

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITIES, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2021 - 22

This committee considers all administration matters including Council policies, financial accounts, assessment of charges, budget control and staffing matters, as well as allotments, cemetery matters, recreation grounds and play areas.

This year we have progressed several projects including installation of security shutters for the Ash CAB and flood lights in the parish car park. The deployment of low energy LED street light lanterns continue which provide a better quality of light and lower running cost, the lower energy consumption will reduce the carbon footprint of Ash Parish.

Guildford Borough Council has removed its public convenience grant for the toilets outside the Ash Centre. The Budgets for APC has been adjusted to compensate for this increased cost.

A new contractor has been chosen to maintain the Parish cemetery for the next three years following the unexpected departure of the previous contractor.

The current fixed / wired outdoor broadcast system has been extended with the procurement of two additional speakers, bringing the total to four. This is to address concerns by residents whom were unable to hear the remembrance Sunday service in 2021.

Of note in the events working group recorded in AFA the Ash saw the return of the Fun Day, Remembrance Sunday and the Fantasia as the lockdown rules eased during 2021. Ash also held its first Easter Card & Christmas card competition, which now uses the same online voting survey as Ash in Bloom.

The fun day took place on 10th July during Tire 3 restrictions. This was thanks to the COVID-19 guidance for events hosted by local authorities clarify this outdoor even was lawful and with no seated fixed food or drink area, was easily manageable with an increased focus in regards to the moment of people around the event. A new layout was trailed which was mostly successful and the event was very well attended by residents.

The Remembrance Day Service took place on Sunday 14th November 2021. The parade was led into the memorial grounds by the Chairman of Ash Parish Council, Cllr Nigel Manning and the Parish Clerk, Dennis Wheeler. They were accompanied by Michael Gove MP. Wreaths were laid by local organisations. The Service was conducted by Father Keith Bristow and music by the North East Hants Area School Band. The event was carried out safely and was well attend and applauded by all those in attendance.

Fantasia took a different shape in 2021 with a different layout to ensure better movement within the Ash Centre as part of the covid risk assessment. This layout mostly received good feedback also. Outdoor stalls and a small fun fair where also trailed this year, however this was severely impacted by adverse weather. As the centre was closed at 4pm it changed the profile of the visitors who came more steadily instead of at peak before the Christmas lights turn on. This will be reviewed again for 2022. The Christmas lights turn on had a lower attendance compared to 2019, however this is expected due to the adverse weather and the COVID-19 pandemic,.

As Chairman of the Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee I would like to thank all the Members of Ash Parish Council and the Parish staff for their commitment and support during this last and most difficult year and to Cllr Nigel Manning who as Vice-Chairman of the Committee continues to support me in my role as chairman for this committee.

Cllr John Tonks

Deputy Chairman Ash Parish Council

Chairman of the Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee