

ASHDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk - Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council, held on Monday 18 May 2026, 7.30pm at Ashdon Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Goodwin, Gray, Lewis, Moran & Pardue.
In the Chair: Cllr Gray.
Clerk: Angela Balcombe.
Also present: 7 members of the public.

26/67. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Lewis proposed Cllr Horrigan as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Moran and unanimously agreed.

- **The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman.**

As Cllr Horrigan was unable to attend this meeting it was agreed that Cllr Horrigan could sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman prior to the next meeting.

26/68. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Lewis proposed Cllr Gray as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Moran and unanimously agreed.

26/69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Horrigan.

26/70. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 20 April 2026 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

26/71. 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 other interests were declared.

26/72. 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).

- Speed Indicator Device – a new device has been ordered.

26/73. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Essex County Council (Cllr Bo Davis). It was agreed to write to Cllr Foley thanking him for all his help over the past few years.

Uttlesford District Council (Cllr Moran). The District Council are to hold their Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 22 May. There are two bi-elections coming up, and with the political balance changing no one group has overall

control. Cllr Moran remains on the same committees; Licensing, Recruitment, Stansted Working Group and the Museum Management Working Group.

26/74. PUBLIC FORUM

With regard to the two current court cases, one against the Parish Council and one against an individual Parish Councillor, a resident asked if the Claimant could be legally named. It is understood that the Claimant cannot be named at this stage but if the case proceeds to Court, then the information would be in the public domain.

26/75. FINANCE.

Payments made:

103136 £32.00 Ashdon Village Hall (Hall Hire)
103137 £545.40 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)
103138 £822.78 M D Landscapes (Grass Cutting)
103139 £32.00 Grasshopper Lawncare (War Memorial)
103140 £2,164.46 Clear Insurance Management (Annual Premium)
Barclays £13.90 Commission Charges (Feb/March)
Barclays £11.50 Commission Charges (March/April)
D/D £74.62 Npower Business Solutions (Streetlighting)

Income

£300.00 Cemetery
£24,000.00 UDC 1st Instalment Precept
£100.00 Arag Claims (Compensation re delay in assessing claim)

Bank Balance (30 April 2026)

Current Account £32,823.93
Business Savings £56,027.97
Business Savings £1,116.16

26/76. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

Residents letter – re signage at the Rectory Lane Play Area.

Residents email – asking for the dog bin at Rogers End to be moved.

26/77. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA.

- Bank Account
- Dog/Litter Bins – next agenda.
- Defibrillators – Cllr Goodwin explained that two defibrillators are needed and the PCC have also asked for a solar powered light. As these items have not been budgeted for it was explained that reserves cannot currently be used as the Council is unsure of the costs for last year's audit which was challenged, and the two current court cases.

26/78. MEETING DATES 2026.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month (except August).

15 June, 20 July, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 17 December (*please note the earlier date for the December meeting*).

Close of meeting 19:57

Signed (Chairman):

Date: