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ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 22nd June 2026 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Fiona Jacobs **(FJ),** Luke Jamieson **(LJ),** Sian Miller **(SM),** and Venetia Davies **(Clerk and RFO)**. Georginna Ewers-Blue, Richard Phillips **(RP)** and Cllr Ashley Waite (AW) were also present.

Parishioners: There were two Parishioners present.

Parishioners Question Time

A resident acknowledged the Parish Council's work in securing superfast broadband but reported an ongoing and unreliable service, particularly in Lower Pollicott, due to degrading copper wiring. BT Openreach has confirmed that the service will not improve without full fibre yet there is no clear timetable for fibre installation. Other residents are also experiencing slow speeds and a business user noted double-charging linked to copper lines. AW highlighted alternative provider Ecom, active locally, and will share details. Attempts to obtain meaningful information directly from Openreach have proved unsuccessful. **ACTION: SM/CLERK** to send letter to Greg Smith, MP requesting he makes representation to Openreach on behalf of Ashendon Parish Council.

1. **Apologies**
   Chris Rand **(CR)**.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
   Luke Jamieson declared an interest in the Ashendon Community Pub Society Limited.

3. **Approval of Minutes – Monday 18th May 2026 (AGM)**
   The Draft Minutes of the May meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Vice Chair, SM.

4. **Matters Arising**
   - **Replacement of structure – Dorton brook bridge. Update received from Corinne Brownsell, Rights of Way Bridge Inspector.** Bridge works are close to approval but dependent on ground being suitable to get vehicles onto site to carry out. **ACTION: CLERK** to chase.
   - **PC Governance - Website.** .Gov.uk emails registered at cost of £17.49 + VAT per month. **ACTION: CLERK** to resend instructions to SM and FJ.
   - **Salt Bins**. Delivered. Locations agreed as 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. **ACTION: CR** to organise installation and arrange supply of salt.

5. **Co-option of Councillor**
   The Parish Council were delighted to welcome Georginna Ewers-Blue as Councillor. **ACTION: CLERK** to register Georgina with Bucks Council and complete necessary paperwork and gov.uk email address.

6. **Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor**
AW updated the meeting. HS2 works will require traffic lights on Upper Winchendon and Waddesdon Hill for two separate weeks in June and July. A41 resurfacing at Ludgershall is confirmed and Fleet Marston will follow. On planning matters, the next stage of the Local Plan is Regulation 23. It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council is redacting planning comments on the Planning Portal although Parish Council comments, as consultee, will remain visible. Concerns were raised regarding the absence of rumble strips at the crossroads, with reports that there is no clear warning signage at when approaching from Ashendon –the road narrows without adequate indication. It was noted that the signs are unclear and the hedge has not been cut, reducing visibility - vehicles are missing the junction from Cannons Hill (Cuddington side) and overshooting the junction into path of traffic. **ACTION: AW** to follow up at Highways meeting, Tuesday week. The Community Engagement What's App group has been well received with lots of residents joining. Parishioners can join here.

7. **Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations**
There were no reports.

8. **Correspondence**
There was none.

9. **Planning**
   - **Ashendon Neighbourhood Plan**. It has been noted that the next major review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (which includes specific provision for Neighbourhood Plans) will be published in summer 2026 and that the Bucks Local Plan submission draft for Examination will be published (December 2026). Whilst a Neighbourhood Area Designation does not commit a Parish Council to prepare a plan, it was agreed it would be beneficial to meet with Bucks Council Neighbourhood Plan team to understand if it will be more appropriate for Ashendon, defined as a settlement in the Draft Local Plan, to have a Village Design Statement rather than a full Neighbourhood Plan. **ACTION: CLERK** to suggest Tuesday 30th June, Tuesday 7th July or Tuesday 21st July (3-5pm). **SM/LJ** to attend.
   - **PL/26/03314/FA: House And Stores, Lower End, Ashendon, HP18 0HE**
     Change of use from mixed use to residential. Demolition of existing attached shop. Conversion of integral garage to habitable space and erection of two storey rear extension. Changes to fenestration and creation of two car spaces. Comment by: 30th June 2026. The Parish Council noted the change of use but has No Objections.
     ACTION: CLERK to return No Objections to Buckinghamshire Council.
     Planning Appeal - 22/03384/AOP – Littleton Manor Farm, NW of Waddesdon. A Public Inquiry commenced 6th May 2026 at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway. Ongoing.

10. **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 but needs updating. **ACTION: AW** to confirm if planning permission is required (believed so) and recommend other contractors and funders (Active Travel Innovation Fund)/public works loan. Procurement requirements to be clarified **ACTION: CLERK** to chase new Area Technician, Casey-Jane Sutton for village walkabout.

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- **Gen6 Speed Indicator Device (Mains) - HS2 Road Safety Fund** (Ref: RSF76)**.** An up-to-date quotation has been issued to Buckinghamshire Council. A package is also being prepared for the contractor (signing/lining works).
- **Community Speed Watch.** A What's app group is being set up to encourage more people to join the speed watch team. **ACTION: SM** to promote message via village What's App group.
- **20's Plenty**. Fiona Jacob has reinstated the 20's Plenty campaign. **ACTION: FJ** to progress for end of June with aim for results mid-September. **LJ** to arrange leaflet drop.

11. Footpath Projects

- **Safe Footpath from Pollicott to Village End.** Email received from landowner. **ACTION: SM/LJ** to arrange a meeting.
- **Footpath/Rights of Way improvements (accessible gates).** Report on circular walk (incorporating Ashendon, Musk Hill Farm, Watbridge Farm and Nether Winchendon to be shared with North Bucks rRIPPLE. **ACTION: SM** to prepare and email. rRIPPLE operates Donate-a-Gate scheme (pedestrian gates £350, kissing gates £500).

12. Bouncy Sunday Funday. ACTION: CLERK to liaise with Claire Cook for new co-ordinator.

13. Finance

a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting** (18th May 2026)**: £63,304.35**
   - **Receipts: £69.04**
   - **Less Standing Orders/Direct Debits: £416.12** (Clerk Salary £342.60 + Hugo Fox £23.98 + Npower £49.54).
   - **Balance of Bank Account: £64,995.91 (**as 22nd May 2026)
   - **Plus Outstanding BACS payments: £2,038.64**
   - **Available Funds: £62,957.27** (balance of bank account less unpresented BACS)

b. Orders for Payment: £1,840.86
   - **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk Travel)
   - **HC Slingsby Plc - £1,821.96** (£1,518.30 + £303.66 VAT) (7 x 200L heavy duty salt grit bin, with hopper, Victorian style).
   - **MRA Gardening Services - £320.00** (Grass cutting – June 2026)
   - **Also agreed: £73.19** (£67.20 + £5.99) (Defibrillator pads – paid).
   - **BALANCE: £60,723.22**(Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

c. Audit/Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 2. Submitted. Period for the exercise of public rights confirmed as 4 June-15 July 2026.

14. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Town and Parish Councils Planning Forum** - Thursday 25th June: 11am to 12.30pm
- **2026 Grass cutting dates.** Approximate dates: 31.07, 18.09, 06.11.26.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 21st September 2026 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall