

ASHDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk - Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Ashdon Parish Council, held on Monday 20 April 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.

26/50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies.

26/51. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 16 March 2026 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

26/52. 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.

26/53. 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).

- Community Speed Watch – the volunteers have been registered for training – awaiting a date.
- Speed Indicator Device – Radwinter device has been erected and is working correctly. There is money in the budget for two more devices, one to be purchased for an existing location in Church End, the third location will need to be agreed.
- Defibrillator – a new account has been registered on The Circuit for the defibrillator at the Village Hall which now shows it as available 24/7. The old account showing the defibrillator as unavailable has been deleted.

26/54. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

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

Uttlesford District Council (Cllr Moran). Due to the local elections (purdah period) there was not much to report. Cllr Moran to pass on details of lorries coming through the village from the Butlers Lane farm reservoir work to Planning Enforcement at UDC. As a result of the retrospective planning application the Parish Council should have been notified when lorries were due to come through the village, no notification was received.

26/55. PUBLIC FORUM

No matters raised.

26/56. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR.

The Parish Council were expecting to co-opt a new Councillor; however, the person changed their mind at the last minute so the vacancy still remains.

26/57. PLANNING.

Application No: UTT/26/0136/FUL. Change of use from paddocks to dog training area.

Location: Saffron House, Redgates Lane CB10 2LP.

The only issue raised was the access off Regates Lane which is a single track lane with blind corners and could be dangerous if drivers don't know the road. If on horseback there is no room for the horses to move out of the way of vehicles.

Application No: UTT/26/0656/LB. To attach a bleed kit next to the defibrillator at Ashdon Village Hall.

Location: Ashdon Village Hall, Crown Hill, Ashdon. **Noted.**

Application No: UTT/26/0366/CLP. Single storey side extension.

Location: Fairview, Church Hill, Ashdon CB10 2HF. **Refused.**

26/58. FINANCE.

Payments made:

103124 £32.00 Ashdon Village Hall (Hall Hire)

103129 £582.30 A Balcombe (Salary/PAYE/Expenses)

103130 £100.00 J Gray (Memorial Restoration)

103131 £414.54 M D Landscapes (Grass Cutting)

103132 £84.30 Clacton Business Services (Payroll)

103133 £307.16 EALC (Annual Subscription) Agreed to delay payment until next month.

103134 £4. J Gray (Stationery)

103135 £22. C Pardue (Fixings for Speed Indicator Device

D/D £74.62 Npower Business Solutions (Streetlighting)

Income

H J Paintin £100.00 (Interment - Cemetery)

H J Paintin £600.00 (Cemetery)

HMRC £792.23 (Village Hall VAT)

Bank Balance (31 March 2026)

Current Account £12,875.86

Business Savings £56,027.97

Business Savings £1,116.16

26/59. CEMETERY.

- Transfer of graves – Indemnity Form. Cllr Gray explained the difference between the use of the Statutory Declaration and the Indemnity Form. The proposal was for the Indemnity Form to be used; this was seconded by Cllr. Lewis and agreed.
- Topple testing and burial of memorial stones. Three tests have been done so far.
- Pollarding the lime trees. As this is in the Conservation Area planning permission will be needed and quotes obtained ready to do the work in the autumn. Cllr Gray was thanked for all her work in looking after the Cemetery.

26/60. ESSEX SAFER SPEEDS STRATEGY.

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/essex-safer-speeds-strategy> Public consultation – closes 26 April 2026.

26/61. LITTER & DOG WASTE BIN REVIEW.

To consider if any new bins are needed and cost of emptying. There was some discussion around the bins and who was responsible for them. A map of the bins to be produced along with costs of new bins and the cost of emptying them. It was agreed to consult with residents about the locations where dog bins are needed. Noted that dog waste can be placed in normal litter bins.

26/62. PAINTING OF THE WHITE RAILINGS.

To agree the arrangements for painting the remainder of the railings. Mrs Alice Olley kindly agreed to co-ordinate the painting of the remaining railing. Alice was thanked for continuing to support the Parish Council.

26/63. PARISH COUNCIL LOGO.

To consider designing a logo for the Parish Council. It was agreed to give this some thought with the possibility of holding a competition.

26/64. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE.

Highways – temporary closure of Fallowden Lane, due to commence on 9th February 2026 until 24th April 2026. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Affinity Water undertakes mains renewal.

RCCE – Village of the Year – entry deadline 5 June 2026. Agreed to look at what is needed, the Clerk to circulate the entry forms for information.

Residents email – various Highways issues (copied to Cllr Foley).

Residents email – copy of a response to the Parish Councils response to PKF Littlejohn (External Auditor)

Court Claim – another court claim has been received against an individual councillor.

26/65. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA.

- Defibrillator.
- May meeting – The Chairman has given her apologies for this meeting; Cllr Gray has agreed to Chair the meeting.
- Ashdon Windmill is opening on the 3rd and 10th of May (National Mills Day) attendance is encouraged to support the Windmill.

26/66. MEETING DATES 2026.

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

18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November,

17 December (*please note the earlier date for the December meeting*).

It was agreed to start the meetings at the earlier time of 7pm from May onwards.

Close of meeting 20.41

Signed (Chairman):

Date: