

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Ashton Keynes Primary School on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S Crawford – Chairman; M Carter; T Romback; L Mason; A Tindall; A Ellis; M Young; M Jeffery.

In attendance: Wiltshire Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk, 3 x Members of Public.

Absent: Cllrs N Inzani; K Wilson.

25-26/108 Public Section

Members of the public asked for updates on the Wheatley's Farm Quarry, CIL funds and a skate park. It was also asked if there was a crime prevention officer for the village. One member of public requested a copy of the Parish Councils Meeting with Developers Policy.

The village Neighbourhood Watch officer has recently stood down. There is no further update on the quarry, updates have been provided at previous meetings and recorded in the minutes. A CIL update will be provided at this meeting, a previous update was provided in November. Works required to get the skate ramp in place were not prioritised, the Parish Council are not currently looking to put a skate park in place. The Playing Fields Committee are working to increase youth engagement.

25-26/109 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McMurtry.

25-26/110 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25-26/111 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th December 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2025 were approved and signed.

25-26/112 Actions from Previous Meetings

25-26/096 – Our local MP has published a response regarding the closure of Purton Household Recycling Centre. Hills have also published a response. Cllr Berry is working on a solution and an emergency meeting is being held on 20th January in the Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall at 6.30pm.

25-26/071 – Actions regarding the gravel extraction at Wheatley's Farm are ongoing.

25-26/072 – A Meeting with Developers policy has been finalised and adopted.

25-26/082 – Councillors are aware that representation is requested at the planning committee meeting regarding the anaerobic digester, awaiting date.

25-26/113 Chairmans Report

Questions have been raised via the Clerk and individual Councillors regarding CIL funds. It is clear that there needs to be an improvement with communication and visibility of the progress that the CIL working group have been undertaking. An update will be published in the February AKL Newsletter. To increase engagement from the community, volunteers are being asked to join the CIL working group.

Cllr Carter has taken on the role of Village Hall representative and is hoping to work closer with the Village Hall Management Committee to understand future plans, provide support and keep the Parish Council updated. A meeting with the Chair of the Parish Council, Chair

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of the VPMC and Cllr Carter will take place to understand how communication on both sides can be improved.

Village Gate locations have been proposed by the Local Highway and Footways Improvement Group and assessed by Community Speed Watch. Proposed locations and estimated costs will be provided as an agenda item for the February meeting.

Wiltshire Council have confirmed that they will carry out repairs to the road surface at the Spine Road Junction, these works are scheduled for the night of 20th February 2026. This will be a temporary repair; Wiltshire Council have committed to resurfacing but have not yet given an idea of time scale.

An updated Highway Improvement Request has been submitted by Community Speed Watch for an additional Speed Indication Device on the B4696. This will be reviewed and added to the agenda for February.

25-26/114 Clerks Report

The Precept request has been submitted to Wiltshire Council.

Communication from Parishioners/Others:

Broken Stile: Email received reporting broken stile on FP14.
Advised to report using My Wiltshire.

CIL Query: Email received querying CIL funds decisions.
Response from CIL Planning working group was provided.

25-26/115 Financial Report

The Finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

Interest	£ 2669.91
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Expenditure since the last meeting:

Open Space Maintenance	£ 1800.00
Payroll Services	£ 11.98
Scribe	£ 42.00
South Western Ambulance Trust	£ 300.00
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 15.42
Bank Charges	£ 10.25
HJ Carter	£ 375.00

Playing Fields

Income since the last meeting:

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Safety Signs	£ 90.95
Cotswold Home Renovations	£ 500.00
Bradstone Cleaning	£ 120.00
Electricity	£ 80.38
Hills Waste	£ 195.60
Castle Water	£ 10.73
Playing Fields Supplies	£ 79.48

The Council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

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25-26/116 Highways Improvement Request Rixon Gate

A Highways Improvement Request had been received requesting a sharp bend sign and 30mph limit at Rixon Gate. Due to the fact that a change in speed limit requires a traffic regulation order and Wiltshire Council have recently refused the relocation of 30mph signage in the village, the Parish Council agreed to submit two separate requests. Clerk to contact member of public for clarity on exact location.

Action: Clerk

25-26/117 Planning Applications

PL/2025/09668

Proposal: Construction of two dwellings and associated works.

Address: Land Adjacent Windrush, High Road

Comment: The Parish Council agreed to submit previous comment regarding riparian responsibility: Should permission be granted, the landowner as a riparian owner with responsibility for flood risk mitigation, should undertake clearance of vegetation, debris and silt, in that section of the river Thames adjacent to the land outlined in the location plan.

PL/2025/09938

Proposal: Horse Chestnut – re-pollard back to previous points, remove the south limb over the road. 8 Limes – re-pollard at previous points. Lawsons Cypress – reduce height similar to Limes after re-pollarding.

Address: Kent End Cottage, Kent End

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/00015

Proposal: Western Red Cedar – complete removal including stump grinding. Dead tree – fell. Two small trees withing hedge – fell.

Address: 23 The Mead

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/00034

Proposal: Maple – fell. Hornbeam – 30% crown reduction.

Address: 24 Fore Street

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/00035

Proposal: Whitebeam – 25% crown reduction. Sycamore – 30% crown reduction.

Address: 1 Glead Cottages, High Road

Comment: No objection

The Parish Council approved 'No Comment' on the following applications with past deadlines:

PL/2025/09587, PL/2025/09640, PL/2025/09826

25-26/118 Playing Fields Committee Update

Fire Risk Assessments have been carried out, awaiting official report. A couple of advisories have already been dealt with: thumb locks have been fitted to 2 x doors at Bradstone, a Fire Evacuation Plan has been produced and a muster point identified.

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The main electrical box is in need of inspection, as other electrical items are expected to appear on the report, this will be held until the report is received.

The Lotts play area gates are in need of replacement; this is in hand.

Skate Ramp removal is ongoing, currently looking for someone with the ability to remove/recycle/dispose of the ramp.

The wheely bins in the car park at the High Road have now been removed.

Signs have been installed and hirers reminded to reset the alarm when leaving Bradstone.

Pigeon droppings at The Lotts have been cleaned from play equipment. Brushes have been purchased and will be fitted along the top of the swings to deter pigeons from sitting above the swing seats. It was also noted that vomit had to be cleaned from play equipment.

25-26/119 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

To respond to any questions relating to reports circulated prior to the meeting.

- a) Planning Committee (AT) – Minutes and Agendas circulated.
- b) Internal Affairs Committee () – Nothing to report.
- c) Village Hall (MC) – Nothing to report.
- d) Cotswold Lake Trust (MJ) – Nothing to report.
- e) School Governors (SC) – Nothing to report.
- f) Police (SC) – Nothing to report.
- g) Highways (SC/AE) – Nothing to report.
- h) Footpaths, Rights of Way and Waterways (LM) – Nothing to report.
- i) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – Nothing to report.
- j) Parochial Church Council (LM) – Nothing to report.
- k) Millennium Green (NI) – Nothing to report.
- l) B4696 Road Safety (SC/AE) – Nothing to report.
- m) CIL Funds (TR) – Nothing to report.
- n) WC Operational Flood Risk Working Group (MC) – Nothing to report.

25-26/120 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any items to be put forward for the agenda and to submit any reports for the Committees, Working Groups and Representatives section at least 10 days in advance of the next meeting.

Proposals for the Council need to include sufficient information for the Council to be able to make an informed decision.

25-26/121 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is planned for 19th February at 7.30pm, in Ashton Keynes Primary School Hall, however, this falls in the February half term. Thursday 26th February was proposed as an alternative date. The Clerk will make arrangements and advise.

The meeting concluded at 8.46pm.