

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Ashingdon Parish Office, The Cricket Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7:30pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr. D. Catchpole Vice: Cllr. D. Constable

Councillors: Cllr S Chittenden Cllr D McCarthy
Cllr D Reed Cllr P Hennessy
Cllr. G Dryhurst Cllr. S. Osborne
Cllr. M Nunn

Officers: Kath Parkin Clerk/RFO

District Councillors: None

25/289 Apologies for Absence

No apologies received.

25/290 Minutes

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th October 2025.

Proposed: Cllr. Hennessy

Seconded: Cllr. Reed.

All in favour.

25/291 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

None.

25/292 Update and Correspondence from District County Councillors.

Cllr's Belton, Shaw, Constable and sent their apologies.

Cllr Belton sent the following update;

Rooted In Rochford – New Local Plan newsletter which we will use to share regular and factual updates direct from Council Officers. Residents, Parishes and Businesses can subscribe on the Councils website home page.

Neighbourhood Team – This service is ready to start and will be working across the District to address areas of overgrown alleys, graffiti, broken RDC street furniture etc, you will be able to highlight issues direct to RDC for action. More information will follow shortly.

Business Awards – The nominations window has now opened, please encourage Ashingdon businesses to enter.

Cllr Shaw said that all Locality money had now been spent and she was pleased to see the new defib installed at South Farnbridge.

25/293 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

One member of the public present..

25/294 Co-option:

To consider co-opting any candidate onto the parish council. There are 2 vacancies. No candidates were present.

25/295 Clerks Report

The clerk's report was circulated at the meeting, which is attached to the minutes.

25/296

Planning

Members considered the planning application detailed below:

[74 Canewdon View Road, Ashingdon, Essex, SS4 3DX](#)

Proposed first floor rear extension to existing dormer

Application reference: **25/00742/FUL** received on **09/10/2025**

No objections.

[Land Opposite, Brambles, Ellesmere Road, Rochford, Essex,](#)

Demolish the existing buildings and, sub-divide the plot and construct two new build 4 bedrooomed detached chalet bungalows with private driveways. Widen existing vehicular access.

Application reference: **25/00747/FUL** received on **10/10/2025**

Comments: Overdevelopment of site

Not enough space for vehicle parking.

Green belt.

25/297

Finance.

Members received the schedule of payments for approval, the following were approved and signed:

- a. **Proposal:** To approve payments made by BACS, in accordance with the 2025/2026 budget.
Proposer: Cllr Hennessy
Seconded: Cllr McCarthy
All in favour.

Supplier Name	Total Amount	Details Ref	Sort code	Account
MedUK	£1,854.00	13754	20/08/1964	971979
EALC	£100.80	18889	60-83-01	20271424
A&J lighting	£366.00	39587	20-19-95	93232859
J+M Payroll	£42.00	45377	20-70-93	90404608
J&P Prior	£902.00	1448	12-24-82	6585520
J&P Prior	£138.58	1454	12-24-82	6585520
Amazon	£5.49	emergency pull cord		
Amazon	£8.80	board magnets		
Post Office	£8.70	stamps		
Constable	£360.00	2664	30-96-94	27987668
CAM	£967.94	16547	30-15-99	13775560
Weaveaweb	£192.00	25680	40-10-27	11328506
Solopress	£202.98	newsletter		
A&J lighting	£419.10	39643	20-19-95	93232859
RBL Poppy Appeal	£20.00	wreath	30/11/1975	1937121
Total	£5,588.39			

- b. Councillor Hennessy had checked the September 2025 bank reconciliation figures and approved all balances are correct.
- c. To advise Clerk of any possible projects for 2026/2027, which needs costings for the budget.
- d. To review and approve the quarterly financial report for the period to end of September 2025.
Proposed: Cllr Osborne
Seconded: Cllr Dryhurst
All in favour.

25/298

Neighbourhood Plan Update.

The Clerk reported that, of the twelve emails sent requesting expressions of interest in joining the steering group, only four responses had been received.

The Chairman advised that he had undertaken research and made contact with a company named Troy. Details of their response had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. He noted

that the cost for the company to carry out an initial assessment would be approximately £2,500, with a subsequent feasibility study likely to cost around £10,000.

25/299 MUGA

The Chairman reported that, at a recent meeting of the MUGA Working Group, it was agreed to recommend to the Council that progress on the MUGA project be paused, owing to the Parish Council's expression of interest regarding the King George V Playing Fields. It was noted that there is currently uncertainty surrounding Local Government Reorganisation and the Neighbourhood Plan, and the Working Group felt there were several ongoing matters requiring consideration.

It was further noted that, during a Teams meeting with Marcus Hotten, the project was not dismissed; however, suggestions and ideas were sought from him.

Cllr Constable advised that she wished to propose that work on the MUGA project continue. She highlighted that funds have been allocated to Ear-Marked Reserves for the past four financial years, placing Ashingdon in a favourable financial position, and that additional grant funding may be available.

Proposal: That the Council continue with the MUGA project.

Proposer: Cllr Constable

Second: Cllr Dryhurst

Eight in favour, one against, motion carried.

25/300 To consider providing a bench in King George V playing Field.

It was reported that during the summer, Rochford District Council (RDC) was approached regarding the Parish Council providing a commemorative bench in the playing field to mark the 80th anniversary of VE/VJ Day. RDC advised that any new bench must match the existing style and have only recently confirmed the costings. The quoted costs are £500 for the bench and £400 for the concrete base and installation. It was noted that additional seating around the field is needed, and this proposal would support that objective. The available budget for this project is £1,500.

Proposal: It was proposed that three benches be installed in the playing field: one commemorative bench marking the 80th anniversary of VE/VJ Day, and two additional benches to provide further seating. It was agreed that Rochford District Council (RDC) be contacted to confirm the cost for three benches, noted as £500 per bench, and to request a reduction in price based on a multiple-bench order.

Proposer: Cllr Constable

Second: Cllr Nunn

All in favour.

25/301

Cllr Reed reported that he has undertaken extensive work engaging with the First Bus company and preparing a community bus survey. The survey will be made available on the Parish Council website and distributed with the Parish newsletter. Printing costs are estimated at approximately £100, with a small additional charge for including the survey in the newsletter delivery.

It was suggested that Hockley and Hawkwell Parish Councils be invited to publish the survey link on their websites. Proposed drop-off points for completed surveys include the Parish Rooms, the Clerk's address, and—subject to permission—the local chemist, Sanders, and Ashingdon Memorial Hall.

Proposal: To print 2,500 copies of the survey and distribute them with the Parish newsletter.

Proposer: Cllr Reed

Second: Cllr Hennessy

All in favour

Cllr catchpole and McCarthy expressed their thanks to Cllr Reed, for all the work on the project.

25/302 To receive a report from the representatives for the following outside committees/working groups:

(a) **Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall - Cllr. P. Hennessy;**

Remembrance service on Sunday 9th November. Repairs to part of the roof have started. The hall has been presented with a set of medals to be displayed at the Hall. The craft fayre will be on Sunday 23rd November.

(b) **Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils – Cllr. D. Constable;**

Cllr Catchpole sent an update to all councillors.

(c) **RSPB Local Liaison Group – Cllr. G. Dryhurst;**

No report.

(d) **River Crouch Coastal Community Team – Cllr. G. Dryhurst;**

No report.

(e) Rochford Old Peoples Welfare- Cllr .S. Osborne.

Meeting is next week.

25/303 Precept meeting

Meeting will be Monday 24th November at 7pm.

25/304 Training and Events

Code of conduct for all councillors- Clerk will look at options
Councillor training for Councillor Nunn.

25/305 Items from Councillors to be added to next agenda.

Next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday 24th November 2025 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman's Signature

Date:

