

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes the Annual Parish meeting held on  
Monday 10 March 2025 which commenced at 18:30pm  
At the Ash Centre, Ash Hill Road, Ash**

**Present:** Cllr Carla Morson – Vice Chairman Ash Parish Council  
Ali Watmore – Deputy Clerk

Thirteen members of the public including nine Ash Parish Councillors and Residents of the Parish of Ash.

**1. Welcome from the Vice Chairman of the Council.**

The Vice Chairman of the Council opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and delivering some sad news.

“It is with great sorrow that we learned of the death of former Cllr Pat Scott on the 16 February 2025. Pat served our community for several decades and served as both a Parish and Borough Cllr.

Pat’s dedication to our community and tireless work for so many causes was inspiring. She really was at the heart of Ash’s community. She is sorely missed, and our thoughts are with Len and her family at this time.

A minute silence was held.

**2. To accept Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fiona White and Cllr Mohammed Faisal.

**3. To receive Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 March 2024.**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 March 2024 copies of which have been circulated to Ash residents, were confirmed as a true record, and will be signed by the Vice Chairman of the Council.

**5. A Financial Report from the Trustees of the Parochial Charity (Smith's Charity) was received.**

Ash residents present received and accepted the report.

**6. A Report from the Trustees of the James Payne Memorial Fund was received.**

Ash residents present received and accepted the report.

**7. A Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council was received.**

Ash residents present received and accepted the report.

**8. The Annual Reports from the Chairman of the Parish Council Committees and the reports submitted by the representatives of the other bodies were received.**

Ash residents present received and accepted all the reports.

**9. OPEN MEETING.**

Items raised for discussion, of local concern or interest affecting Ash Parish, are detailed at Appendix A.

**10. Date of Next Meeting.**

Ash residents present corrected the next meeting date to be held on as the **9 March 2026** instead of 11 March 2025 commencing at 18:30pm.

*The meeting concluded at 18.53pm*

*Chairman* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Ash Youth Club**

Please can we have an update on what is happening and if funding for reopening has been achieved.

*Cllr Phil Bellamy confirmed funding had been achieved for a youth worker for one night a week due to a donation from the contractors Volker Fitzpatrick. The management committee are now working towards employing a youth worker and are therefore about 80% towards reopening the youth club.*

### **There are several issues that are still outstanding from previous meetings:**

#### **1) Shawfield Road Tunnel**

Needs repairing, repainting and the broken lights replaced.

*Cllr Phil Bellamy confirmed he had reported the cracking to Guildford Borough Council (GBC) and they had stated the damage hadn't changed since the last inspection.*

*The Vice Chairman replied that it would be reported to Surrey County Council (SCC) again.*

#### **2) Flooding In The Parish**

Flooding at the bottom of Longacre/Youngs Drive which also makes the footpath to the side of Rose Cottages unpassable every time it rains.

*The Vice Chairman replied that it would be reported to SCC again.*

#### **3) No Footpath Along The Whole Length Of Foreman Road**

Why is this still the case? The increased traffic along the road due to the new Chester Bridge makes this road treacherous.

*The Vice Chairman replied that it would be reported to SCC again.*

*The ongoing road works by the level crossing are due to be completed on time.*

*Cllr John Tonks confirmed this was something that had been picked up by the Neighbourhood Planning Committee and it will be mentioned in the draft Neighbourhood Plan which will go out for consultation before the final plan is completed.*

### **Layby Lacking On South Side Of Ash Level Crossing**

From the plans supplied there is no layby on the south side of the crossing. It appears there is something on the other side but why was this not considered?

*The Vice Chairman confirmed it is something that can be referred to SCC.*

*Regarding laybys, the one outside Ash Grange School is on the Full Council agenda and will be discussed during that meeting which is directly after this meeting. SCC have stated the reason behind the closure is to do with traffic calming.*

### **Harpers Road & Harpers Bridge**

This road is extremely dangerous and busy. Heavy good vehicles continue to use this route and have caused cracks and dropping to the road.

This has been discussed with Cllr Matt Furniss, and he said that he would look into having a review carried out but to date nothing has happened.

It seems that sat nav's are not aware of Harpers Bridge which has a weight and size restriction.

*The Vice Chairman replied that she would contact Cllr Matt Furness for an update.*

### **Ash Rangers**

Before the elections there was anger over access limits brought in by the MOD/DIO. The Chairman of the Parish Council hasn't mentioned whether a meeting has been held with the MOD/DIO since taking over.

*The Vice Chairman confirmed that a meeting had been held with the MOD/DIO last week. The MOD/DIO agreed to supplying dates/times of closures as far in advance as possible to the Parish Council for them to share with everyone.*

*The MOD/DIO are also looking into numbering the gates with details using What 3 Words so that everyone can identify issues more easily.*

*Cllr Carl Cookson confirmed the small gates are locked to prevent motorbikes having access.*