



ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Contact details

Parish Councillors

Councillor David Catchpole (Chairman) cllr.davidcatchpole@ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01702 544516
Councillor Sean Chittenden	01702 543704
Councillor Debbie Constable cllr.debbieconstable@ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01702 548834
Councillor Glen Dryhurst	01702 543380
Councillor Terry Flowers	07776 013543
Councillor Daniel McCarthy	01702 530870
Councillor Pat Hennessey cllr.pathennessy@ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01702 205060
Councillor Sue Osborne cllr.sueosborne@ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk	01702 544871
Councillor Declan Lynn	07990 901756

Parish Clerk

Karen Boyce 4, Warwick Drive, SS4 1HP	07950 947731
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District Councillors

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

Chairman's Report 2022/23

Yet another year has passed and thankfully the dreaded Covid is just an unpleasant memory although there is still the odd case in the parish. This enabled the council to hold their annual Christmas Buffet again after a two year lapse and it was very well attended with children from the Ashingdon Pre-School and Ashingdon Primary Academy putting on their usual show for the residents.

So what has your council achieved during the last 12 months? We purchased and installed two new picnic benches into the children's play area at the Memorial Park. We also worked with RDC to replace the old public bench seating in the park which was long overdue. It is your council's intention to further improve the facilities for children at this park.

The parish council has at last opened the toilets in the Ashingdon Memorial Park on the 27th March, this has been a real trial to conclude all the legal matters and complete the refurbishment of the toilets. The provision of Public Toilets has been long overdue and we had a fight with Rochford District Council to agree on the refurbishment of the sports pavilion. The toilets have electronic locks fitted and will be open during daylight hours. Ashingdon Parish Council is now responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the toilets and we are hoping that these will not be vandalised as they have been in the past.

The council has like everybody else seen a unprecedented rise in our energy bills and we have made every effort to ensure we keep our costs down as much as possible, to this end we embarked on the project of replacing all our street lights with LED lamps, this project started almost two years ago and we are reaching the conclusion of this with just a few remaining lamps to change.

Your council was diligent when producing our Precept (Budget) for 2023/24 in reducing costs down and concluded with a 6.15% increase which is £5.97 for a Band D property. This was against last year's Band D cost of £4.49. Your council continues to challenge every cost item.

Your council has employed a Litter Operative/Handyperson in an effort to keep litter from our Parish and it has shown dividends with a real improvement in the look of our streets. We are also looking to employ an Admin Assistant to assist our hard pressed Clerk.

We also bid farewell to Cllr. Terry Flowers who has been a Councillor for 16 years. He served as Vice-Chairman in 2016 and then became Chairman in 2017 for a period of 5 years. He served the residents well during that time and we wish him good health and a happy retirement.

I would also like to thank all the other Councillors and our Clerk for their contribution and support to myself and the residents during the last 12 months.

Once again our annual Remembrance Day ceremony was well attended and it was nice to be back indoors this year, as usual the Memorial Hall Trustees made the hall available and worked hard with the 1st Ashingdon Scout Group to ensure that it all went off smoothly. We had to say goodbye to the Rev. David Redbond who has officiated the ceremony for many years who is retiring and a small presentation took place to thank him for his service.

And finally when you read this we will have seen the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May and to celebrate, your council, along with the Trustees of the Memorial Hall have hosted a free indoor street party for the children of the parish.

Cllr. David Catchpole.

Chairman Ashingdon Parish Council

Year Ended 31st March 2023

Operating Income

Administration	110,898.48
Grants and Donations	0.00
VAT Data	6,922.63
Total Receipts	<u>117,821.11</u>

Running Costs

Administration	41,420.16
Open Spaces	10,536.82
Street Lighting	37,278.46
Memorials	59.92
Recreation	51,208.40
Social Inclusion	1500.00
Health & Wellbeing	9000.00
Grants and Donations	1650.00
VAT Data	11,418.73
Total Payments:	<u>164,072.49</u>

Receipts and Payments Summary

Opening Balance	222,139.70
Add total receipts (as above)	117,821.11
	339,960.81
Less total payments (as above)	164,072.49
Closing Balance	<u>175,888.32</u>

These cumulative funds are represented by:

Metro Bank A/c	0.00
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Metro Business Select	0.00
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Barclays Community Account	48,469.66
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Barclays Savings Account	21,362.57
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Unity Trust Current Account	85,777.93
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Hampshire Trust Bank	80,000.00
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Cash Book Suspense	<u>0.00</u>
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	<u>235,610.16</u>
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