

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITIES, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2022 - 23

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 a new teen shelter, the Ash Centre Car Parks.

A new contractor has been chosen to manage the Ash Centre car park to enforce the 4 hour maximum stay rule during operational hours.

The procurement fixed / wired outdoor broadcast system has been extended with the procurement of two additional speakers, bringing the total to four. This successfully addressed 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 success of the 2022 Fun Day, Remembrance Sunday and the Fantasia. It was noted that due to new road closure regulations introduced by central government, that there are teething problems which are being resolved through collaboration by or organisations involved.

2022 so the revival of the Ash Matters news letter with the formation of the Ash Matters working group. The working group oversees two printed publications per year, which is delivered to all households in the Parish.

The fun day took place on 9th July 2022. An adjusted layout was successfully implemented and a live band was present for the first time. Due to hot weather the dog show was postponed and re arranged for 17th September.

A Brass band concert was planned during 2022 for the Queens Jubilee, however due to the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, it was cancelled. A new event will be held in 2023 to celebrate the coronation of HRH King Charles III.

The Remembrance Day Service took place on Sunday 13th November 2022. 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 Cove Brass Band. The event was carried out safely and was well attend. Positive feedback as received following the deployment of the additional speakers.

Fantasia took a different shape in 2022 with a revised layout to ensure better movement within the Ash Centre. In addition a small Fair, Pony Ride & outside stalls were located in front of the Ash Centre. The new layout saw 35 individual organisations housed within the main hall, which is the most the event has ever had.

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 2023.

The Christmas lights turn on was well attended. The Ash Vale Ensemble began playing music at 16:15 and then at 16:30 all were encouraged to participate singing Christmas Carols.

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