

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/05



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 24th MARCH 2025 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

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

Parishioners: There were no Parishioners.

Parishioners Question Time (PQT).

There were no questions.

1. Apologies

Les Curtis (**LC**), Fiona Jacobs (**FJ**) and Richard Philips (**RP**).

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 27th January 2025

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

3. Matters Arising

- **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm.** Planted. **ACTION: CLERK** to add to tree register.
- **Ultrafast Broadband.** Awaiting support from Greg Smith, MP. **ACTION: SM** to chase.
- **Replacement of structure – Dorton brook bridge.** Joanne Taylor, Team Leader, Rights of Way Operations has spoken to Chris Rand and agreed vehicular access to Point B - Heavy overgrowth – clearance required, Point C – Small bridge replacement, Point D – Small bridge replacement. 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. The route will be closed while the works are approved and completed.
- **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.
- **Wotton Road footpath.** A contractor has quoted in the region of £80k for the extension of the footpath. This excludes a traffic management quotation. **AW** to notify the PC of other funding opportunities after the Elections.
- **The LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Initiative).** **ACTION: RP** to chase LEVI for date and liaise with APFA.
- **Salt Bins.** Six locations were 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

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/06

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.**

- **Litter Pick.** Thanks were paid to the 20 + volunteers who helped with the litter pick. The group collected approximately 20 bags plus road signage. Thanks, were also paid to Ashely Waite for providing litter pick equipment and the disposal of bags. **ACTION: CLERK to contact Thames Water for removal of debris-Winchendon side of Pollicott ford.**

4. Declarations of Interest

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

5. Town and Parish Council Elections

The Election Timetable including nomination delivery was noted (the deadline for nominations is 4pm Wednesday 2 April 2025). Election Day is Thursday 1st May (only if there are more candidate than seats).

6. Ashendon Village Community Pub

Luke Jamieson updated the meeting. Three bathrooms have been upgraded. The grant from the Parish Council for two new signs is very gratefully received. Thanks were paid to Chris Rand for assisting with the installation of the road sign. The pub is up and running with lots of exciting developments. Every event has been very well attended, demonstrating that it is a very important part of the community. The Management Committee are looking for a new tenant. Luke paid thanks to the Management Committee and Steering Group who are helping and making Ashendon's community pub 'happen'.

7. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

Ashley Waite updated the meeting. The Election is now underway and announcements and communications are restricted. Prior to Purdah, Cabinet Members agreed to apply to the Government to implement a new *Lane Rental Scheme (LRS)* in the county. Lane Rental powers enable an authority to charge those working on key roads, at the busiest times, up to £2,500 a day to occupy the most sensitive parts of the highway network. The scheme incentivises those who need to carry out works on the county's road network to become more efficient with how they manage the works when a road or lane closure is needed. This should encourage those working on the roads to either move their works to less busy times, or complete them in a quicker timescale, to avoid accumulating charges. The result should help reduce congestion and create more reliable journeys for road users. The scheme would complement the existing permit scheme operated by Buckinghamshire Highways, and would only apply to selected roads, not the whole of the county. Ashley said the benefits of the scheme would result in better planned roadworks. 37 providers are licenced to work on Buckinghamshire Roads and all would have to adhere to the scheme. The Lending Library and Food Bank are 'still going strong'. The Bernwode Community Bus charity is closed down on of 31st December 2024. The buses, all customers, and trips has transfer to new umbrella organisation 'I'd Like to Borrow'.

8. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

There were no reports.

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/07

9. Correspondence

- **Email from Danny Fahy, PSCO** - safety concerns around hole in the hedgerow (opposite entrance to church). **ACTION: CLERK** to send to Andy Theobald, Ashendon Playing Fields Association and suggest the idea of a pathway down from the bottom of the car park to gain access to Lower End.

10. Highways Devolved Services Agreement 2025/26

The Highways Devolution payment for 2025/26 is **£691.67**. **ACTION: CR/FJ/CLERK** to review, sign and return with completed Bank Details form.

11. Speed Safety Projects

Richard Philips updated the meeting.

- **Speed Watch Team.** Speedwatch activities ongoing.
- **Funding for a Gen6 Speed Indicator Device (Mains).**
 - **HS2 Road Safety Fund.** Steven Broadbent, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Transport for Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed (10th March) that Ashendon's application (Ref: RSF76) is being taken to Stage 2. **ACTION: RP to arrange meeting with Colin Woolford once outcome of application know.**
 - **Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable (Thames Valley) Fund.** A funding application has also been made (24.02.24) to the Community Fund. Awaiting outcome.
 - **Mains Power Source.** A resident is kindly amenable to running a cable to allow a mains power source. **ACTION: CLERK to write to resident.**
- **Waddesdon Area Freight Zone Consultation.** The PC will receive further updates when surveys on Ivinghoe Freight Intervention have been conducted.

12. Trees on Parish Land

No further action required at present.

13. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (20th January 2025): £51,910.38**
 - **Receipts: £0.00**
 - **Debits: £598.00** (Clerk Salary – January and February)
 - **Less standing orders: £157.06** (Hugo Fox - £23.98, Npower - £133.08 (November £64.46 and December £68.62).
 - **Less amount owing: 0.90** (Ashendon Village Hall –overpayment)
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £51,154.42** (as at 21st February 2025)
Available Funds: £ 51,155.32 (balance of bank account less unrepresented BACS/amount owing)
- b. **Orders for Payment: £4,107.70**
 - **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk travel)
 - **Venetia Davies - £88.80** (back pay in line with Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024)
 - **Ashendon Community Pub Society Limited - £4,000.00** (grant for pub signage)

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/08

Also Agreed

- **Sian Miller - £59.90** (Litter Pick Refreshments).
 - **Venetia Davies - £4.56 (Use of home back pay in line with Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024).**
 - **BALANCE: £46,983.16** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)
- c. **Management Report.** March 2025 circulated.

14. Planning

- **24/03619/APP - The Dairy, Lower Pollicott, Ashendon, Buckinghamshire HP18 0HQ** Householder application for solar panels on south facing roof. Comment: 7 April 2025 **ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.**
- **Barns off Main Road, Upper Pollicott, HP18 0HH.** Report logged under reference NC/25/00039/NAPP and will be investigated by an officer. Acknowledged 13.02.25.
- **Town and Parish Planning Forum.** Highlights from the recent planning forum were discussed.
 - **Housing target.** Homes needed under confirmed new government formula December 2024 Houses per year is 4,319. Total houses needed in Local Plan period (2024-2045) is 90,699. Average number of new homes built in Buckinghamshire a year over last 2 years (2022/21–2023/24) was 2,907.
 - **Buckinghamshire Council's Local Plan.** Under the new timeline, consultation on the draft Local Plan will take place in September 2025, giving residents the opportunity to comment. The final Local Plan would be submitted in December 2026, after which a period of examination will take place. The expectation is that the plan would be adopted at the end of 2027.
 - **Call for sites.** As part of the plan's preparation, a 'call for sites' exercise is currently taking place (12 March for 6 weeks and will close on 23 April 2025). This call for sites helps gather a fuller understanding of the land available for development within Buckinghamshire.
 - **One Uniform.** The Planning Portal (known as Public Access) is to undergo some changes in April/May.
 - **Comment on or object to a planning application.** From 18 March 2025, public comments on planning applications will no longer be published on Public Access. This change is to protect personal information under GDPR rules. It is understood that people can still share their views on planning applications, and these will be considered when making decisions. The planning process remains the same, and decision-makers will still see all comments, which will be summarised in the officer's report. Comments from official consultees like Highways, Town and Parish Councils, and the Environment Agency will still be published on Public Access (subject to GDPR). The Parish Council will no longer be able to see if residents have objected to any planning. This has been a useful guide of the strength of local feeling. Residents will be urged to copy any comments to the Parish Council.
 - **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Parish Council agreed that it needs to consider a Neighbourhood Plan. **ACTION: CLERK to circulate details and agenda for May meeting.**

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/09

15. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Town and Parish Council Elections** - Thursday 1st May 2025 (only if there are more candidates than seats).
- **VE Day in Ashendon** - Monday 5th May 2025.
- **Neighbourhood Police - increase in rural crime.** Please report any suspicious behaviour, however small: www.thamesvalley.police.uk or telephone 101.
- **2025 Grass cutting dates.** Approximate dates: 14th April, 19th May, 16th June, 28th July, 1st September and 13th October.
- **Bouncy Sunday Funday.** Clare has kindly arranged to organise a children's play activity again this year. Agreed. Date from Clare to be advised.
- **Neighbourhood Police Team – PCSO 'walk about'.** **ACTION: CLERK to request.**

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Annual Village Meeting: Monday 14th April 2025 at 7pm in Ashendon Village Hall
AGM: Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall