

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the 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 24th November 2025 at 7pm.

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

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

Officers: Kath Parkin Clerk

District Councillors: None in Attendance

25/306 Apologies for Absence

No apologies received.

25/307 Minutes

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2025

Proposed: Cllr. P. Hennessy

Seconded: Cllr. D. Reed

All in favour.

25/308 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

None declared.

25/308 Rochford District Council-Council tax base

Councillors noted that the draft council tax base has now been received from Rochford District Council. However, as it remains in draft form, councillors are still unable to finalise the budget/precept because the Band D figure cannot yet be confirmed.

25/309 Earmarked Reserves

Members reviewed the circulated Earmarked Reserves report and agreed the following amendments: the EMR 333-Toilets reserve will be reduced from £39,209 to £30,000
EMR 337- School Holiday Activities will be renamed Youth Activities
EMR 341- VE Day will be renamed Commemorative Events.
Members will undertake a further review of the Earmarked Reserves at the January meeting alongside consideration of the 2026/2027 Budget and Precept.

25/310 Maintenance of Planted Areas Around Car Park and Raised Bed Behind the Hall

Cllr Constable clarified that the proposal related solely to the raised bed behind the Memorial Hall. She reported contact with Rochford District Council, who indicated they "wouldn't object in principle" and asked whether Ashingdon Parish Council would be willing to maintain the area. Cllr Constable suggested planting low-maintenance shrubs, with councillors carrying out upkeep throughout the year, and proposed a budget of £500.

Proposal: That the Parish Council assume responsibility for maintaining the raised bed behind the hall and plant it with low-maintenance shrubs, with a budget allocation of £500.

Proposed: Cllr D. Constable

Seconded: Cllr D McCarthy

All in favour.

25/311

MUGA

It was noted that, as the Council has agreed to proceed with the MUGA project, there is currently just over £52,000 in the earmarked reserve.

Cllr Constable suggested that £40,000 be allocated to EMR 350 – MUGA, increasing the earmarked reserve to £92,000. This would allow the Council to approach Rochford District Council with a confirmed funding contribution and a clearer understanding of the remaining amount required.

Proposal: That a further £40,000 be allocated to EMR 350 – MUGA, increasing the earmarked reserve to £92,000.

Proposer: Cllr D Constable

Seconder: Cllr M Nunn

All in favour.

25/312

Draft Budget 2026/2027

Councillors reviewed and amended the draft budget report for 2026/2027. The final budget will be agreed at the January meeting. It was proposed that a new earmarked reserve, EMR – Neighbourhood Plan, be created to cover potential professional fees, with an initial allocation of £3,000.

Proposed: Cllr D. Constable

Seconded: Cllr S. Osborne

All in favour.

Next Parish Council Meeting to be held on 1st December 2025 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman's Signature

Dated

