

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/09



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 23rd June 2025 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Fiona Jacobs (**FJ**), Luke Jamieson (**LJ**), Sian Miller (**SM**), and Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**). Richard Phillips (**RP**), Road Safety Lead, Ashley Waite (**AW**), Bucks Councillor, and Michael Ayres, Volunteer for rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise) were also present.

Parishioners: There was one Parishioner present.

Parishioners Question Time (PQT).

In response to the Parish Council Minutes (May 2025) and the Parish Council's aspiration to improve the footpath networks of Ashendon (particularly for walking groups who might in turn use Ashendon's community pub), The North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing and Improving Public Paths for Leisure and Exercise) had prepared a discussion document for consideration by the Parish Council. This report highlights the numerous footpaths, conditions and restrictions due to overgrown vegetation, unstable stiles, lack of handposts on most footpath routes. Michael Ayres, a volunteer of rRIPPLE attended the meeting and outlined the work of the group who support local Parish Councils in working together with landowners and work with Bucks Council to improve rights-of-way. The group also administers the [Donate-a-Gate scheme](#), a scheme whereby anyone can donate to (pedestrian gates £350, kissing gates £500). A Parishioner highlighted the difficulty in climbing over stiles and said that obtaining landowner agreement to change from stiles to gates would be great improvement for less mobile or agile. It was suggested that an Ashendon working footpath party was formed for regular clearance. The Parish Council agreed to propose three top routes and survey the village to identify which access points/routes are most used. **ACTION: SM to compile survey and include a request for Parishioners to join a footpath working party. CLERK to ask rRIPPLE to identify most likely route into Ashendon for walking groups.**

1. Apologies

Chris Rand (**CR**).

2. Declarations of Interests

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

3. Approval of Minutes – Monday 12th May 2025

The Draft Minutes of the May meeting (AGM) were accepted as a true record and signed by Vice Chair, Sian Miller.

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4. Matters Arising

- **Ultrafast Broadband.** Pollicotts, Forge Close and Brick Hill have been added to Openreach Ultra Full Fibre build plans (for end 2026). There is no telephone or email contact for Openreach. **ACTION: SM to contact Greg Smith, MP to push for Lower End, Main Street and Watbridge Cottages.**
- **Replacement of structure – Dorton brook bridge.** Vehicular access agreed (Point B - Heavy overgrowth – clearance, Point C – Small bridge replacement, Point D – Small bridge replacement). Reconstruction of bridge (Point A) requires Environment Agency approval. Rights of Way intend to rebuild the bridge in financial year (April 2025- March 2026) using Rights of Way capital projects money. The route will be closed during works.
- **PC Governance - Website.** **ACTION: CLERK to register Councillor emails with .gov.uk at a cost of £17.49 + VAT per month.**
- **Wotton Road footpath.** **ACTION: CR to receive quote for sections of path so footpath can progress. AW to notify the PC of other funding opportunities.**
- **Salt Bins.** 6 locations agreed for new PC owned salt bins (Wotton Rd opposite Hill Cottages, corner of Wotton Rd and Main St, Lower End opposite the graveyard, corner of The Close, entrance to Upper Pollicott, bottom of Lower End). Colin Woolford has suggested not putting salt bins on roads that are gritted. The cost of a new salt bin is £249.00 (400L) and £199.95 (200L) plus installation costs. The cost to the PC is £100 per refill. **ACTION: AW to liaise with Colin Woolford over refill costs.**
- **Removal of debris - Winchendon side of Pollicott ford.** Reported and will be removed by Buckinghamshire Council (David Rounding, Lead Enforcement Officer). **ACTION: SM to check if this has now been removed.**
- **Email from Danny Fahy, PSCO - safety concerns around hole in the hedgerow (opposite entrance to church).** The idea of a pathway down from the bottom of the car park/corner of Ashendon playing fields to gain access to Lower End has been suggested. **ACTION: SM/LJ to liaise with APFA to establish ownership. CLERK to send LJ contact details for Fairhive Homes.**

5. Co-option of Councillor

It was agreed to postpone the Notice of Vacancy for a Councillor until an expression of interest in becoming a councillor has been informally received. **ACTION: CLERK to carry forward.**

6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

Ashley Waite updated the meeting. Phil Gomm (Chair) and Ashley (Vice Chair) have been appointed to the West Bucks Community Board. Elaine Hassall is the Community Board Manager. The funding pot has reduced significantly from £500k (when Ashley was appointed on the Board) to £50k. Improved signage (including HGV signs) and dragons teeth road markings have been discussed for Cannons Hill. Coring work on Main Street is due to take place on **Saturday 5th July between 9.30am to 3.30pm (road closure)**. Housing targets have increased by 42%. The call for sites has now closed. Large-scale illegal dumping on agricultural land is increasing. A neighbourhood plan for Ashendon was encouraged.

7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

There were no reports.

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8. Correspondence

There was none.

9. Ashendon Village Community Pub

A new management couple join the Ash Tree on 1st July. There will be an event on 5th July to welcome and wish them well. The rooms and restaurant will all be available from 1st July. The pub is currently open from Thursday to Sunday. Opening days will be expanded to include a Wednesday. The pub sign will soon be erected. Luke said that there are so many people involved in the community pub and that the village is grateful for everyone's involvement.

10. Speed Safety Projects

- **Speed Watch Team.** The Speedwatch team of have started a new season of SiD sitting around the traffic diversions. A recent traffic survey recorded 8,000 vehicles a week through the village. The initial view is a 4% reduction in speed. New speed awareness signs will soon be displayed on the poles. Richard to enquire if *the 'this is a community speed watch area'* signs can be included/purchased.
- **LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Initiative).** RP awaiting update and meeting date.
- **Waddesdon Area Freight Zone Consultation.** The PC will receive further updates when surveys on Ivinghoe Freight Intervention have been conducted.
- **Gen6 Speed Indicator Device (Mains) - HS2 Road Safety Fund (Ref: RSF76).** An update has been received. Toni Chapman (toni.chapman@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) is now the main point of contact. The team are required to meet with the HS2 RSF Board chaired by the Cabinet Member for Transport Cllr Broom and Deputy Member Cllr Martin to approve progress to the next stage of design. It is noted that this does not guaranteed approval. Applicants of the decision will be advised in due course.
- **Waddesdon Area Freight Zone Consultation.** The PC will receive further updates when surveys on Ivinghoe Freight Intervention have been conducted.

11. Footpath Projects

- **Safe Footpath from Pollicott to Village End.** Ongoing.
- **Footpath/Rights of Way improvements (accessible gates).** Please see Parishioners Question Time, above.

12. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (12th May 2025): £53,767.29**
 - **Receipts: £1,036.53** (£691.67 Buckinghamshire Council Devolution Payment, £344.86 VAT return)
 - **Less Standing Orders/Direct Debits: £310.99** (Clerk Salary £299.00 + Hugo Fox £11.99)
 - **Plus Orders for Payment agreed May 2025: £2,034.55**
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £56,527.38** (as at 23rd May 2025)
Available Funds: £54,492.83 (balance of bank account less unrepresented BACS Standing Orders from Meting)
- b. **Orders for Payment: £684.86**
 - **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk travel)

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- **Venetia Davies - £65.96** (back pay in line with Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024). **ACTION: CR/SM to increase standing order from £299.00 to £331.98 to prevent further backpay.**
 - **MRA Garden Services - £600.00** (Village grass cutting including Boughton's Peace – May and June cuts)
- BALANCE: £53,807.97** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

13. Planning

- **Neighbourhood Plan for Ashendon.** **ACTION: CLERK to arrange a meeting with the Neighbourhood Planning team (ella.wood@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) at Buckinghamshire Council with SM/LJ** (suggest Tuesday/Wednesday in August). The government has recently announced that there is no for Neighbourhood Plan projects going forward for Town & Parish Councils
- **Planning Enforcement Case NC/25/00039/NAPP - Barns Off Main Road, Upper Pollicott, Ashendon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0HH.** The case officer has assessed the resultant planning harm and whilst acknowledges a breach of planning, has advised that no further action will be taken and advised the case is now closed. Councillors were extremely disappointed with the decision and agreed to seek further advice. **ACTION: FJ to follow up with Peter Smettem.**

14. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **2025 Grass cutting dates.** Approximate dates: 8th July, 8th or 22nd or 29th September and 13th October.
- **Bouncy Sunday Funday.** Sunday 20th July 2025, 10am-1pm on Ashendon Playing Fields. **ACTION: CLERK to advertise on website and notice boards. Clare Cook to carry out risk assessment.**

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall