

# DRAFT MINUTES

2024/022



## **ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** Les Curtis (**LC**), Fiona Jacobs (**FJ**), Luke Jamieson (**LJ**), Sian Miller (**SM**), Chris Rand (**CR**), and Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**). Cllr Ashley Waite (**AW**) was also present.

**Parishioners:** Richard Phillips was present.

### **Parishioners Question Time (PQT).**

There were no questions.

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Paul Irwin (**PI**).

#### **2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The Draft Minutes of the September meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chair, Chris Rand.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

- **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm.** **ACTION: CR to clear a patch of briars and plant.**
- **Ultrafast Broadband.** Ongoing and awaiting support from Greg Smith, MP.
- **Dog Waste Poster.** **ACTION: CR to arrange lamination and distribution. CLERK to upload on website.**
- **Replacement of structure – Dorton brook bridge** (junction of public footpath number 9 (in Parish of Ashendon) and public footpath number 2 (in parish of Dorton). Joanne Taylor, Team Leader, Rights of Way Operations, has asked the RoW bridge inspector to look into matter, and advise on quickest method to carry out repairs/replacement of structures involved.

#### **4. Declarations of Interest**

Luke Jamieson, Chair of Ashendon Community Pub Society Limited, declared an interest in Ashendon Village Community Pub.

#### **5. Ashendon Village Community Pub**

Since Luke Jamieson's last report at the PC meeting, the pub has been purchased. This is with sincere thanks to Ashendon and surrounding villages who have contributed money, along with the Government who contributed a grant. The Society were able to negotiate its purchase with Michael and Sue Rand, who have been 'amazing.' There is plenty of renovation to do and not enough money in the pot to do all the Society wants to do but there has been very generous support from local builders and people in villages doing as much of the work as possible, with the little funds available. It is hoped the bar will open before Christmas (the kitchen and B&B later).

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There is a team of people working on further fundraising. There is an open day this coming Sunday, led by Sian Miller. Luke praised all the volunteers in the village who have worked as hard as possible to make the community pub happen. The meeting thanked Luke Jamieson for all the Society's hard work. You can read more about the [Ashendon Community Pub here](#).

### 6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

Ashley Waite updated the meeting saying a lot has happened since the General Election.

Buckinghamshire's housing targets have been increased from 2912 to 4122, per year.

Buckinghamshire Council has responded to Government consultation on planning proposals and raised concern over:

- The proposed changes to the way in which local housing need is to be calculated, which would lead to a 42% increase in the figure for Buckinghamshire.
- The proposed changes to Green Belt policy, particularly a new definition of 'grey belt' land which has the potential to lead to large-scale sporadic developments across a wide area of the Buckinghamshire Green Belt.
- The proposed changes to the requirements relating to maintaining a five-year supply of housing land which are likely to lead to more speculative planning applications being granted permission, and
- The lack of a strategic approach to funding and providing essential local infrastructure when existing facilities are already overwhelmed.

HS2 works have caused considerable disruption over the last four weeks but there is unlikely to be any more road closures with the bulk of HS2 work now off the roads. The Freight Strategy is on hold until further evaluation but 'unsuitable for HGV's' signage will be erected to prevent HGV's pulling of A41 and coming through Ashendon. AW agreed to look into safety concerns associated with the Ashendon residential children's care home. Welcoming spaces are up and running together with the food vouchers scheme. Santa will be visiting Ashendon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at approximately 9pm.

### 7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

Richard Phillips attended the Bucks Highways Stakeholders Conference (28.10.24). Three points emerged.

- In trying to make further progress with the 300% increase in traffic due to Hs2 work diversions, the overwhelming impression gained was that Hs2 is a law unto itself. Early representations to councillors had not made progress but in light of this AW has promised to take this further and is actively in discussion with RP and Hs2, especially the lack of signage and lorries relying on unsuitable, incorrect sat nav data, as above.
- The LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Initiative) representative is very keen to survey the Ashendon Playing Field's car park, with a view to installing public electric charging points in a remote community. **ACTION: RP to pass information to The Playing Fields Association and help them make contact with the LEVI scheme.**
- Bucks Council representatives for Road Safety is keen on surveying the village to see if the SiD posts are suitable for additional temporary speed warning signs. **Agreed. ACTION: RP is to engage with June Howlett at Buckinghamshire Highways.**

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### 8. Correspondence

- **Flooding.** A number of houses on Main Street were recently flooded. Thanks were paid to Buckinghamshire Council for its quick response to complete kerb work in order to protect affected properties (where this was the solution). Buckinghamshire Council has launched a new Buckinghamshire Be Flood Ready website providing useful information. **ACTION: AW/CLERK to ask Colin Woolford to assess kerb work further along Main Street.**
- **Highways Devolved Services 2025/2026.** There is an opportunity for **existing** Town and Parish Councils to sign an agreement for 4 years. The option of 1 year also remains. The 4-year agreement will be subject to Buckinghamshire Councils medium term financial plan and monitoring for inflation. Should the delivery of the 4-year agreement become unviable for either party, Bucks Council expect to add a clause allowing for the agreements to end early. Councillors **agreed** to continue with its annual agreement.
- **Ownership of Ash trees bordering the hedgerow between Lower End Road and pub carpark.** The trees are deemed to be within the pub boundary. Chris Rand has agreed to cut the hedgerow. The meeting was reminded that Trees with a diameter of 75mm or greater, measured at 1.5m from soil level, are protected. Any work proposed to these trees requires permission from the local authority by means of a planning application.

### 9. Speed Safety Projects

- **HS2 Road Safety Fund** (third and final tranche). Application submitted to HS2 Safety Fund for a new programmable SID. Awaiting outcome. **ACTION: RP to arrange meeting with Colin Woolford once outcome of application know.**
- **Speed Watch Team.** RP reiterated the ongoing matter of Hs2 traffic problems culminating in a 600% increase in traffic during diversions (AW referred to this as the "August Nightmare") and also that he was now liaising with AW on this. The need for a suitable Risk Assessment had been undertaken. **ACTION: CLERK to upload on website.** The final SiD anti-theft measures have been completed.
- **Wotton Road footpath.** A contractor has quoted in the region of £80k for the extension of the footpath. This excludes a traffic management quotation. Councillors asked that the PC appeal back to Hs2 fund who declined funding. Equipped with data, an appeal to match the lower quote will be presented. **ACTION: CLERK to write to Hs2 Fund. CR to meet with PI to discuss funding opportunities.**
- **Waddesdon Area Freight Zone Consultation.** The PC will receive further updates when surveys on Ivinghoe Freight Intervention have been conducted.

### 10. Trees on Parish Land

**ACTION: CR to produce a tree register of trees on Parish land and inform any associated works including inspection of trees on Wotton Road (and contact land agent for Thames Water if necessary).**

### 11. PC Governance

**Website.** The Hugo Fox platform has been approved as a recommended gov.uk domain registrar. In line with best practice, it was **agreed** to register .gov.domain for Ashendon website and also register Councillor emails with .gov.uk at a cost of £17.49 + VAT per month (this allows for up to 10 email accounts). **ACTION: CLERK to register with Hugo Fox.**

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### 12. Grass Cutting 2025/2026 Season

Councillors **agreed** to contract Matthew Audley again for grass cutting in 2025/2026 at a cost of £270 per cut. The Parish Council commented on the excellent cutting which includes Boughton Peace.

### 13. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024

The new pay agreement for 2024/25 for Clerks (backdated from April 1st, 2024) was **agreed**.

**ACTION: CLERK to inform JE Accountants.**

### 14. Projects for 2025/26

Councillor agreed the Wotton Road footpath remains the most pressing project for the Parish Council. Other projects include a safe footpath from Pollicott, replacement of salt bins, replacement of 'Ashendon Village signs' and support of the Ashendon Village Community Pub.

**ACTION: CR/CLERK to obtain costs for precept setting at January meeting. CLERK to ascertain if there is S106 funding for Pollicott development. CLERK to request replacement of salt bins, where required.**

### 15. Finance

#### a. Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (9<sup>th</sup> September 2024): **£46,643.85**

- **Receipts: £9,000.00** (Buckinghamshire Council – Precept payment)
- **Debits: £897.00** (Clerk Salary – August, September, and October)
- **Plus unpresented BACS: £35.00 (Sian Miller, ICO)**
- **Less standing orders: £172.15** (Hugo Fox - £35.97, Npower - £136.18 (August £43.80, September £44.32, October £48.06).
- **Balance of Bank Account: £54,609.70** (as at 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024)  
**Available Funds: £54,574.70** (balance of bank account less unpresented BACS)

#### b. Orders for Payment: **£328.29**

- **MRA Garden Services - £270.00** (Grass cutting - October)
- **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk travel)
- **Venetia Davies - £20.00** (Remembrance Wreath)
- **Venetia Davies - £14.39** (Domain Name)
- **Information Commissioner's Office - £5.00** (Annual Data Protection fee – additional – paid to Sian Miller).
- **Also agreed: Richard Philips – £22.95** (SID equipment)
- **BALANCE: £54,223.46** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

#### c. **Management Report.** November 2024 circular.

#### d. **Budget.** The budget was reviewed in preparation for Precept setting in January 2025. It was noted that Project expenditure has not been spent to date.

### 16. Planning

- **24/02829/ALB and 24/02828/APP - Pollicott Manor, Lower Pollicott, HP18 0HQ**  
Listed building application and Householder application for replacement of three windows. The PC submitted NO OBJECTIONS on 1st October 2024.

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### 17. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** - Parish Workshop: Thursday 21st November at 6.30pm, Chearsley Village Hall.
- **Santa in Ashendon** – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 9pm (outside the Pub).
- **January meeting.** Apologies, SM.

### 18. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall**