

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council: Mrs Kath Parkin
51 Rochford Garden Way
Rochford
Essex
SS4 1QH

Tel: 07950947731
Email: clerk@ashingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Ashingdon Parish Office, The Cricket Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr. D. Catchpole

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

Officers: Kath Parkin Clerk/RFO

District Councillors: None

25/330 Apologies for Absence

Apologies accepted for Cllr D Constable, Cllr S Osborne and Cllr G Dryhurst.

25/331 Minutes

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025.
Proposed: Cllr. Hennessy
Seconded: Cllr. McCarthy
All in favour.

25/332 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

None.

25/333 Update and Correspondence from District County Councillors.

No District or County Councillors were in attendance.
Apologies received from Cllr R. Constable.

25/334 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

None present.

25/335 Co-option:

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

25/336 Clerks Report

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

25/337 Planning

No planning applications received.

25/338 Finance.

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

Dec-25				
Supplier	Total Amount	Details Ref	Sort Code	Account
Constable	£360.00	2727	30-96-94	27987668
Cam	£1,030.39	16727	30-15-99	13775560
A&J Lighting	£96.00	39789	20-19-95	93232859
Weaveaweb	£192.00	25878	40-10-27	11328506
j+mpayroll	£42.00	45894	20-70-93	90404608
J&P Prior	£138.58	1477	12-24-82	6585520
J&P Prior	£902.00	1487	12-24-82	6585520
j+mpayroll	£60.00	45876	20-70-93	90404608
Weaveaweb	£58.80	25821	40-10-27	11328506
D2D	£744.00	4981	20-79-09	13410129
Initial	£160.15	35673538	20-00-00	33583457
Poundstretcher	£32.31	£stretcher		
Lidl	£8.65	Lidl		
EALC	£478.80	18908	60-83-01	20271424
	£4,303.68			

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

- b. Councillor Nunn had checked the November 2025 bank reconciliation figures and approved all balances are correct.

25/339 Fencing.

The Chairman explained that when the new play equipment was installed, the Council would have preferred to install fencing at that time; however, funding was not available. The reasons for proposing fencing include issues with loose dogs, dog fouling, dogs chewing the play equipment, and concerns that the area is currently unsafe for parents and children as it is not enclosed.

The Chairman advised that he had requested the Clerk to include £3,000 in the budget towards the project and to investigate potential additional funding from Probail and the solar farm grant.

Proposal:

To agree on the installation of fencing around the new play area within the Memorial Park, subject to agreement and approval from Rochford District Council (Open Spaces).

Proposer: Cllr D Catchpole

Seconder: Cllr S Chittenden

All in favour.

25/340 The Freight House

The Clerk informed Councillors that after 3 emails she had not received a response regarding the potential bid for the Freight House.

25/341 Letter to Bellway.

Following the presentation by Bellway in December, the company requested confirmation as to whether the Council had any further feedback. The presentation was circulated to all Councillors and discussed as a formal agenda item.

After general discussion, Councillors confirmed that the Council does not support and remains opposed to the proposed development.

Concerns were also raised regarding the level of support and community benefit proposed for Ashingdon, with Councillors questioning why greater provision appeared to be directed towards Rochford rather than Ashingdon. The Council requested further clarification from Bellway on these points.

Proposal:

That the Clerk write to Bellway confirming that the Council does not support the proposed development and requests further clarification on the issues raised.

Proposer: Cllr M Nunn

Seconded: Cllr D Reed

All in favour.

25/342 Risk Assessments

Councillors Catchpole and Reed met with the Assets team last year to discuss risk assessments, in particular the fire risk assessments for the office and toilets. To date, no feedback or progress update has been received.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Assets team advising that, following several discussions, the Council has not received a progress report and requesting an update. This matter will be included on the March agenda.

25/343 Bus Survey

The results of the recent bus survey were discussed. The Council noted a very good response, with 216 responses received, demonstrating strong public interest.

Councillors agreed that the matter should be pursued further. It was decided that the Clerk would write to Arriva, enclosing the survey results, prior to raising the matter with local MPs and the local press.

Proposal: Send a letter to Arriva enclosing the results of the bus survey and requesting a response within two weeks.

Proposer: Cllr D Reed

Seconded: Cllr M Nunn

All agreed.

25/344 Staff Gratuities.

The Council considered a recommendation from the Personnel and Working Committee regarding staff gratuities at Christmas. Following discussion, it was felt that any expression of thanks would be a matter for individual Councillors to make a personal donation, rather than a Council-funded gratuity as this would transgress official legislation.

25/345 EALC and Councilwise

The Council discussed subscriptions with the EALC and Councilwise. The Clerk reported that membership with EALC is required to maintain affiliation with NALC. Councilwise currently provides training for Councillors and Clerks, with a subscription of £300 per year and offers 20% off any training costs.

Proposal: To continue membership with EALC and NALC, pay the additional £300 subscription to Councilwise for the year and review the arrangement next year.

Proposer: Cllr D McCarthy

Seconded: Cllr P Hennessy

All in favour.

25/346 Council Tax Base Issued

Members noted that the Council Tax Base 2026/2027 has been confirmed as 1361.00. For the financial year 2025/2026 the Council Tax Base was 1219.80.

25/347 Budget and Precept Proposals for 2026/2027

- (a) The Clerk explained that she had reviewed the budget again and advised the following upweights. Members considered the budget with the following amendments the budget was agreed:

4015 NI and PAYE

4040 Photocopying/Printing

4045 Distributing Newsletter

4200 Bus Shelter Cleaning/maint

4205 Verge Maintenance

4290 Street Light Replacement

4320 Toilets

4265 Church Floodlights be changed to Fencing for new play area agreed at £3000

4006 Professional Fees agreed at £3000

Budget amount now £133,700

Proposal: Budget for 2026/2027 with the above amendments is £133,700.

Proposer: Cllr S Chittenden

Seconded: Cllr P Hennessy

All in favour.

(b) Proposal: To submit a precept request to Rochford District Council for £133,700 for 2026 / 2027.

Proposed: Cllr Reed

Seconded: Cllr McCarthy

All in favour.

25/348

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

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

No update.

(b) **Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils –**

Meeting Tuesday 13th Jan.

(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.**

No report.

25/349

Training and Events

No requests.

25/350

Items from Councillors to be added to next agenda.

Bar 'n' Bus

Health and Wellbeing

Next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman's Signature

Date

