



DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

30 April 2025 at 7.30 pm, St Faith's Prep. School, 5 The Street, Ash CT3 2HH

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllr John Tanner, Chairman
Cllr Louise Venny, Deputy Chair
Cllr Martin Porter (Also DDC Councillor)
Cllr Derek Richford
Cllr Arnold Davis

Other Councillors Present:

Cllr Trevor Bartlett, Dover District Council
Cllr Sue Chandler, Kent County Council

Also Present:

31 Members of the Public
Sarah Rush, Clerk to Ash Parish Council
Joanna Jones, Responsible Finance Officer, Ash Parish Council

Apologies Received From:

Ash Village Hall (written report appended)
Cartwright and Kelsey Primary School (written report appended)
Ash United Charities (written report appended)
Kent Police

Cllr John Tanner opened the meeting, welcomed all and ran through how the meeting would run for the evening.

1	Minutes of the Ash Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 April 2024 The minutes were not signed.
2	Parish Council Chairman Councillor John Tanner and Deputy Chair Councillor Louise Venny provided a report and took questions. Finance Report The audited statement of accounts, along with the Annual Governance Audit Return, the Auditor's Certificate for the year ended 31 st March 2024, are on the Ash Parish Council website, as is the budget for 2025-2026. Budget for 2024 – 2025 Receipts for the year ended 31st March 2025 - £106,565

1 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

	Payments for the year ended 31st March 2025 - £78,700 Underspend of approx. £25,000 mainly due to understaffing for the majority of the year and income of nearly £2,000 for play area repairs from Section 106 money claimed. Budget for 2025 – 2026 Precept £102,417.30– Band D £77.32 per year – Approx £1.49 per household per week Band D increase of £2.25 (3.00%) Building reserves for future projects: March 2025 - Total Reserves - £174,720 Ring-fenced - £64,891 General - £109,829 An update was provided on Parish Council services and projects including Play Area 2, the litter campaign and the Highways Improvement Plan. It was noted that the Parish Council has two vacancies and those interested in joining the Council should contact the Parish Clerk regarding co-option.
3	Marilyn Barden was announced as the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award Winner for the Parish of Ash and was presented with a certificate by Cllr John Tanner. Marilyn was nominated by Parishioners for her contribution as “an enthusiastic and supportive St. Nicholas Church Bell Tower Captain, who has secured the future of bellringing in Ash and conserved skills at risk of dying out in the village.”
4	Reports were received on: • Ash Ed Charities by Peter Chandler • Ash Heritage Group by Robert Hudson • Chequer Inn Ash Society by Bill Speed (Report appended) • Jack Foat's Trust by Ian Chandler
5	A report was received on Westmarsh Village Hall from Andrew Harris-Rowley
6	A report was received on Ash Wildlife Friendly Village by Leanne Steed (Report appended)
7	A report was received on St Faith’s Prep. School by Headteacher, Helen Coombs
8	A report was received on Ash Surgery by Paramedic Practitioner, Richard Simmons
9	There was no representative of Parochial Church of Ash in attendance
10a	A report was received from Dover District Councillor, Cllr Trevor Bartlett on behalf of himself and Cllr Martin Porter (Report appended)
10b	A report was received from Kent County Councillor, Cllr Sue Chandler (Report appended)
11	There were no resolutions for which written notice had been given

12	Any other business concerned with Parish Affairs concluded the meeting. Parishioners were invited to inspect the proposed plans for Play Area 2 and indicate their preference.
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The meeting ended at 9.30pm

3 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....