



Ashwell Parish Council

Chairman: Graham Lee (☎ 742834)
Office at Bear Farm, 6A Back Street (☎ 743706)
Clerk: Jane Porter, ✉ clerk@ashwell.gov.uk

www.ashwell.gov.uk

News items from the Parish Council. Below are the main points from the Parish Council meeting on 6 September 2023, and actions that follow from that meeting.



Please note that a full recording of the discussions that took place at the meeting is available to listen to on the website.

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

Your Parish Council

Since the May 2023 election your new Parish Council has been reviewing a large number of policies & procedures that are required under the law. While I have been attempting to create a more informal and approachable atmosphere at Parish Council meetings we have had to spend time ensuring that these legally required governance matters are updated properly. This has contributed to what may appear to be more formal meetings. Those matters have nearly been concluded, and I hope that we will soon be able to return to focussing on practical local matters that will interest you. Please come to the meetings and contribute with any issues or ideas that you may have to make Ashwell an even better village for all.

Please also note that the Parish Council is recruiting for a Clerk and Deputy Clerk as our current Clerk, Jane Porter, would like to retire. ***Please contact me or Jane (details above) if you are interested in one of the roles.***

Ashwell Highways

- **Hodwell.** Since the drainage repairs reported last month it has become evident that the section of roadway towards Church Walk and Swan St has been reduced in width as a result of the new kerb making it impossible for a large lorry like the refuse collection one to pass if a car is parked alongside the Church fence pathway. So parishioners have requested yellow lines in that section of Hodwell. A site survey will be undertaken by Herts Highways to assess whether lines are justified.
- **Gardiners Lane.** Options were discussed in response to the lorry damaging the corner of the house at the High St entrance to Gardiners Lane. These included installing 'unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles' signage along the approaches to Gardiners Lane. Given the concerns re unsightliness and effectiveness of signage, and the rarity of events, it was agreed that no action should be requested unless further incidents occurred.

Planning

- **Dixies Meadow.** Since the PC meeting North Herts held a Planning Meeting on 14th September at which the application to build on Dixies Meadow was **rejected**, as recommended by the Planning Officer and previous objections by the Parish Council.
- **Bygrave Solar Farm.** The same meeting also included an agenda item to consider the Solar Farm application. Following a decision by the Secretary of State to review the application North Herts Council decided to defer their discussion on the application. This is likely to delay a decision on this for several months.
- **Ashwell Household.** An application from a householder in Loves Lane for a single storey side/rear extension to connect a cottage and annexe was supported by the Parish Council.

Next Parish Council Meeting – 7PM Wednesday 4th October 2023