

**Minutes of a meeting of Ashdon Parish Council, held on
Monday 16 February 2026, 7.30pm at Ashdon Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs: Goodwin, Gray, Horrigan, Lewis, Moran & Pardue.
In the Chair: Cllr Horrigan.
Clerk: Angela Balcombe.
Also present: 6 members of the public.

26/17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies and a letter of resignation was received from Cllr Olley. The Clerk will notify Electoral Services (UDC) and notices of the casual vacancy will be posted. Thanks were noted to Alice Olley for all her work and dedication to the Parish Council over the past years.

26/18. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 19 January 2026 were approved as a correct record of events.
Proposed: Cllr Moran. Seconded: Cllr Lewis. All agreed.

26/19. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

To receive any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Interests or Non-Registerable Interests relating to items on the agenda.

Please note: all Councillors are Sole Trustees of the Village Hall.

Cllr Moran is a District Councillor for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).

No interests were declared.

26/20. MATTERS ARISING.

A brief update on any actions from the previous meeting.

(For information only, Councillors are reminded that no decisions can be made under this agenda item; Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119).

- Trim Trail Training Event – the event can go ahead without the use of the parallel bars. The event to be advertised on the notice boards, website and Facebook page.
- Community Speed Watch – there are currently 5 volunteers awaiting training, a minimum of ten volunteers is needed.
- Telephone Box – the photos have been passed on for review and an engineer will visit to look at the sticking door.

26/21. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Essex County Council (Cllr Foley). Apologies were received from Cllr Foley.

Uttlesford District Council (Cllr Moran). The Local Plan is near the point of being fully adopted and will become part of the new Unitary once adopted. UDC are planning to raise car park charging, Cllr Moran has voiced his concerns regarding this. Maintenance of housing stock is an issue so this has been brought back inhouse.

26/22. PUBLIC FORUM

- Garden Waste Vehicle - it was suggested that rather than park for the full hour at Fallowden Lane, it could be split into two half hour visits: half an hour at Fallowden Lane and half an hour at the Baptist Church car park. This was supported by Cllr Moran, the Clerk will arrange this with UDC.
- County Court Claim – a resident stated that any monetary claim will affect residents through their Council Tax payments and if the Council needs support then be assured the Village will offer their support. Residents will be kept fully informed of the outcome.

26/23. NEW DIFIBRILLATORS.

The Parish Council agreed to taking on responsibility for the maintenance of two new defibrillators, however both funding applications for the defibrillators was unsuccessful. Cllr Goodwin will look at other ways to raise the funding. This was agreed in principle subject to location/installation etc.

Proposed: Cllr Moran. Seconded: Cllr Lewis. All agreed.

26/24. FINANCE.

Payments made:

103117 £150.00 Bartram Training Services (Defib/Bleed Kit Training)
103118 £80.00 Ashdon Village Hall (Hall Hire inc. Defib Training Course)
103119 £548.90 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)
103120 £1,560.00 M D Landscapes Ltd (River Bank/Victorian Cemetery Clearance)
103121 £300.00 Ashdon School PTA (Fun Run Donation)
D/D £96.59 Npower Business Solutions (Streetlighting – November)

26/25. PLANNING.

Decisions:

Application No: UTT/25/3351/AG. Agricultural barn for plant and machinery.

Location: Winsey Farm, Camps End, Castle Camps. **Deemed Refused.**

26/26. SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE.

To receive an update on the installation of the device at Radwinter Road. Before installation the technology needs to be checked to ensure everything is working ok. Mr Horrigan kindly offered to help with this. Agreed to put up the device on Sunday 1 March. ECC to be asked to collect the old device.

26/27. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR.

It was agreed to appoint V Waples as Internal Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2026. Unanimously agreed.

26/28. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

UDC – Weekend garden waste service schedule starts 7 March 2026, Fallowden Lane Car Park 10.30 – 11.30, fortnightly thereafter.

Residents email – regarding hedge cuttings left at the Church Hill Footpath. The Clerk to reply, this footpath is on private land and not the responsibility of the Parish Council nor ECC. The landowner is aware of the issue. Waste bin upgrades, it was suggested using dustbin lids chained to the bins for lids, Cllr Moran to check with UDC which bins are their responsibility. Litter picking – UDC offer equipment to volunteer litter pickers and will collect the rubbish from dedicated locations.

Affinity Water – essential network improvements to the water mains along Bartlow Road and surrounding area 9 February – 20 November 2026, 8am – 5pm.
RCCE – Village Hall Conference, Saturday 21 March at Alresford Village Hall 9.30am – 3pm.

26/29. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA.

- IT Policy.
- Cemetery – review polices and fees.
- Allotments – meeting in March – Cllr Lewis to attend and report back.
- Year-End – review Fixed Asset Register / Risk
- Data from traffic lines.

26/30. MEETING DATES 2026.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month (except August).
19 January, 16 February, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July,
21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 17 December*.

**Please note the earlier date for the December meeting.*

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and for their support.

Members of the public were excluded for the following item of business (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

26/31. COUNTY COURT CLAIM

A Specified Money Claim has been issued against the Parish Council. The Councils insurance company was contacted immediately, a member of their legal team advised returning the Acknowledgment of Service form requesting an extension of the 14-day deadline to 28 days to give enough time to defend the claim. The Councils insurance has legal cover of £250,000; a claim has been submitted for legal cover, if successful a solicitor will be appointed to defend the claim.

Close of meeting 20:46

Signed (Chairman):

Date: