



# Ashington Parish Council

## NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2023

# OPEN AT LAST!



The new toilets at the Memorial Park

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL are pleased to announce the opening of the public toilets at the Ashington Memorial Park. They will be open as from Monday 27th March 2023. It has been a long and protracted exercise with many difficulties along the way. The toilets have timed electronic door locks and they will be open during daylight hours which will of course vary depending on the season.

All the costs of providing this facility is paid for by your Parish Council. Alongside this the Parish Council have taken a lease on part of the sports pavilion for a Parish office, this will be open for two hours per day for residents to visit and speak to the Clerk to

the Council or our Admin Assistant or to arrange a meeting with individual members of the Council.

There will be a laptop computer available for residents to use during opening hours. The Parish Council has never had the facility of a Parish Office like many other parish councils so it is pleased to offer this facility to residents.



The Parish Office

## WE'RE HAVING A PARTY—SEE PAGE TWO

# New government rules on voting ID for May elections

No ID?  
Apply For Free  
voter ID by  
25 April!

FOR the first time, residents in the upcoming local elections will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's elections.

Residents need to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID. The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station was introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or

an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo. Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/) or by completing a paper form.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID).

Jonathan Stephenson, Returning Officer and Chief Executive at Rochford District and Brentwood Borough Council, said:

"With elections taking place in within the district on 4 May 2023, it is important that those who want to vote make sure they have an accepted form of ID. It may seem early but checking now means you will be ready to vote in May. "Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online or by completing a paper application form and sending this to Rochford's electoral services team. If you need any help with applying for the free ID or want to request an application form, contact the electoral services team on 01702 318187 or email [elections@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:elections@rochford.gov.uk)."



ASHINGDON MEMORIAL HALL & ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 8 May — 2.00 pm — 5.00 pm



**FREE**  
**INDOOR**  
**STREET PARTY**

Children's Entertainer — Fancy Dress Competition — Disco — Music — Dancing — Tea & Cake  
Limited Tickets — apply for tickets [streetparty@ashingdonmemorialhall.uk](mailto:streetparty@ashingdonmemorialhall.uk) or text 07307692889

No bar bring your own drink & nibbles



**Cllr. David Catchpole**  
Chairman

## CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

AS I sit down to write this report I am seated in our new Parish Office which is quite a milestone for your parish council and I wish to pay tribute to Cllr. Debra Constable who has worked tirelessly over recent years to achieve this. Your council is also relieved at long last to finally open the Public Toilets in the Memorial Park ready for the Spring and Summer seasons this facility has long been overdue with the increase in visitors to this popular park. The delay has not been due to the parish council. Your council was diligent when producing our Precept (Budget) for 2023/24 in keeping cost down and concluded with a 6.15% increase which is £5.97

for a Band D property. The cost of converting our street lights to LED lamps is nearing completion and this should see a reduction in our energy costs which have risen sharply. Residents of South Fambridge will shortly have a brand new village sign to replace the old one which was beyond repair, our Ashingdon village sign may also need some attention. The council has decided to take on an Admin Assistant to support our Clerk and we appointed a Litter Operative/Handyperson and we welcome Michael to the team. With the forthcoming elections in May now is a good time to think - perhaps I have something to offer the community - and stand as a parish councillor, you will be most welcome, we could do with some younger members.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ashingdon Scout Group Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday**  
**15<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**11:30 – 2pm**

St Andrews Church Hall,

Church Ln, Rochford. SS4 3HY

All proceeds towards



*Come and enjoy  
Raven's Wood*

Contact Kelley for Tickets on 07498 576372  
Tickets available on the day (Subject to availability)



Memory Lane Cafe was originally set up in 2019 when it was felt that there was a need for a meeting place for people with Alzheimers, Dementia and their carers to enjoy a few hours of companionship and meet with other carers along with their cared for loved ones in a friendly and relaxing environment, where they can share their common experiences.

We hold the cafe at the Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre on the first Saturday of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tea, coffee and refreshments including home-baked cakes and fun entertainment are provided. To date this includes singers, bell ringers, a magician, chair aerobics, bingo and many other enjoyable activities. We have also enjoyed several afternoon teas and a Christmas celebration. We provide all of the above totally free of charge. Our guests have said how much they enjoy attending each month and our numbers have been gradually increasing.

We are very grateful to **Ashingdon Parish Council** for awarding us a grant of £300 which we will use towards organising future activities. If you would like further information please email:

[Pam.foster@thememorylanecafe.org.uk](mailto:Pam.foster@thememorylanecafe.org.uk)

or call Pam Foster on **07768 367497**.

We also have a Facebook page Memory Lane Cafe (Rochford District).

## FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS



Monday 3rd April 2023

Monday 15th May 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

Monday 3rd July 2023

(No meeting in August)

Monday 4th September 2023



**CONTACT THE CLERK ON 07950 947731 FOR MEETING DETAILS**

## CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall bookings **07307 692889**  
St Andrews Church Hall bookings – Julie Goodge **01702 205918**  
Neighbourhood Police **101**

### **1st Ashingdon Scout Group (St Andrews)**

Group Scout Leader - John Blundell **01702 545666**  
Cubs – Tracey Knight **07979 232322**  
Brownies – Hilary Skeggs **01702 291131**

### **County Councillors**

Laureen Shaw **01702 540398**

### **District Councillors**

Mike Carter **07958 707070**  
Danielle Belton **07525 714715**  
Roger Constable **01702 548834**

### **Parish Councillors**

David Catchpole (Ashingdon ward) **01702 544516**  
Debbie Constable (Ashingdon ward) **01702 548834**  
Sean Chittenden (Hockley ward) **01702 543704**  
Pat Hennessy (Hockley ward) **01702 205060**  
Glen Dryhurst (Ashingdon ward) **01702 543380**  
Terry Flowers (Ashingdon Heights ward) **07776 013543**  
Dan McCarthy (Ashingdon ward) **01702 530870**  
Sue Osborne (Ashingdon ward) **01702 544871**  
Declan Lynn (Ashingdon ward) **07990 901756**

### **Clerk to Ashingdon Parish Council**

**Karen Boyce**

4 Warwick Drive, Rochford, Essex SS4 1HP  
ashingdonparishcouncil@outlook.com

**07950 947731**

*All contacts correct at time of printing*

### **Rochford District Council**

Council Offices, South Street,  
Rochford, Essex, SS4 1BW

### **Essex County Council**

County Hall, Market Road,  
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH

### **Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall**

Ashingdon Road, Rochford,  
Essex SS4 3HF  
Telephone 07307 692889

[www.ashingdonmemorialhall.uk](http://www.ashingdonmemorialhall.uk)

## **ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

Take a look at:

[www.ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **PLANNING**

All planning applications are now dealt with during our regular monthly council meetings at St. Andrews Church Hall, Church Road. Members of the public are welcome to attend along with any other interested parties. Meetings normally start at 7.30 p.m. On the first Monday of the month except Bank Holidays and August..

## **HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?**

There are currently three vacant seats on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a member of Ashingdon Parish Council please speak to our clerk, details below, or come along to one of our meetings which are held on the 1st Monday of each month (except August) at 7.30 p.m.

**Contact the Clerk on 07950 947731**