

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Bradstone Pavilion on Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S Crawford – Chairman; M Carter; A Ellis; C McMurtry; K Grieves; S Harrison.

In attendance: Wiltshire Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk, 4 x Members of Public.

26-27/057 Public Section

One member of public raised the lack of mobile phone coverage in the village and was advised to contact their provider.

One member of public raised questions regarding CIL funds and the recent survey. No final decision on spending CIL funds has been made at this point. The CIL Working Group are using the survey results to formulate a proposal to be brought to the Parish Council.

A complaint was raised regarding overhanging vegetation in Church Walk. The Parish Council will write to the landowner.

It was asked who is responsible for the Church Walk river bank. There have been long discussions and investigation into the ownership previously, the outcome of which suggests that the riparian owners have responsibility.

One member of public left the meeting.

26-27/058 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Romback, Young and Jeffery.

26-27/059 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26-27/060 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th June 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2026 were approved and signed.

26-27/061 Actions from Previous Meetings

26-27/046 – The Clerk had made contact with the member of public who raised two Highways Improvement Requests, to give an update on decisions made at the recent LHFIFG meeting.

26-27/051a – Internet usage policy has been produced for approval at this meeting.

26-27/053 – CIL survey results have been published in the newsletter.

26-27/053a – Liaison is ongoing with the Village Hall Management Committee regarding the CIL Working Group proposals.

26-27/062 Chairmans Report

Access to the Scribe accounting software has been given to the Chairman and Cllr Inzani for the purposes of supporting the internal controls check and bank reconciliation checks.

On 10th June the Chairman and Cllr Carter met with a company that is representing the new owner of the North End works site in South Cerney. The new owner has contracted Origin 3 to explore future uses of the site. The meeting was requested by Origin3 as a meet

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and greet to ensure they have the appropriate contacts for interested parties. No formal details were discussed, they are exploring many different uses for the site, operationally the site will cease to operate by the end of the summer 2026.

Wiltshire's Weather Team have made their annual contact with all Parish's for the preparation for the 2026/7 Winter Season, as with previous years Parishes have been offered the opportunity to order and collect equipment from Chippenham Depot during selected dates in October. As per previous years we will publish the availability to order these items in the village newsletter so that any interested parishioners can obtain and hold stock of items to be used by themselves locally. Note that there is already some stock of these items with individual parishioners in the village.

26-27/063 Clerks Report

The Parish Steward has returned to normal duties and visited Ashton Keynes on 18th June. The Steward has advised that due to a mechanical breakdown, verge cutting is a month behind, weed spraying is also behind schedule.

The DSE Self-Assessment has been carried out and the form completed for this year.

Overgrown Footpaths – Email received regarding overgrown footpaths in the village. *Advised to report to Wiltshire Council and passed comments to the Footpath, Rights of Way and Waterways working group.*

Footpath in Field Behind the School – Nettles at the Church Walk end encroaching on the path, especially around the stile. At the Gosditch end - more nettles, "a great deal of fallen leaves (an issue I have reported before and which should be an annual clear-up task, I think), and overhanging foliage from the next-door property".

High Road Pavilion – Complaint received regarding the state of the toilets at the High Road.

The building is awaiting clearance so that a deep clean can be carried out and a regular cleaning schedule put in place. The toilets have now been cleaned.

The Mead Pavement – Phone call received informing of a fall due to a dip in the pavement.

Reported to Wiltshire Council who have responded to say that they have taken action to resolve.

Overgrown Hedge at The Mead – Phone call received informing of an overgrown hedge partially blocking the footpath at The Mead.

Overgrown Hedge on Fore Street – Verbal report of vegetation overgrowing the pavement on Fore Street, making it difficult to pass without venturing out into the road for users of wheelchairs/prams etc.

The Parish Council resolved to write to the properties where overhanging vegetation has been reported and publish a notice in the newsletter.

The report was noted.

26-27/064 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

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Income since the last meeting:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| OneCom | £ 36.00 |
| SSE Wayleave | £ 4.00 |

Expenditure since the last report:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Lloyds Bank Charges | £ 8.50 |
| Scribe | £ 42.00 |
| Open Space Maintenance | £ 990.00 |
| South Cerney Parish Council | £ 500.00 |
| Millennium Green Trust Grant | £ 885.00 |
| Vodafone | £ 52.86 |
| Payroll Services | £ 13.18 |

Playing Fields

Income since the last meeting

| | |
|------|-----------|
| Hire | £ 1192.50 |
|------|-----------|

Expenditure since the last report:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Castle Water | £ 32.58 |
| Spot on Supplies | £ 5.03 |
| Keytrak Lock & Safe Co | £ 151.99 |
| TV License | £ 180.00 |
| YGP Electricity | £ 81.41 |
| Hills Waste | £ 298.42 |
| Bradstone Cleaning | £ 210.00 |

The Council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

26-27/065 Expenses Policy (Clerk)

The Parish Council approved the policy with update to best practice for meal allowance.

Action: Clerk

26-27/066 Public WiFi Use Policy

The Parish Council approved adoption of the policy. It was noted that a further policy was needed to cover security of the router, good practice procedures etc.

Action: Clerk

26-27/067 Grant Application Tennis Club

The Parish Council approved a grant of £10,000 to the Tennis Club towards the resurfacing of the third court, which is a pay and play court open to the public. The grant forms part of the wider project to resurface all three courts and replace the perimeter fencing.

As the High Road is a shared facility, further discussions would be required prior to works starting to minimise disruption to other users and to prevent damage to the site during the works.

The Tennis Club were advised to contact Malmesbury Area Community Trust, Malmesbury Area Board and Malmesbury League of Friends for potential further funding.

26-27/068 Church Walk Footpath

The footpath from the Church to the village is on land owned by a private individual, it is not owned or managed by either Ashton Keynes Parish Council or Wiltshire Council. It is a well-used permissive path that is in a poor state or repair.

The Parish Council approved a proposal to seek formal written permission from the landowner to undertake comprehensive repairs or potential replacement of the footpath, to obtain three quotations for the works and to explore all available funding opportunities, including support from Wiltshire Council and local businesses. The intention is to consider the findings and agree the way forward at the September meeting.

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It was noted that more natural surfacing options, rather than tarmac, would be preferable. It was also noted that any improvements undertaken by the Parish Council would not result in the Council assuming ongoing responsibility for the footpath.

Action: Cllr Inzani

26-27/069 Playing Fields Committee

Following the previous meeting, at which quotations of approximately £3,000 were received for a storage container, a suitable container has since been secured with only the delivery charge payable. The Parish Council approved expenditure of £595.00 for the delivery of the container.

26-27/070 Planning Applications

PL/2026/03129 – 10 Imperial Drive

Loft conversion with rooflights to the rear of the property.

Comment: No objection but raise concern regarding the limited number of neighbouring properties consulted as part of the application process.

PL/2026/03543 – 7 Dairy Farm, Gosditch

Reroofing and re rendering.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/03854 – The Barn, Back Street

T1 Bay tree – fell.

Comment: No objection

26-27/071 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

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

- a) Internal Affairs Committee () – Nothing to report.
- b) Village Hall (MC) – Nothing to report.
- c) Cotswold Lake Trust (MJ) – Nothing to report.
- d) School Governors (SC) – Nothing to report.
- e) Police (SC) – Nothing to report.
- f) Highways (SC/AE) – Nothing to report.
- g) Footpaths, Rights of Way and Waterways () – Nothing to report.
- h) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – Nothing to report.
- i) Parochial Church Council (CM) – It was agreed that Cllr McMurtry would be the Parish Council representative.
- j) Millennium Green (NI) – Nothing to report.
- k) B4696 Road Safety (SC/AE) – Nothing to report.
- l) CIL Funds (TR) – Nothing to report.
- m) WC Operational Flood Risk Working Group (MC) – Nothing to report.

26-27/072 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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26-27/073 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 3rd September, 7.30pm at Bradstone Pavilion.

The meeting concluded at 9.17pm.