of Delegation Policy, adopted May 2026, covers most permitted actions by the Clerk.

**26/46 Repair to boundary wall/Churchyard – to consider provisional repair schedule.** Cllr Davey's property is bounded by the Cemetery wall, his declaration of interest was noted at the commencement of the meeting. Recent inspection noted that sections of the wall need repair, the provisional estimate was tabled to commence the discussion regarding remedial works. Cllr T Groves considered that the wall is a party wall, therefore Cllr Davey **was** responsible

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for a share of the repairs. Cllr Halfhide noted that other sections of the wall had been repaired previously, and the PC had accepted responsibility, the PC are responsible for the managed Churchyard. After discussion it was agreed to instruct a structural engineer to report on the wall and recommend repair options. Currently one estimate has been submitted, but the PC need a formal report in order to obtain accurate quotes. Cllr T Groves noted that Cllr Davey should not be involved in this matter as a Councillor, however his interest as a private individual was noted. Cllr Halfhide will send details of an engineer to the Clerk.

**46/47 To consider new cleaner for the Pavillion.** Cllr Halfhide had approached an individual who may be able to clean the Pavilion, however the PC need to ensure that all contractors, however small the contract, must have indemnity insurance. Cllr Halfhide will contact the proposed cleaner and revert to the next meeting.

**46/48 SC Dog bin quote and email reply.** Noted that previous correspondence with SC had indicated that as SC owned the bins, one on the rec and one adjacent to Millennium Wood, SC would empty the bins. This policy would appear to have changed: the bins are located on Ash PC owned land, therefore Ash PC are responsible for emptying them. Clerk to investigate alternative service providers.

**46/49 Update re playground equipment. – deferred to future meeting**

**46/50 Councillor vacancy/co-option.** Somerset Council Elections have confirmed that no request for an election was forthcoming, therefore the PC are now free to co-opt a Councillor, no names are forthcoming at this time, however there may be applicants in the future.

### **46/51 Standing Items:**

**26/51a Parish Matters** – Note receipt of litter picking station. Cllr A Groves has received a complimentary “litter pick station”, this will be placed in suitable locations are required. The equipment will be added to the asset register with a value of £300.00

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.

**26/52 To consider a nomination for The Chairs Award 2026.** Cllr A Groves submitted a potential candidate for this award, the award details were circulated to Cllrs on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026, closing date is 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Noted the although it is not necessary to nominate a candidate every year – it is a way to reward volunteers who do so much within the Village. Clerk will forward the nomination form to Cllr A Groves for submission.

Meeting closed @ 9pm.

Nest meeting is 03<sup>rd</sup> August 2026.

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### Appendix A

#### Payment Requests May/June 2026:

|                |                     |        |
|----------------|---------------------|--------|
| Clerk May/June | CiLCA/travel        | 271.32 |
| HMRC           | CiLCA               | 61.20  |
| RA Evis        | Lengthsman May/June | 470.00 |
|                |                     |        |

|                                          |                                                     |               |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Payments made since last meeting:</b> |                                                     |               |
| <b>Cloud Next</b>                        | DOM395252 - .gov.uk Domain (ash-somerset-pc.gov.uk) | <b>£66.00</b> |
| <b>Cloud Next</b>                        | WEB395235 – premium hosting(ash-somerset-pc.gov.uk  | <b>119.98</b> |
| <b>T Groves</b>                          | Pavillion keys                                      | <b>£70.00</b> |