

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Bradstone Pavilion on Thursday 7th May 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs T Romback; M Carter; C McMurtry; M Young.

In attendance: Wiltshire Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk, 2 x Members of Public.

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Cllr Romback chaired the meeting.

26-27/016 Election of Chairman for the Council year 2026-27

Cllr Crawford was proposed by Cllr McMurtry and seconded by Cllr Carter. Councillor Crawford was elected unanimously as Chairman. It was agreed that the acceptance of office would be signed at the next meeting.

26-27/017 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Romback was proposed by Cllr McMurtry and seconded by Cllr Young. Councillor Romback was elected unanimously as Vice Chairman.

26-27/018 Public Section

Two members of public were in attendance with interests in planning applications on the agenda and the Anaerobic Digester application.

26-27/019 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Crawford, Inzani, Ellis, Jeffery and Grieves.

26-27/020 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26-27/021 Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were distributed prior to the meeting. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the Standing Orders.

26-27/022 Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct was distributed prior to the meeting. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the Code of Conduct.

26-27/023 Appointment of Members to Committees and Working Groups

Following discussion, members were allocated to committees and working groups. See Appendix A. The Council approved disbanding the Planning Committee and include all planning applications in Parish Council meetings.

26-24/024 Appointment/Confirmation of Representatives to Outside Bodies

Representatives to outside bodies were confirmed, see Appendix A.

26-27/025 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th April 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2026 were approved and signed.

26-27/026 Actions from Previous Meetings

26-27/007a – Cllr Berry to request further information regarding B4696 restrictions.

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Action: Cllr Berry

26-27/027 Chairmans Report

Road surfacing works at the Spine Road junction have now been completed and the junction is very much improved, thanks have been sent to Becky Chivers at Wiltshire Council.

Ashton Keynes has been entered into the Best Kept Village competition, the first phase of judging will take place between 9th and 24th May. It was agreed to post information regarding judging on Facebook.

Action: Clerk

Contact has been made with the new owner of Manor Farm, Cllr McMurtry will be the main point of contact moving forward regarding footpaths.

26-27/028 Clerks Report

All paperwork relating to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been sent to the Internal Auditor.

The Annual Subscription for Wiltshire Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils has been renewed.

The Clerks mobile phone has been updated and a new contract entered into.

The Clerk had visited the Swindon and Wiltshire History Centre to collect paperwork being returned for the Council to store.

Thanks – Email received thanking the Parish Council for its quick response and action regarding the anti-Pigeon brushes installed at The Lotts.

Thanks – Separate email received expressing thanks for the work carried out at The Lotts play area, anti-pigeon brushes and general tidying up.

Thanks – Email received giving thanks for the provision of Picnic benches at the parks.

AK Link Helpline – At its AGM in March, the AK Link Helpline agreed to ask the Parish Council for funding from the 2027/28 financial year. They will contact the Council with further information prior to precept and budget setting.

Flooding Rixon Gate: Email received regarding road flooding on Rixon Gate. This has been dealt with historically by Wiltshire Council Highways. Wiltshire Council Drainage and Cotswold Lakes Trust are investigating.

Dog Waste Bin Kent End/Back Street – numerous emails received regarding the overflowing bin including one complaining about the request from the Parish Council for people to not leave waste at an already full bin. Wiltshire Council have confirmed that they will make sure the bin is emptied weekly.

Bradstone – Email received stating that the Bradstone main gate and a storage shed were left open overnight. Playing Fields Chairman was informed and secured the site. Informed Bookings Secretary so they can ask hirer to make sure it does not happen again.

Anaerobic Digester Strategic Planning Committee Meeting – Numerous emails received asking if AKPC would be represented at the meeting.

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Cllr Berry represented AKPC at the meeting.

North End Works – Email received inviting AKPC to attend a site meeting regarding potential future use of the site.
Shared invite with all Councillors.

Fallen Tree – Email received reporting a fallen tree on the Thames Path.
Advised reporting via MyWilts.

White Hart Inn & CIL Funds – Email received asking Parish Council to consider using CIL funds for “a significant contribution from within the CIL monies to set the White Hart up as a Community pub/restaurant”.
Sign posted to the minutes of the April Parish Council Meeting.

CIL Consultation Link – Email received requesting a link to complete the CIL consultation online.
The link received did not work and no further response was received from CIL Working Group.

Village Gates and Additional SID – Email received asking for an update.
Both items are with LHFIG, the next LHFIG meeting is due to take place on 2nd June.

The report was noted.

26-27/029 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

Precept £22,0032.00

Expenditure since the last report:

Scribe	£ 42.00
AK Primary School Room Hire	£ 96.00
Open Space Maintenance	£ 990.00
Clerks Expenses QTR4	£ 106.55
Lloyds Bank Charges	£ 4.25
Cotswold Rivers Trust	£ 60.00
Payroll Services	£ 13.18
02 Mobile Phone	£ 15.42

Playing Fields

Income since the last meeting

Expenditure since the last report:

Bradstone Cleaning	£ 150.00
YGP Electricity	£ 142.68
Hills Waste	£ 226.32
Castle Water	£ 10.91
Noticeboard & Supplies	£ 124.19

The Council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

26-27/030 Anaerobic Digester

The Parish Council considered a request from South Cerney Parish Council for a contribution towards funding a Barrister as part of its further objection to the Anaerobic Digester application. The Parish Council approved a share of costs up to £500 with the

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suggestion that North End Works, Cricklade Town Council and Bewley Homes are also contacted.

Action: Clerk

26-27/031 Outreach Post Office

The Parish Council considered a request from the Village Hall Management Committee for an increase in the contribution to the Outreach Post Office, currently at £780.00 per year. The Parish Council approved a charge of £1170.00 for the financial year 2026/27 and £1560.00 for the financial year 2027/28.

Action: Clerk

26-27/032 Village Hall Car Park

The Parish Council agreed to investigate maintenance work on the Village Hall Car Park. It was agreed that the Village Hall Management Committee would seek three quotations for works on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Carter will liaise with the Village Hall Management Committee and Moreton Cullimore.

Action: Cllr Carter

26-27/033 Playing Fields Committee

The Parish Council approved new equipment for the High Road, a Climboo ST1420 at a maximum cost of £14080.00 and for The Lotts, a Little Hamlets Brill Plus at a maximum cost of £9886.77. The quotations will need to be adjusted as some works have already taken place.

Action: Cllr Young

Electrical work has been carried out at Bradstone and the building has now passed the inspection. The Bradstone Pavilion is being used by a special needs school three days a week. There is no access to the building Monday to Wednesday between 9am and 5pm other than for essential works due to safeguarding. The Cleaner has been asked to carry out additional cleaning.

26-27/034 Wiltshire Wildlife Natural Flood Management Walks

The Parish Council agreed to a one day visit from Wiltshire Wildlife pending an Operational Flood Working Group teams meeting on 20th May which will be attended by Cllr McMurtry. The cost of £250 per day will be shared by Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllr McMurtry

26-27/035 Closure of Purton HRC

The Parish Council considered a request from Purton Parish Council and agreed to join a collaborative working group against the closure of the Household Recycling Centre.

Action: Clerk

26-27/036 Planning Application

PL/2026/02253 – The Old Vicarage, Church Walk

T10 Leyland Cypress & G14 Lawson Cypress - Remove; T16 Ash - Reduce in height to final height of 9-10m; T19 Ash - Reduce in height to 4m; T95 Hazel - Coppice; T63 Goat Willow - Remove; T76 Ash - Remove damaged branch & Crown Clean.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/02131 - 32 Richmond Court

Single storey lean-to extension to rear of property.

Comment: No objection

Standing orders were suspended to allow a member of public to give further information on the following three applications. It was noted that the extension would not cause an

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increase in vehicle movements, will allow the site to be finished properly and no further extensions are planned.

PL/2026/02068 - Dairy Farm, Ashton Road

Variation of condition 1 of PL/2023/07538 to retain the concrete batching plant for a further two years to 31 December 2028.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/02067 - Dairy Farm, Ashton Road

Variation of condition 1 of PL/2023/07537 to retain the aggregate recycling facility for a further two years to 31 December 2028.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/02066 - Dairy Farm Quarry, Ashton Road

Variation of condition 1 of 19/06811/WCM to extend mineral and inert cessation dates and restoration requirements by two years.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/02332 - Kent End Farm, Kent End

Demolish of Existing Garage for storage of Vehicles and Replace with a larger Garage for storage of Vehicles.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/02597 - 1 Richmond Court

T1 Magnolia - 35% Crown Reduction; T2 Horse Chestnut - Remove lower branching up to a height of 5m; T3 Maple - 30% Crown Reduction.

Comment: No objection

26-27/037 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. The planning committee is in need of additional members.
- b) Internal Affairs Committee () – Nothing to report.
- c) Village Hall (MC) – No further report other than the above agenda item.
- 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 () – Nothing to report.
- i) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – Nothing to report.
- j) Parochial Church Council () – 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.

26-27/038 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.

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26-27/039 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 4th June, 7.30pm at Bradstone Pavilion.

The meeting concluded at 8.47pm.