2025/34

ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Fiona Jacobs **(FJ),** Sian Miller **(SM),** Chris Rand **(CR)**, Venetia Davies **(Clerk and RFO)**. Richard Phillips **(RP)** and Ashley Waite **(AW),** Bucks Councillor.

Parishioners: There was one Parishioners present.

Parishioners Question Time (PQT).

There is an increase in dog bags being left in the village. **ACTION: CLERK/SM** to recirculate dog poster.

1. **Apologies**
   Luke Jamieson **(LJ).**

2. **Declarations of Interests**
   There were no interests declared.

3. **Approval of Minutes – Thursday 8th January 2026.**
   The Draft Minutes of the January meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chair, Chris Rand.

4. **Matters Arising**
   - **Replacement of structure – Dorton brook bridge.** Reconstruction of bridge (Point A) requires Environment Agency approval. Rights of Way intend to rebuild the bridge in this financial year (April 2025- March 2026) using Rights of Way capital projects money. The route will be closed during works. **ACTION: AW** to follow-up with Joanne Taylor, Team Leader, Rights of Way.
   - **PC Governance - Website.** .Gov.uk emails registered at cost of £17.49 + VAT per month. **ACTION: ALL** to operate from .gov.uk emails.
   - **Salt Bins**. The purchase and installation of new black salt bins have been agreed in principle (£249.00 (400L) and £199.95 (200L) plus installation costs - locations to be agreed but suggestions are 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). As these will be PC owned, there will be cost of £100 per refill, per bin. Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed this fee cannot be waived. **ACTION: AW** to request waived refill costs and report by w/c 12th January. If this is not agreed, the PC will consider purchasing its own supply of salt.

5. **Co-option of Councillor**
   The Parish Council can co-opt to fill this seat without a vacancy notice and advertise via various avenues, the seat not 'spare' and not due to a resignation. **ACTION: ALL** to promote.

2025/35

6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

- AW updated the meeting. The Highways team are working to catch up on pothole repairs, with 23 crews out seven days a week for last six weeks. The contract with Balfour Beatty is per pothole, graded as Category 1 (over 50mm) or Category 2 (under 50mm). The service is operating reactively without a LAT. Temporary repairs fail quickly in wet weather. The proportion of Cat 1 defects has dropped from 65% to below 20%. Parishioners are asked to report issues through FixMyStreet. The new Community What's App Group for road closures has been set up. **ACTION: SM/CLERK** to promote via the Village website and Facebook page.
- The new **Waddesdon Freight Strategy** is near final sign-off. Cuddington and Pollicott bridges will be subject to a 7.5-tonne weight restriction. These limits will be implemented through a Traffic Regulation Order, which will in turn influence sat-nav routing. Standard exemptions will apply, ensuring essential and emergency access is maintained.
- **Village Drains. ACTION: AW** to arrange clearing.

7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.
There were none.

8. Correspondence

- **Highways Devolution Agreement** (to be known as Memorandum of Understanding) Commences 1st April 2026. The Highways Devolution Payment for 2026-27 includes a 4% inflation increase and will be £719.52. **ACTION: CLERK** to sign and return via email only to the devolution@buckinghamshire.gov.uk mailbox.

9. PC Governance
NEW **IT Policy** and **Freedom of Information Policy** were **agreed** subject to final review by **SM.** **ACTION: CLERK** to upload to website.

10. Planning

- **Buckinghamshire Draft Local Plan.** Buckinghamshire Council has published its draft site allocation from its earlier *Call for Sites*. An informal engagement on 400 potential sites is now invited from landowners and agents, town and parish councils, developers and infrastructure providers. For Ashendon, there are no sites allocated. The PC **agreed** not to feedback on any site. The Draft Local Plan with proposed suitable sites is expected in the summer and will include a formal consultation when residents can make their views known.
- **Ashendon Neighbourhood Plan - a Neighbourhood Plan for Ashendon.**
  Subject to approval also by LJ, it was **agreed** to apply for Neighbourhood Area Designation. This to include (a) a map which identifies the area to which the area application relates; (b) a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and (c) a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act. The next major review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is published (expected summer 2026). The Draft of this new NPPF includes specific provision for Neighbourhood Plans. **ACTION: SM/CLERK** to progress.

2025/36

- **PL/26/00606/KA**: Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area
  Milne House, Main Street, Ashendon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0HB
  Proposal: G1 Silver Birch x4 - reduce crown height to approximately 1m below utility lines. T1 - Spruce - dismantle down to ground level. (Ashendon Conservation Area). *No Objections* comment ratified.
- **Planning Appeal - 22/03384/AOP – Littleton Manor Farm, NW of Waddesdon**. The Parish Council's comments as an interested party were ratified. The PC considered the proposal represents a major urban-scale development in a rural location and would permanently damage landscape character and rural views, generate unacceptable traffic and rat-running through villages, including Ashendon, overwhelm rural roads, place unsustainable pressure on schools, healthcare and services and contribute to harmful cumulative impacts across the area.

11. Road Safety Projects

- **Wotton Road footpath**. The Parish Council is consider staging the works as funding allows. A quote for sections of the footpath has been received. **ACTION: AW** to confirm if planning permission is required and recommend other contractors and funders. Procurement requirements are still to be clarified **(CLERK).** AW suggested looking into a public works loan and will put the PC in touch with Berryfields Parish Council. **ACTION: PC** to follow up suggestion of loan.
- **Gen6 Speed Indicator Device (Mains) - HS2 Road Safety Fund** (Ref: RSF76)**. A Design update** has been received from Buckinghamshire Council. The proposed changes are: Village entry gateway features, with high friction surfacing and dragons' teeth traffic calming along with associated signing and lining improvements to support the existing speed limit. It is proposed that the HS2 RSF Board will provide a grant for the single purchase of a VAS including post and socket by the Parish Council. The specification and ongoing maintenance of the VAS being the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has **agree**d the updated scheme but would prefer for the high friction surfacing to be removed. **ACTION: CLERK** to request. The works are not subject to statutory public consultation and will be delivered by Buckinghamshire Highways. Final plans and costs will be submitted to the HS2 Road Safety Board for approval. The Parish Council awaits outcome and delivery timescales.
- **Community Speed Watch.** RP updated the meeting. Traffic data over the past three years shows a substantial decrease in overall vehicle numbers, though this may be influenced by where and when samples were taken, as well as periods of diversion. While there is clear evidence that fewer vehicles are using the route in total, the data does not distinguish reliably between large and small vehicles. Some days in 2024 show noticeable peaks that may be linked to diversion traffic, but these cannot be fully reconciled at this stage. A much broader sweep and closer analysis of the data is needed before drawing firm conclusions.
- **20's Plenty**. Fiona Jacob has reinstated the 20's Plenty campaign. **ACTION: FJ** to progress.
- **Buckinghamshire Council's Local Transport Plan 5 consultation.** Comments required by 30th March 2026.

12. Footpath Projects

- **Safe Footpath from Pollicott to Village End.** Ongoing.

2025/37

- **Footpath/Rights of Way improvements (accessible gates).** The North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing and Improving Public Paths for Leisure and Exercise) has identified a circular walk that incorporates Ashendon, Musk Hill Farm, Watbridge Farm and Nether Winchendon. It has previous been suggested a Footpath Working Party be formed for regular clearance and to identify access points/routes that are most used. **ACTION: SM**/Andy Howes to walk the suggested route and report on conditions/restrictions and give recommendations. **CR** to approach landowner. rRIPPLE operates Donate-a-Gate scheme, a scheme whereby anyone can donate to (pedestrian gates £350, kissing gates £500).

13. Finance

a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (8th January 2026): £57,493.92**
- **Receipts: £0.00**
- **Less Standing Orders/Direct Debits: £857.42** (Clerk Salary £685.20 + Hugo Fox £23.98, Npower £148.24)
- **Plus Outstanding BACS payments: £0.00**
- **Balance of Bank Account: £56,635.60 (as at 23rd February 2025)**
- **Outstanding BACS credit: £0.90** (overpayment to Ashendon Village Hall)
- **Available Funds: £56,636.50 (balance of bank account less unpresented BACS)**

b. **Orders for Payment: £245.12**
- **Venetia Davies - £28.65** (Clerk travel £18.90 + stationery £9.75).
- **Venetia Davies - £144.28** (Use of Home 184.56 2025/26 less overpayment £40.28**)**
- **Kevin Nash - £72.19** (£56.00 + £4.99 (delivery) + £11.20 VAT) (Defibrillator Pads)
  Also agreed:
  HMRC - £144.74 (PAYE)
- **BALANCE: £56,246.64 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)**

c. **Management Report.** March 2026 circulated.

14. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **West Bucks Community Board** - Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 6.30pm, Haddenham Parish Council Conference Room.
- **Litter Pick.** Sunday 29th March 2026 at 9.30am. **ACTION: CLERK** to contact AW for equipment and removal of collected litter. **SM** to complete Risk Assessment.
- **Annual Village Meeting** - Monday 20th April 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING - Monday 20th April 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Monday 18th May 2026