AshwellVillage Trust
Hertfordshire

ASHWELL VILLAGE TRUST CHARITY COMMISSION NO. 294673
TO PROMOTE THE PERMANENT PRESERVATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE INHABITANTS OF THE PARISH OF ASHWELL, LANDS AND BUILDINGS OF BEAUTY OR HISTORIC INTEREST, ECOLOGICAL OR SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE PARISH, AND GENERALLY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE CHARACTER AND AMENITIES OF THE PARISH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

MINUTES

Minutes of the AGM of the Trustees of the Ashwell Village Trust held on 8th July at 1pm in the Parish Council Office, 6a Back Street.

Present: Graham Lee (*Parish Council Chairman and, in accordance with the trust deed, Chairman of the trustees*), Simon Bettany (*Treasurer and appointed trustee*), Ian Thomas (*trustee*), Jane Porter (*trustee*), Sally Roberts (*Clerk*), Nicky Forrester (*Deputy Clerk*).

1. **Apologies for absence** received from Joan Yates (*Parish Council trustee*), Liz Moynihan (*trustee*) and Claire Moynihan (*trustee*).

2. **Minutes**. It was agreed to approve the **minutes of the meeting** held on 17th June 2025.
Acton: G Lee/Clerk

3. **Trustees and the Trust Deed**. To note the current trustees and agree any proposed changes.
Summary of changes agreed in 2025

3.1 To consider whether to progress an amendment to the Trust Deed to allow (i) proxy voting, (ii) virtual and/or hybrid meetings.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-meetings-cc48/charities-and-meetings

It was noted that as the meeting was not quorate that no decisions could be made, but that general agreement would be as follows:

It was agreed not to consider Proxy voting, ie that a representative stands on behalf of a Trustee but that votes by email and via online meetings is accepted to ensure the meeting is quorate. The Clerk was instructed when issuing the Agenda to request Trustees to indicate if they are able to attend the meeting and if not for the Trustee to confirm and identify Agenda items for approval. **Action: Clerk**

3.2 It was noted that David Sims (Parish Council trustee) had resigned from the Parish Council. It was requested that a replacement be appointed by the Parish Council.
Action: Clerk **Financial and Governance matters**.

4.1 To note the **Hon Treasurer's report** and **Hon Treasurer's accounts** (*provided by Hon Treasurer).*
The main source of income for the Trust is by interest amounting to £591 for the annum from . the Yorkshire Building Society savings account at an average interest rate of 2.55%. Expenditure incurred throughout the year was on plants for the

garden and amounted to £61, leaving just over £24,500 in the Building Society earning interest.

The interest rate was discussed and questioned if it could be improved upon. Very few banks want to take charity accounts as their customers, however the Unity Bank serves Parish Councils and similar organisations. It was agreed that this, and other alternative accounts, giving better interest rates be investigated.

Action: Simon Bettany

The Trustees accepted the accounts, and those Trustees absent will be asked to give their approval by email.

4.2 **To review the insurance and risk assessment documents** and agree any updates/amendments to the following:

(i) Health & Safety Policy Statement.
(ii) Management and Risk Assessment Policy
(iii) Cottage Garden Risk Assessment.

It was proposed that a restructure on the status of the Charity into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation would reduce any potential risk to Trustees and that this should be investigated. **Action: Jane Porter**

It was agreed that when the next AVT meeting date is scheduled, that a Risk Assessment of the Cottage Garden should be reviewed in order that Trustees were provided with the latest updated information prior to the meeting.
Action: Jane Porter

Amendments to the Health & Safety Policy is to be made by Simon Bettany.

4. **To consider any Cottage Garden matters and agree any actions**.
There is to be replacement fencing imminently erected by neighbours of the Cottage Garden as they are responsible for that part of the boundary. AVT had been approached and asked if they wish to make a contribution, this was declined. AVT had commented on what fencing is used. It is understood that it will be close board, 4 feet high with trellis on top. There were no objections to this.

5. **To consider any matters of report from previous meetings and agree any actions**.
Simon Bettany informed the meeting that he wishes to resign as Hon Treasurer and will not be in the role for the next AGM. It was agreed that Simon and other Trustees will endeavour to find a replacement, and that advertising for both the roles of Hon Treasurer and Trustee would be carried out in January 2027 and will be an agenda item at that Parish Council Meeting.

6. **Proposal for the date of the next meeting**. 14th July 2027 at 1pm, venue TBA.

The meeting closed at 2.05pm

Sally Roberts - Clerk Ashwell Parish Council
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