

Agenda

Ashwell Parish Council Meeting, to be held in the Parish Room on Wednesday 8th January 2025, at 7.00pm

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

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

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, a copy of the recording will be available from the Clerk upon request. Please sign up on the website (www.ashwell.gov.uk) to be sent login details and to receive regular communications on village matters.

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

Copies of the agenda and other items on the website are available by request or by clicking on this link. [PC Agendas and Minutes](#)

- 1 **Apologies for absence To receive and accept apologies for absence.**
- 2 **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 involved the Chair, the meeting to agree an alternative individual to take the Chair for that item(s).
- 3 **Minutes Proposal** to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 4th December 2024 as an accurate record of proceedings. [Draft Minutes from 4th December 2024 Meeting](#)
- 4 **Parish Issues and Public Participation** [Protocols for Public Participation in Council Meetings](#)
 - 4.1 To hear any new matters raised (members of the public and councillors can raise any Parish related matters).
 - 4.1.1 To note any update on Ashwell Academical Youth Football Club (ACCIES) in an effort to keep more playing matches and training in the Village. [Appendix A](#) & [Appendix B](#)
 - 4.1.2 To note update on request from [EatFeast](#)
 - 4.1.3 To note update to production of [The Yearbook 2025](#)
 - 4.1.4 To note update regarding [Station Road](#) development.
 - 4.1.5 To note Highways meeting safety/traffic problems, to determine locations for painted [yellow lines](#).
 - 4.2 To receive reports from representatives from outside bodies, local authorities and agencies.

4.2.1 To receive a report from County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

4.2.2 To receive a report from District Councillor Tom Tyson, to include an update on Urban & Civic regarding the Baldock expansion project.

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

5.1 **Planning Advisory Working Group** - To note, any further information regarding S106 and to note [correspondence received from CDA Herts](#). APC are still awaiting the outcome from CDA Herts of the **Affordable Housing Survey**.

5.2 **Access to Ashwell station** includes the cycle/footway route and car parking. (Cllr Lee).

5.3 **Trees and Hedges** (Cllr Sims).

5.4 **Zero Carbon Ashwell (ZCA)** group. (Cllrs Lee & Duffy).

6 Planning matters: to include new and existing applications. To see full details of applications on the [NHC website](#) enter the reference number into the planning search box.

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

6.1.1 Prior Approval Class Q Agric to Dwelling : Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to provide 8 residential units : 24/02712/PNQ : Kirby Manor Farm, Northfield Road, Ashwell, SG7 5JQ. Extension date to respond by 10th January 2025.

6.1.2 Full Permission Householder : Insertion of external wall insulation and replace render to existing solid walls : 24/02793/PFH : 53 Station Road, Ashwell SG7 5LR

6.1.3 Full Planning Permission : Erection of two 2-bed dwellings, three 3-bed dwelling and two four-bed dwellings, with associated access, landscaping and parking: 24/02214/FP : Land On The North West Side Of, Green Lane, Ashwell, SG7 5LW

6.2 Current Applications awaiting NHC Decision:

6.2.1 To note any updates to 24/01444/FP: Land Between Huntsridge and Ashwell House 5 High Street Erection of 14 dwellings (including affordable housing), (Hunts Close).

6.3 To note any updates to [Appeal Consultation 22/03094/FP](#): Land Between Huntsridge and Ashwell House 5 High Street Erection of 14 dwellings including creation of access from Ashwell Street, footpath link to Lucas Lane, associated infrastructure, public open space and landscaping – To agree a response to the appeal consultation. See [Appeal letter to Inspector](#) and [Appendix B.](#) (Hunts Close).

To note the [Planning Summary](#) as of 2nd January 2025.

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

7.1 T1: Silver Birch - Crown reduce to previous points to leave viable growth where possible. This will amount to 1 - 1.5m : 24/02584/TCA : 5 Silver Street.

7.2 Trees (Tree Preservation Order) : T5: Sycamore - Fell. Land Between : 24/02775/TPO : Ducklake House And 19, Springhead.

7.3 T1: Ginkgo Biloba- Crown Reduce by 1m. T2: Wild Cherry - Crown Reduce by 1.5m. T3: Holly - Reduce in height be 4m: 40 High Street : 24/02895/TCA

7.4 To note the [Tree Planning Summary](#) as of 2nd January 2025.

8 Reports from Committees

8.1 HR Committee. To receive an oral reports and agree any actions.

9 Reports from parish councillors on premises and other responsibilities. To receive oral reports and agree any actions needed.

9.1 **The Springs** Report from Cllr Hoffman.

9.2 **St Mary's Churchyard** Grounds Maintenance. Report from Cllr Hoffman.

9.3 **Recreation Ground including the playground, pavilion and public toilets.** To consider next steps (including formation of a working party). See [2024 Pavilion Consultation working documents](#) for discussion.

To review & consider [working party applications](#).

9.3.1 Closed session meeting to discuss volunteer selection for Pavilion Working Party.

Exclusion of Press and Public. It was unanimously resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, namely: Pavilion Working Party Selection.

9.4 **Small Gains and Track** (Accies pitch and allotments). Report from Cllr David Sims to include maintenance costs of track and allocation of costs among users (ref item 10.2.2.).

9.5 **Cemetery** – To note a report from Cllr Mahy.

Street furniture.

9.5.1 To note the [response](#) from NHC [Shared Waste Services](#) re Litter bin review. (November agenda item 65.5.1)

10 Finance and Governance

10.1 **Budget tracking** and the monthly summary of accounts. To note the information up to month end to be 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.

To note any variances of actual expenditure compared to budget.

10.2 **Budget 2025/26 Update** – To note any updates.

10.2.1 [Fees for Club use of Rec & Pavilion](#)

10.2.2 [Allocation of costs for upkeep of Small Gains Lane.](#)

10.2.3 Budget 2025/26 – for discussion

10.2.4 Precept for 2025/26 – to be issued following approval of budget

- 10.3 **Annual Audit** for the 2023-24 financial year. To note the Interim review received from the External Auditor, but a final report is pending their review of [correspondence from a Parishioner](#). To consider the parish council's response and costs which would subsequently be charged to the Parish Council.
- 10.4 **To note any updates to change of bank signatories** to reflect new Clerk.
- 10.5 **To note date of next APC meeting and Parish Meeting 2025**
- Wednesday 5th February 2025 at 7pm
 - Advance notice of the Parish Meeting in the School Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 19th March 2025.