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ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall.

Monday 31st August 2026 at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Georgina Ewers-Blue **(GEB),** Fiona Jacobs **(FJ),** Luke Jamieson **(LJ),** Sian Miller **(SM),** Chris Rand **(CR),** and Venetia Davies **(Clerk and RFO)**. Georginna Ewers-Blue. Richard Phillips **(RP)** was also present.

Parishioners: There were no Parishioners present.

Parishioners Question Time

There were no questions. Chris Rand welcomed Georgina Ewers-Blue to her first meeting of the PC.

1. **Apologies**
   There were none.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
   Luke Jamieson declared an interest in the Ashendon Community Pub Society Limited.

3. **Approval of Minutes – Monday 22nd June 2026 (AGM)**
   The Draft Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chair, CR.

4. **Matters Arising**
   - **Replacement of structure – Dorton brook bridge.** The contractor has scheduled bridge works for the end of September.
   - **Salt Bins**. **ACTION: CR** to organise installation and arrange pallet of salt.
   - **Broadband/Openreach.** Greg Smith has written to Openreach, on the PC's behalf, to request clear explanation plans for Fibre to the Home build for Ashendon and Pollicott. The response was disappointing. Openreach gave no clear indication on when we can expect Fibre to the Home and explained that their Fibre Tracker provides only an indication, which is subject to change. A response will be made to Greg Smith to raise concern that Openreach has no accountability for poor service provision, miscommunication or misrepresentation of installation timings. The PC will also stress that BT Openreach has also failed to recognise the fact that other providers are increasingly unwilling to absorb the administrative burden of handling Openreach-related complaints, leading many to increase their prices or withdraw from the market altogether. Read here: PC's letter to Greg Smith, MP and reply from Openreach. **ACTION: SM** to respond as such and enquire how Openreach plan to support increased demand from development.
   - **MP Surgery**. Greg Smith is very happy to do hold daytime drop in surgery sessions at The Ash Tree. **ACTION: SM** to agree time and arrange publicity.
   - **Absence of rumble strips at the crossroads and signage. ACTION: CR** to follow up at with AW.

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5. **Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor**
   There were no contributions.

6. **Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.**
   There were no reports.

7. **Correspondence**
   A Parishioner enquired about the Local Plan and the PC's response to the proposed development on the Agenda. Responses are as detailed under Item 8.

8. **Planning**
   - **Buckinghamshire Draft Local Plan and Reg 19 Summer Consultation.** The Draft Local Plan has now reached Regulation 19 stage, representing the final version of the Plan before submission for independent examination. This is the last chance to comment on proposals. This stage is not intended for general objections to the Plan; representations should instead focus on whether the Plan is legally compliant and sound, including identifying any procedural issues or significant omissions. Whilst, the draft Local Plan has no allocation of housing for Ashendon it was agreed the Parish Council's response should focus on the cumulative impact of development at Westcott and Haddenham and the requirement for a transport strategy (Chapter 7 - Development Management Policies Policy TR1 - Transport requirements for new developments and Policy TR2 - Transport improvements). The planning assumptions for water supply to also be challenged. Thames Water has already had to rely on continuous tanker deliveries to maintain reservoir levels at Ashendon and ensure supplies to Haddenham, Grendon Underwood and Marsh Gibbon, all of which are experiencing significant growth. This reliance on tankering is clearly unsustainable and highlights the need for substantial infrastructure improvements before further development is approved. Click here for the Parish Council's response.
   - **Ashendon Neighbourhood Plan**. **ACTION: SM/CLERK** to apply for Neighbourhood Area Designation.
   - **Planning Appeal - 22/03384/AOP – Littleton Manor Farm, NW of Waddesdon.** A Public Inquiry commenced 6th May 2026 at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway. Awaiting outcome.
   - **PL/26/05005/FA**. **The Magazine Area, Area 8040 Westcott Venture Park, Westcott, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0XB.** Proposal: Erection of a building for industrial and ancillary office use (Use Class B2) and associated car and vehicle parking space, access and boundary treatment. Comment by: 10th August 2026. **ACTION: CLERK** to return OPPOSES the application for the following reasons:
     - Highway safety issues including traffic generation, car movements and HGV Freight Zone. The development will result in an increase in traffic generation through the lanes of Ashendon.
     - Lack of Planning for Cyclists. Ashendon is a rural area that is not suitable for cycle paths and therefore only expect enthusiasts to cycle to work using the regional cycle routes.
     - Light Pollution. There is concern with the proposed development and light pollution.

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- **CM/0022/22 Land to South East of Hornage Farm, Bicester Road, Chilton**. Erection of anaerobic digestion facility, comprising silage clamps, digester tanks, lagoons, administrative buildings, ancillary development including gas grid connection, landscaping and access. The application is being considered by the Strategic Sites Committee at its meeting, on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 10am.

9. Road Safety Projects

- **Wotton Road footpath**. CR has spoken to a contractor who would be happy to stage the works as funding allows. Quote to be received. **ACTION: AW** to confirm if planning permission is required (believed so) and recommend other contractors and funders (Active Travel Innovation Fund)/public works loan. Procurement requirements to be clarified. **ACTION: CLERK** to continue to chase new Area Technician, Casey-Jane Sutton for village walkabout.
- **Gen6 Speed Indicator Device (Mains) - HS2 Road Safety Fund** (Ref: RSF76)**.** Ongoing. **ACTION: CLERK** to continue to chase for update.
- **Community Speed Watch.** Ongoing. There are potentially two new volunteers for SiD sitting.
- **20's Plenty**. Fiona Jacob has reinstated the 20's Plenty poster campaign. A category for both children and adults was agreed. **ACTION: FJ** to progress. **LJ** to arrange leaflet drop.

10. Footpath Projects

- **Safe Route - Pollicott to Village End.** The landowner is supportive and has proposed outing the path along the inside of the field on the opposite side of the road, reinstating a gate near the Upper Pollicott sign and extending the route to the gateway opposite The Forge. **ACTION: ALL** to attend site meeting - Sunday 20th September at 9.30am.
- **Footpath/Rights of Way improvements (accessible gates).** Circular walk (incorporating Ashendon, Musk Hill Farm, Watbridge Farm and Nether Winchendon to be shared with North Bucks rRIPPLE. **ACTION: CR** to contact landowner.

11. Bouncy Sunday Funday. **ACTION: LJ** to suggest initiative to APFA. Budget agreed at £300.

12. Finance

a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting** (22nd June 2026)**: £60,723.22**
   - **Receipts: £719.52** (Buckinghamshire Council Devolution Grant)
   - **Less Standing Orders/Direct Debits: £813.36** (Clerk Salary £685.20 + Hugo Fox £47.96 + Npower £37.57).
   - **Balance of Bank Account: £60,629.38** (as 23rd July 2026)
   - **Plus Unpresented BACS payment** £0.00
   - **Available Funds: £60,629.38** (balance of bank account less unpresented BACS).

b. Orders for Payment: £338.90

- **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk Travel)
- **MRA Gardening Services** - **£320.00** (Grass cutting – July 2026)
- **Also agreed:**
  - **Information Commissioner's Office - £52.00** (Annual Data Protection Fee)
  - **Society of Local Council Clerks - £100.00** (Clerk Membership)

  BALANCE: £60,138.48 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

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13. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **2026 Grass cutting dates.** Approximate dates: 18.09.26, 06.11.26.
- **Buckinghamshire Council Town and Parish Council Planning Forum** – Tuesday 8th September – 2.00-3.30pm online.
- **Highways Conference 2026** – Monday 19th October 10.30-4pm, The Gateway, Aylesbury. **ACTION: RP** to attend.
- **CLG Meeting - onsite/TEAMS**. 5th October 2026 at 6pm. **ACTION: CR** to attend.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 9th November 2026 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall