

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 1st June 2026 at 7:30pm.

Present:	<u>Chairman</u>	Cllr. D. Catchpole	<u>Vice Chairman</u>	Cllr. D Constable
	<u>Councillors</u>	Cllr. D. Reed Cllr. G. Dryhurst	Cllr. D McCarthy Cllr. M Nunn	
	<u>Officers</u>	Kath Parkin Parish Clerk		
	<u>District Councillors</u>	None in attendance		
	<u>Members of the press and public</u>	None in attendance.		

26/48. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies received from Cllr. P Hennessy, Cllr. S Osborne and Cllr. S Chittenden.
Resolved that apologies be accepted.

26/49. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2026.

Proposed: Cllr. D. Constable

Seconded: Cllr. M. Nunn

All in favour.

26/50. To receive member's declaration of interests and dispensations in items on the agenda

None received

26/51. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual Interest.

None present.

26/52. Update and Correspondence from District County Councillor.

Apologies received from Cllr C Turner, Cllr R Constable and Cllr M Carter.
Cllr R Constable sent an update which is attached to the minutes.

26/53. Planning

Members considered the planning applications detailed below:

[Stables At Highsteppers, Canewdon Road, Ashingdon, Essex.](#)

Outline application with all matters reserved other than access to the site, for the erection of up to 9 dwellings, with associated landscaping and infrastructure.

Application reference: **26/00275/OUT** received on **30/03/2026**

Objection.

Letter sent to planning with objections attached to minutes.

26/54 Clerks Report

A report was circulated at the meeting and attached to minutes.

26/55 Finance

a) Members received the schedule of payments for approval; the following were approved and signed:

May-26				
Supplier	Total Amount	Details Ref	Sort Code	Account
J+M payroll	£42.00	47229	20-70-93	90404608
Constable	£360.00			
A+J Lighting	£210.00	40124	20-19-95	93232859
J+P Prior	£138.58	1568	12-24-82	6585520
J+P Prior	£902.00	1579	12-24-82	6585520
Weaveaweb	£192.00	26369	40-10-27	11328506
Trade Point	£20.50	Post/concrete		
Amazon	£5.87	Hi-Viz Jacket		
Amazon	£0.79	Tab dividers		
Amazon	£4.49	Ext duster		
Weaveaweb	£42.00	26301	40-10-27	11328506
John P Watson	£255.00	26/27/10	20-70-93	20413208
Adobe	£238.75	renewal		
CAM	£1,133.35	17171	30-15-99	13775560
Zurich Insurance	£1,436.16	554849137	20-65-82	23110249
Dunmow Training	£72.00	SI-322	60-83-01	20544821
Total	£5,053.49			

Proposal : To approve payments made by BACS, in accordance with the 2026/2027 budget

Proposer Cllr. McCarthy

Seconded Cllr. Dryhurst

All in favour.

b) Cllr McCarthy had checked the April 2026 bank reconciliation and approved all balances are correct.

Cllr McCarthy proposed we accept the April bank reconciliation, Cllr Reed seconded, **All in Favour.**

26/56 Annual Return

a/ Section 1

Proposal: Cllrs approve section 1 of the of the AGAR, noting the recommendation to ensure compliance with website accessibility requirements.

Proposer Cllr.D McCarthy

Seconded Cllr. M Nunn

All in favour.

The document was signed by the Chairman Councillor Catchpole.

b / Section 2

Members reviewed section 2 of the AGAR and approved the figures presented.

Proposer Cllr. M. Nunn

Seconded Cllr. D. Reed

All in favour

26/57 Rochford Day Centre.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Rochford Day Centre by email but had not received a response regarding the number of service users from Ashingdon.

Cllr D Constable suggested that the Clerk contact Cllr Steve May to obtain details of the Chair or Secretary and establish the appropriate contact.

Proposal: To defer consideration until the July meeting. The Clerk will contact Cllr Steve May to obtain contact details for the Chair/Secretary.

Proposer: Cllr D Constable

Seconder: Cllr D McCarthy

All in favour.

26/58 Biodiversity Policy.

Councillors discussed the draft Biodiversity Policy and expressed concerns that some of the content required further clarification and consideration. Members agreed that care should be taken regarding the wording and commitments included within the policy.

The Clerk will make enquiries regarding available biodiversity training and defer the Biodiversity Policy until the September meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Reed for all his work.

26/59 Health and Wellbeing

Cllr McCarthy gave an update. He has spoken to LIFT and discussed how they can improve well-being for children and teachers.

He mentioned the Trust Links centre where gardening for mental health takes place.

It was agreed that links promoting health and wellbeing support services would be added to the Parish Council Facebook page and website, including Andy's Man Club and Giggle Patrol. Cllr McCarthy will forward the relevant links to the Clerk for publication on the website and Facebook page.

26/60 Community Governance Review Stage 2

Councillors discussed Stage 2 of the Community Governance Review and agreed that the proposals were sensible and supported the recommended changes.

26/61 Dog Bag Dispensing Stations.

Councillors discussed and considered the purchase of dog waste bag dispensing stations. Several queries were raised, including whether the Parish Council would be tied into a contract, whether bags would need to be purchased exclusively from the supplier, and clarification of the total costs involved. Councillors agreed to explore alternative suppliers before deciding. Cllr Reed will obtain further information.

26/62. Bus Survey

Cllr Reed reported that Cllr Carl Turner had visited the office and supported the concerns raised regarding bus service frequency. Cllr Turner had provided a contact for head of service and agreed to make further enquiries himself.

Councillors noted that information previously provided by the bus company to the MP was incorrect, as it referred to both the No. 7 and No. 8 services, whereas only the No. 7 service operates through Ashingdon. It was highlighted that during school holidays Ashingdon receives only one bus per hour.

Councillors agreed that this information should be raised again with the MP and that emphasis should be placed on the limited service available to Ashingdon. As the route falls under 2 MP's we should contact both.

Proposal: To contact both MPs regarding bus service frequency in Ashingdon.

Proposer: Cllr D Constable

Seconder: Cllr D McCarthy

The Chairman asked if everyone was willing to carry on past 9.30 p.m., to complete the following business on the agenda.

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the following business to be transacted

26/63. Street Lighting-Ashingdon Academy.

The Clerk informed councillors that to replace the lights outside Ashingdon School would cost £389 each. A&J lighting also advised that they could only trim small branches from the lighting as they have no way of removing/disposing of them and suggested we get a tree surgeon.

It was suggested that we leave the tree cutting until after the lights are replaced and that they are not parish trees.

Proposal: to get a quote for replacement of all remaining lights down Fambridge Road and Brays Lane that have not already been changed.

Proposer: Cllr D Constable

Seconder: Cllr D McCarthy

All in favour.

26/64 BayWa re. Community Payment.

Cllrs discussed how to utilise the monies received. It was noted that stated in the agreement that this would be used to supply more seating and picnic tables in Ashingdon Memorial Park, the upgrade of street lighting in Fambridge Road and Ashingdon Park Estate and contribute towards the installation of a Multi User Games Area in the park.

26/65 Ashingdon Memorial Hall

Councillors considered nominating Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Hall for the RCCE Village Hall and Community Building Award.

Proposer: Cllr M Nunn

Seconder: Cllr: G Dryhurst
All in favour.

26/66 Appointment of Councillors to Events Working Party.

Review and confirm councillor appointments to the Events Working Party.

	2025/2026	2026/2027
Events Working Party	Reed and McCarthy	Reed, McCarthy and Dryhurst

26/67 To receive a report from the representatives for the following outside committees/working groups:

- (a) Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall - Cllr. P. Hennessy;
Cllr D McCarthy reported that a new front door had been fitted and the front windows were about to be replaced.
- (b) Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils - Cllr. D. Constable;
No meeting.
- (c) RSPB Local Liaison Group – Cllr. G. Dryhurst;
Working well.

26/68. Training and Events.

Clerk to look for Biodiversity training.

26/69 Items from Councillors to be added to next Agenda.

26/70 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 6th July at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.