

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 07th September 2026 : 7pm, Ash Pavillion.

Present: Cllr S Davey, Chairman, Cllrs C Halfhide, T Groves, M Trebley. Cllr J Bailey.

26/68 Public Forum – no members of the public were present.

26/69 Somerset Council, Councillor's Report: September 2026. Apologies from Cllr E Pearlstone.

Matters of note are Somerset Council's changes to parking fees across the County. Millenium Wood is awaiting final paperwork to confirm designation as a nature reserve, this is the first such intuitive within Somerset. Drain maintenance continues to be monitored, some works are pending 2027 budget. Concern was raised re increased traffic from nearby commercial enterprise and possibility for mud on the roads causing potential hazards. Area has large amount of hardstanding which should reduce mud/soil deposits on roads. Update - Speed indicator devices that are no longer in use in Ash can be donated to Longload PC, confirmed by SC traffic department. Clerk to notify Longload.

26/70 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr England & Cllr A Groves

26/71 Declarations of Interest – none.

26/72 To approve and sign minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 03rd August 2026. Approved and signed.

26/73 Matters arising (other than those on the agenda)

- a. Newly consecrated Cemetery – update re fees/rules/regulations. These have been agreed and posted on the website.
- b. External tap at Pavillion/hoses. Noted that the tap installation is complete and a hose & reel are in situ for extra watering when required. Cllr T Goves noted that there is £300 within the reserves allocated for any extra watering costs over two years after tree planting.
- c. Watering schedule for recreation ground/play area/cemetery. This is activated through the lengthsman when dry weather requires extra watering for the trees/hedging.

26/74 Finance:

1. **To approve and sign the Bank statements** – August 2026 to date – signed
2. **To approve and minute payment requests.** See Appendix A - signed
3. **To approve and sign bank reconciliations** August 2026 to date - signed
4. **To note transfer 25K to Lloyds 95 day call a/c (06/08/26).** Noted, bank interest was just under £200 for August.
5. **External Audit report** – the report has now been received and posted on the website and notice boards. Clerk noted that the auditors required different information each year which proves challenging.
6. **Scribe accounting system- consider using as per recommendation from internal auditor.** Considered by council, considered not appropriate for the level of accounting required for the parish and not cost effective. Clerk to contact Lloyds and see if they can provide a free accounting package which may be more effective.

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26/75 Pavillion

- I. **Update re fire exit report.** Informal advice had been received by Cllr Halfhide. The fire exits are currently sufficient, the external door from the kitchen does not need to be designated as a fire exit. Other upgrades may be required and will be incorporated into the Pavilion refurbishment.
- II. **Letter of thanks re kitchen donation** – noted that the working party had requested the Clerk send a letter of thanks to the kitchen donor. Letter sent.

26/76 Planning:

Proposal: Conversion of existing internal garage to a bedroom and en-suite. Additional external detached single garage and car port. No comment from the council.

NOTIFICATION ONLY Proposal: Prior Approval for the change of use of an agricultural building and land within the curtilage to form No 1 Class C3 dwellinghouse with associated building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building. – no comment from the council.

26/77 Repair to boundary wall/Churchyard – structural engineer due to visit 11th September 2026. Cllr Halfhide noted that she can accompany the surveyor if required

26/78 To consider adoption of Internal Control Policy. Cllr T Groves noted that the use of a debit card is not included in the policy. Clerk to review. Adopted. Proposed Cllr Davey, seconded Cllr Halfhide. Approved unanimously

26/79 Update re playground equipment. Cllrs T Groves & Cllr Trebley had met onsite and discussed upgrades to existing equipment and the addition of new equipment which may include items suitable for disabled users. Grants are available for these works, some may be scheduled over future years. Clerk requested that any quotes/estimates be tabled before the end of November 2026 for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget. Noted that the creation of a path around the recreation area would increase accessibility for disabled persons, recommend that the surface is not tarmac, but similar to the paths at Ham Hill. Noted that the tarmac path within the play area has cracked which may present a hazard. Clerk to contact Cllr England to repair/rectify cracks.

26/80. Additional item: Cllr T Groves asked why the fence bordering the play area had been noted in the minutes of the last meeting, August 2026. Residents had approached council members regarding the provision of escape should there be a fire in their property. The fence was reinstated by the council after residents had cut unauthorised “gates” which led to the play area and was considered a safeguarding issue. The fence is located on parish council land. This remains a contentious issue with some uncertainty regarding historical use. Clerk & Chair to research historic minutes and records which should include legal advice when the fence was replaced.

26/81 Standing Items:

- Christmas Tree – Cllr Halfhide to order tree.
- Electric usage over the Christmas period – Clerk advised that the dates are given to the energy provider.

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- The “dog sign” on the gate to Millennium Wood is preventing use of the gate fixing. Ask wood manager to relocate sign.
- Awaiting Ash in Bloom report.

Clerk noted that the Agenda item “standing items” was for Cllrs to include parish items not covered in the main agenda, please can Cllrs advise if they want extra items included.

Meeting closed @ 20.45hrs.

Next meeting October 05th 2026 @ 7pm, Ash Pavillion.