

Agenda

Ashwell Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 February 2024,
in the Parish Room at 7pm

To Councillors: Chris Button, Ian Duffy, Vinny Hall, Martin Hoffman, Graham Lee (Chair), Norton Mahy (Vice Chair), David Sims.

Councillors are summoned to attend this meeting for the transaction of business in the agenda below.

The meeting is open to members of the public and press unless a resolution for a particular agenda item decides otherwise. The meeting can be attended in person or via Zoom. Please sign up on the website (www.ashwell.gov.uk) to be sent login details and to receive regular communications on village matters, or contact the parish office direct.

District Councillor Tom Tyson and County Councillor Steve Jarvis routinely attend meetings.

Appendices to the agenda are available on the website or by request.

<https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings/full-council/2023-meeting-minutes/>

104 Apologies for absence

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

- 105 **Interests** a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda, b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests, and c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. Where any declaration of interest involves the chair, the meeting to agree an alternative individual to take the chair for that item(s).

106 Minutes

- 106.1 Proposal to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 06 December 2023 as an accurate record of proceedings. *Draft minutes in appendix A.*

107 Parish Issues and Public Participation

https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/downloads/what_the_parish_council_does_from_may_2023/apc_public_participation_protocol_2023.pdf

Standing Orders to be suspended.

- 107.1 To note any updates on various ongoing matters.

107.1.1 Police Neighbourhood Watch and the OWL scheme. To note the ongoing input from a parishioner and PCSO Chris Braybrook from the Royston Neighbourhood Team. *See minute 67.3 October 2023 council meeting.*

<https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/news2/police-neighbourhood/>

<https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/news2/police-newsletter-fr/>

107.1.2 Community Drivesafe volunteer scheme. To receive any updates on the proposals for a local group.

<https://www.hertscommissioner.org/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/getting-involved/community-drivesafe/drivesafe-volunteer-guidance-v2.0-202204.pdf>

107.2 To note the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at Ashwell Primary School on Wednesday 20th March at 7pm.

<https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings/>

107.3 To hear any new matters raised (*members of the public and councillors can raise any Parish related matters*)

107.4 To receive reports from representatives from outside bodies, local authorities and agencies.

107.4.1 To receive a report from County Councillor Steve Jarvis. To include any further information on the following: (i) Planters at the War Memorial junction; (ii) Verge damage at Walkdens; (iii) New footway at Townsend Meadow on the boundary with Station Road. *See January council 98.4.1.*

107.4.2 To receive a report from District Councillor Tom Tyson. To include any further information on the following: (i) North of Baldock extension and communications with the master developer Urban & Civic <https://growingbaldock.co.uk/> *See January council 98.4.3;* (ii) Ownership of the trees and hedgeline at Townsend Meadow on the boundary with Station Road. *See January council 98.4.2.*

Standing Orders to be reinstated.

108 Reports from Working Groups. To receive oral updates from relevant leaders/members and agree any actions that require Parish Council input/approval.

108.1 Green Energy & EV Charging Infrastructure (Cllrs Graham Lee and Ian Duffy).

108.2 Litter Picking (Cllr Norton Mahy). To note the event planned for Saturday 20 April.

108.3 Planning Advisory (includes matters re affordable housing and section 106) (Cllrs Chris Button and Norton Mahy). To include any further information from NHC/the Rural Housing Enabler re the Housing Needs Survey

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/housing-need-north-herts>

See also 109.3 below re the Hunts Close application.

108.4 Trees and Hedges (Cllr David Sims).

108.5 Yearbook 2024 edition (Cllr Norton Mahy).

109 Planning matters: to include new and existing applications *See summary in appendix B.*

On the NHC website enter the reference number into the planning search box for full details.

<https://pa2.north-herts.gov.uk/online-applications/>

109.1 New consultations received from NHC. To note any correspondence and agree responses.

109.2 Tree consultations (Conservation Area and TPO) received from NHC. To agree responses to any received.

109.3 Land between Hunts Ridge and Ashwell House (the field known as Hunts Close between the Ruddy and Lucas Lane). NHC ref. 22/03094/FP. Erection of 14 dwellings including creation of access from Ashwell Street, footpath link to Lucas Lane, associated infrastructure, public open space and landscaping.

To note the refusal decision by the NHC Planning Control Committee and agree any action.

<https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=3437&Ver=4>

109.4 To note the concerns raised by a parishioner re the removal of trees at Claybush Hill Meadow covered by a planning condition. *See documents on the NHC website NHC ref. 16/01797/1*

<https://pa2.north-herts.gov.uk/online-applications/>

109.5 To note the Planning summary sheet updated with NHC decisions on applications. *See appendix B.*

110 Reports from Committees

110.1 HR Committee. To receive an oral report on the recruitment of a new clerk and agree any actions.

<https://www.ashwell.gov.uk/news2/recruitment-for-a-pa/>

111 Reports from parish councillors on premises and other responsibilities

111.1 The Springs. To receive an oral report from Cllr Martin Hoffman.

111.2 St Mary's Churchyard Grounds Maintenance. To note a liaison meeting with St Mary's representatives scheduled.

111.3 Recreation Ground including the playground, pavilion and public toilets. To receive an oral report from Cllr Graham Lee and agree any actions needed.

111.4 Small Gains (Accies sports pitch and allotments). To receive an oral report from Cllr David Sims.

111.5 Street furniture.

111.5.1 Litter bin survey. To receive an oral report from Cllr Norton Mahy.

111.5.2 Seats. To receive an oral report from Cllrs Chris Button and agree any actions needed. To include an update on the seat in Angells Meadow to be sponsored by the WI.

111.6 War Memorial and Cemetery Chapel. To note the update of professional valuations pending.

111.7 To receive any other premises/responsibilities reports.

112 Finance and Governance

112.1 Budget tracking and the monthly summary of accounts. To note the information up to 31 January circulated to parish councillors after the end of the month. Proposal that the summary of receipts and payments be issued with the draft minutes and the two nominated parish councillors sign off the accounts in accordance with internal control procedures.

112.2 Unreasonable Complaints Procedure. *See item 103.4 January Council 2024.*

To receive a proposal that the SLCC model document be adopted. *See appendix C.*

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 06 March 2024, 7pm.

[Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 20 March, 7pm at the school.]

Issued by Jane Porter, Acting Clerk to Ashwell Parish Council, 01 February 2024