

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/001



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 27th JANUARY 2025 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Fiona Jacobs (**FJ**), 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).

Andy Theobald, Chair of the **Ashendon Playing Field Association (APFA)** and member of the **Management Committee for The Ash Tree PH**, updated the meeting:

- **APFA.** Andy thanked the Parish Council for the ongoing donation to grass cutting. This was especially welcomed this year - APFA fundraising efforts have taken a lull whilst efforts have been directed towards the community pub. The grass contractor has resigned and the committee is looking for another contractor. They are also considering directing the Parish Council's annual grass cutting contribution towards the purchase of a mower but currently does not have the capital to purchase one outright. **ACTION: CLERK to forward details of a grant recently secured by Cuddington Playing Field Association for its mower.**
- **The Ash Tree.** Works on a wheelchair accessible toilet are about to commence which will cause some obstruction to the Ladies toilet. Andy requested the support of the Parish Council for a Tourism sign promoting The Ash Tree (location to be agreed). The cost of the application to Buckinghamshire Council is £200.00. The Parish Council were in full support of the application and **agreed** a sum of £200.00. Andy also appealed to the Parish Council for support towards a new pub sign – a classic swinging pub sign on a telegraph pole. It was agreed the location should be on the bus shelter side (where the Red Lion sign was once located). Councillors **agreed** a sum of £4,000 subject to copy of quotations. Fiona Jacob noted that the tube bells in the playground were not working. The APFA are in contact with Lars Laj but Andy informed the meeting that after sales service is poor.

1. Apologies

Les Curtis (**LC**) and Luke Jamieson (**LJ**).

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 18th November 2024

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

3. Matters Arising

- **The Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm is being planting on Sunday 2nd February January.** **ACTION: CR to meet Andy Theobald for planting.**
- **Ultrafast Broadband.** Ongoing and awaiting support from Greg Smith, MP.

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- **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 confirmed that an inspection of the route has been carried out and a number of issues that need resolving:
Point A – large bridge replacement, Point B- Heavy overgrowth – clearance required
Point C – Small bridge replacement, Point D – Small bridge replacement.
It is proposed to carry out clearance at point B as soon as possible. At the same time, the team will assess the arrangements to get to the bridge sites. **ACTION: CLERK to forward Chris Rand’s contact details to arrange vehicular access to the 3 structures.**
The reconstruction of the bridge (Point A) requires Environment Agency approval. Rights of Way intend to rebuild the bridge in in the next financial year (April to March) using Rights of Way capital projects money. In the interests of public safety, it will be necessary to close the route while the works are approved and completed.
- **Grass Cutting 2025/2026 Season.** The contract with Matthew Audley for grass cutting is £300 per cut (£235 per cut for verges, £65 for Boughton’s Peace) and not £270.00 as previously noted.
- **PC Governance - Website.** The .gov.uk www.ashendon-pc.gov.uk domain has been registered. **ACTION: CLERK to register Councillor emails with .gov.uk at a cost of £17.49 + VAT per month (this allows for up to 10 email accounts).**
- **Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024.** **ACTION: CLERK to inform JE Accountants of new pay agreement for 2024/25 for Clerks.**
- **Flooding.** The raising of two kerb lines at the drive accesses of Lincoln House and Lammas have been completed. **ACTION: CLERK to thank Colin Woolford for all works.**

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

This was discussed in Parishioners Question Time. You can read more about [The Ash Tree here](#).

6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

Buckinghamshire Council has been addressing the flooding in Fleet Marston which has been linked to HS2 construction. HS2 continues to be challenging. The Community Boards hold its last meeting of the year on 11th March 2025. The Santa visit to the pub worked well. The format will be the same for 2025, with donations going back to the village. Thanks were paid to Ashley for his help with flooding in Ashendon.

7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

Chris Rand (who is a member of the Police and NFU crime watcher group) reported an increase in rural crime. He asked everyone to be extra diligent and contact the Police to report any suspicious behaviour.

8. Correspondence

There was none outside the Agenda items.

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9. Speed Safety Projects

Richard Philips updated the meeting.

- **Speed Watch Team.** The team are organising SiD 'sittings' and will be changing the SiD messages more regularly. Paul Horwood, Sian Miller and Richard Philips are now keyholders of SiD. Thanks were paid to Paul for his input. Bucks Council representatives for Road Safety is keen on surveying the village (likely to be in March) to see if the SiD posts are suitable for additional temporary speed warning sign.
- **Wotton Road footpath.** A contractor has quoted in the region of £80k for the extension of the footpath. This excludes a traffic management quotation. Equipped with data, the PC/AW will appeal to HS2 fund to match the lower quote. **ACTION: CR/AW/CLERK to contact HS2 Fund. AW to notify the PC of other funding opportunities.**
- **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.**
- **The LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Initiative)** representative is 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 chase LEVI for date and liaise with APFA.**
- **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

CR has surveyed and produced a tree register of the trees on Parish land. There is no further action required at present.

11. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (18th November 2024): £54,223.46**
 - **Receipts: £0.00**
 - **Debits: £598.00** (Clerk Salary – November and December)
 - **Plus unrepresented BACS: 0.00**
 - **Less standing orders: £172.15** (Hugo Fox - £23.98, Npower - £113.20 (November £52.38 and December £60.82).
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £53,488.28** (as at 23rd October 2024)
Available Funds: £53,488.28 (balance of bank account less unrepresented BACS)
- a. **Orders for Payment: £1,577.90**
 - **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk travel)
 - **Venetia Davies - £200.00** (Annual Clerk Use of Home)
 - **Ashendon Village Hall - £159.00** (Annual Building hire)
 - **Ashendon Playing Field Association - £1,200.00 (annual grass cutting grant 2024)**
 - **BALANCE: £ 51,910.38** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)
- b. **Management Report.** January 2025. Discussed under budget.

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12. Budget/Precept.

Whilst projects such as the renewal of the tarmac path at Boughton's Peace and the replacement of Ashendon Village signs/gates (in region of £10.5k) are important projects to the Parish Council, Councillors agreed that the most pressing project is the Wotton Road Footpath. Councillors agreed that other high priority projects for the village in 2025/26 include a safe footpath from Pollicott, replacement of all 5 salt bins (many are dilapidated and beyond repair) and further support for The Ash Tree. In setting the budget for normal expenditure, project expenditure and considering ongoing reserves, Councillors **agreed** to increase the precept from £18,000.00 to £19,000.00 resulting in Band D Tax estimated £144.17 (from £136.58 in 2024/25), a 5.56% increase. **ACTION: CLERK to return Precept request to Buckinghamshire Council and update budget accordingly.**

13. Planning

- **CM/0022/22 - Land To South East Of Hornage Farm, Bicester Road, Chilton, HP18 9SE.** Erection of anaerobic digestion facility, comprising silage clamps, digester tanks, lagoons, administrative buildings, ancillary development including gas grid connection, landscaping and access. Comment date: 7th February 2025. **ACTION: CLERK to return Ashendon Parish Council strongly supports the objections by the Objection group - Say No to Acorn to Buckinghamshire Council.**

14. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Haddenham & Waddesdon main Community Board meeting** - Tuesday 11th March at 6.30 pm in Haddenham Conference Room, Banks Road.
- **Town and Parish Council Elections** – Thursday 1st May 2025 (only if there are more candidates than seats).
- **2025 PC Meeting Dates.** To agree to change April meeting (Annual Village Meeting) from Monday 21st April 2025 to Monday 14th April and May meeting from Monday 19th May to Monday 12th May (due to Election guidelines).
- **Litter Pick.** Agreed as **Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 10.00am.** Meet in the carpark. **ACTION: FJ/CLERK to promote.**
- **Barns off Main Road, Upper Pollicott, HP18 0HH.** **ACTION: SM/CLERK to contact Buckinghamshire Council with concerns around building materials and roadside hedge which needs cutting.**

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 24th March 2025 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall