

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Bradstone Pavilion on Monday 5th October 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S Crawford – Chairman; M Carter; N Inzani; C McMurtry; K Grieves.

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

26-27/092 Public Section

One member of public was representing Protect the Lakes, he introduced himself and gave background on why the company was formed. PTL was set up following concerns over the Anaerobic Digester application. They have engaged with local businesses and Parish Councils and set up an advisory committee with an aim to achieve Rule 6 Status should an appeal be brought. The next meeting is taking place tomorrow night.

1 x MOP Left.

One member of public had rescued a Thames Trail Trust wooden sign that had fallen off of its post on the bend of Happy Land and was sitting on the verge. It was requested that the sign be reinstalled.

It was noted that the fingerpost at the North End triangle was in need of attention.

26-27/093 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Romback.

The following Councillors were absent: Cllr Harrison, Cllr Jeffery, Cllr Young.

26-27/094 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26-27/105 Protect the Lakes Ltd

The Chairman moved this item up the agenda due to interest from members of the public. The Parish Council agreed to support PTL and pledged £5000.00 financial support, pending investigations by the Clerk. The Parish Council also agreed not to apply for Rule 6 status regarding the Anaerobic Digester application should it go to appeal.

Action: Clerk

1 X MOP left the meeting.

26-27/095 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3rd September 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2026 were approved and signed.

26-27/096 Actions from Previous Meetings

26-27/083 – CIL working group agreed to the use of CIL funds for the Village Hall Car Park. Clerk has carried out a reserves transfer in the accounts.

26-27/079 – Gel Sacs have been delivered to the one member of public that made a request from the PEAs scheme.

26-27/079a – The Tennis court works contractors plan was reviewed; works have been carried out and there appears to be no damage to the surface of the playing field.

26-27/082 – The competing insurance renewal quote was reviewed and accepted.

26-27/088 – The Chairman gave a speech at the Best Kept Village presentation.

26-27/088a – The WI provided a range of refreshments for the Best Kept Village presentation and will be thanked.

26-27/088b – Best Kept Village presentation posters were produced and displayed.

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26-27/097 Chairmans Report

The Highway Improvement Request for village gates has now been completed, further improvement works to the B4696 will continue.

LHFIG has provided proposed locations for 2 x Bend Warning signs at Rixon Gate, the cost will be around £600 with the Parish Council contributing 30%. The approval for these will be added to the November agenda.

Action: Cllr Crawford

The Lawrence Kitching Winner of Winners presentation took place on Sunday 20th September. The award was presented by the Chairman of Wiltshire Council. A permanent staff has been installed on the High Road and an award certificate mounted in the village hall. The High Sheriff of Wiltshire sent a letter of thanks that ended "Wishing everybody in Ashton Keynes the very best for the future, you remain a fine example to us all".

Thanks were expressed for all of the hard work from the parishioners who helped make this possible, to Cllr Romback for submitting and coordinating the award application, to Cllrs Carter and Inzani for attending the presentation and for the amazing support from Ashton Keynes WI for their catering and hospitality offering.

The award came with a cash prize, quotations are being sought to obtain a more permanent plaque to accompany the staff on the High Road.

Two parishioners in the village have open cases with Thames Water, relating to capacity works. One case affects a property on the High Road where internal flooding occurred and the other relates to noise/disturbance from pumping. Previous correspondence with Thames Water suggested that modelling work was being undertaken to identify what works were required to upgrade the capacity. Recent correspondence from Thames Water suggests that modelling is complete and that no action was identified. Additional information and clarification has been requested. The Parish Council continue to follow this with Thames Water, Roz Savage is also involved.

26-27/098 Clerks Report

The Parish Steward has filled a pot hole in Back Street near Plough House and cut back around road signs.

The Parish Council debit card has been received.

A request to ask the Parish Steward to clear gullies along Happy Land was received, this was added to the work sheet.

26-27/099 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

OneCom	£ 36.00
VAT Reclaim	£ 2408.28

Expenditure since the last report:

Scribe	£ 42.00
Payroll Services	£ 13.18
Vodafone	£ 51.15
Open Space Maintenance	£ 990.00
Lloyds Bank Charges	£ 4.25

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Unity Bank Charges	£ 7.00
Community First Insurance	£ 1492.19

Playing Fields

Income since the last meeting

Expenditure since the last report:

YGP Electricity	£ 110.05
Hills Waste	£ 306.03
Bradstone Cleaning	£ 375.00
Castle Water	£ 0.47
BT Broadband	£ 14.03
Playdale	£ 5006.39
Molson Group	£ 714.00
E J White	£ 180.00

The Council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

26-27/100 Planning Applications

PL/2026/01909 – 30 Kent End

Proposed erection of self-build dwelling.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/04900 – Land Adjacent Guest Farm, Rixon Gate

Demolition of redundant farm buildings and construction of 4 no. dwellings.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/05544 – Kings Drive

Listed building consent. Amendment roof covering finishes.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/04471 & PL/2026/05873 – The Barn, 8A High Road

Internal alterations and modifications to general layout with new open to porch roof and replacement of late 20th century UPVC windows.

Comment: Objection

PL/2026/05816 – 25 Park Place

Red Mulberry tree – reduce by 40%.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/05811 -Rixon Farm, Rixon Gate

Variation of Condition 2 of 14/03493/FUL to allow the resizing and relocation of the carports serving Plots 3, 4 and 5, the relocation of the bats roosting space, and the amendment of the incorrectly shown footpath from the site entrance on the original application.

Comment: No objection

PL/2026/05858 – 24 Kent End

T1 - Ash tree - Fraxinus excelsior - remove limbs overhanging garden of 24 Kent End T2 - Ash tree - Fraxinus excelsior - remove limbs overhanging garden of 24 Kent End.

Deadline: No objection

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit 'no comment' on the following 2 x applications received after the publication of the agenda:

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PL/2026/05998 – 34 Richmond Court - T1 Silver Birch - Reduce crown back to previous pruning points; T3 Hazel - Reduce to fence height.

PL/2026/06206 – 34 Richmond Court - T2 Ash - Re-pollard.

26-27/101 CIL - Bradstone Pavilion

There was not enough information to consider the request – only one quote had been sought.

26-27/102 Tree Survey

The Parish Council approved the go ahead of quote 2 at a cost of £1000.00.

Action: Clerk

26-27/103 Defibrillators

Community Hearbeat Trust have been contacted regarding supplying additional defibrillators, awaiting their quote. The Parish Council would be looking to budget between £4000 and £5000 for three additional defibrillators. One at Bradstone, one at the Village Hall and one in the Back Street area.

26-27/104 B4040/B4696 Speed Review

The Parish Council had supported a speed review requested by neighbouring parishes. The Speed Review came back with very little improvement. The Parish Council agreed to continue to support neighbouring parishes in their coordinating response to the review.

26-27/106 Playing Fields Committee Update

Minutes of the September meeting were distributed. The Committee is meeting more regularly. The CIL working group have been held up due to the lack of clearance at the High Road, it has now been agreed that the High Road will be cleared by the end of October. Engagement with Tennis and Football clubs is good. A secure router has been purchased and will be fitted.

26-27/107 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.

26-27/108 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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26-27/109 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on the revised date of 12th November, 7.30pm at Bradstone Pavilion.

The meeting concluded at 9pm.