

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Andy Robinson
Email clerk@ashtounderhill.org.uk

MINUTES – JULY 2025

From the Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 8th July 2025** at AUH Chapel Hall.

It was fully accessible to the public and press.

Present – Cllr D Rose (Chairperson), Cllr D Cope, Cllr M Wood, Cllr J Baylis, County Cllr A Hardman, District Cllr B Hardman, Andy Robinson (Clerk). 0 members of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE TO OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON:

Cllr Wood proposed to elect Cllr Rose to the position of Chairperson, Cllr Cope seconded and all voted in favour. Cllr Rose signed the acceptance of office.

2. WELCOME, PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The Chair welcomed all present. Apologies from Cllr S Masding.

3. DISPENSATIONS:

- (I) Cllr Rose 1 year from 13th May 2025 Ashton Social Centre (ASC), (discussion and voting rights).
- (II) Cllr Cope 1 year from 13th May 2025 Ashton Social Centre (ASC), (discussion and voting rights).
- (III) Cllr Baylis 1 year from 13th May 2025 Ashton Social Centre (ASC), (discussion and voting rights).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REMINDERS:

The Chairperson reminded all members of their responsibilities regarding declarations of interest. Cllr Cope stated she had a personal interest in item 20 on the Agenda. The Clerk advised that she may wish to leave the room whilst item 20 is discussed but was reminded it was down to her own personal discretion and the Clerk had no powers to insist.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No members of the public.

6. CLERK UPDATES & URGENT DECISIONS (DELEGATED AUTHORITY):

- (I) Delegated authority on items listed under Planning below.
- (II) The Clerk made reminders of the new email address (listed at the top of this agenda).

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Cllr Wood proposed to approve the Minutes relating to the previous Parish Council meeting, held on 13th May 2025. Cllr Baylis seconded and all voted in favour.

8. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

District Cllr Beverley Hardman:

- 1. Unitary updates.
- 2. Updates on meetings at Wychavon District Council.
- 3. SWDP updates.
- 4. An extra road sweeper has been secured by Cllr Hardman. This road sweeper is for the sole use of villages so should help keep drains and gulleys clear.

County Cllr Adrian Hardman:

- 1. Updates on County meetings with a minority administration.
- 2. Financial updates.
- 3. Progress with flooding issues.
- 4. 20mph speed restriction through the Village has been submitted by Cllr Hardman.
- 5. Local divisional members fund is still available should any projects be implemented.

Cllr A Hardman and Cllr B Hardman left the meeting.

9. PROGRESS REPORTS:

- A. Social Centre** – Cllr Cope – Drainage work at the Cricket ground / football field has been delayed due to faulty equipment.
- B. Police** – unallocated, nothing to report.
- C. Lengthsman** – the Clerk stated that the Lengthsman is currently without transport and that he was offering to resign his position as the Lengthsman for Ashton. The Clerk will further this and report back at the next meeting.
- D. Flooding** – unallocated, nothing further to report.
- E. Highways & Byways** – Cllr Masding – not present. Nothing to report.
- F. Trees** – Cllr Wood reported that the tree survey was now complete but there are some trees reported on there that are not necessarily owned by the Parish Council. Cllr Wood will make further enquiries and report back at the next meeting.
- G. War Memorial & Steps NHB** – still awaiting updates from Barry Barnes at WCC (**the Clerk will again chase**).
- H. Long Carrant (A46) Improvements** – All members. Cllr Wood reported it was still ongoing.
- I. VAS** – allocated to Cllr Baylis as lead Cllr. The Council would like to formally thank P&H Services Dumbleton Ltd for repairing the VAS free of charge.
- J. Missing Postbox** – Cllr Wood reported that he is still liaising with Royal Mail regarding the missing letter box.

10. PLANNING APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS (lead Cllr Rose):

W/25/01043/HP	The Old Barn, Elmley Road	Demolition of existing garage and outbuilding and erection of replacement garage and outbuilding.	No objections submitted.
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W/25/01331/AG	Land at (OS 0020 3778) The Groaten	Prior notification for a new agricultural building for the storage of hay and straw.	No objections submitted.
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11. FINANCE:

- (I) Cllr Wood proposed to approve the below Receipts and Payments, Cllr Cope seconded and all voted in favour.
 (II) Cllr Wood proposed to approve the 1st quarter accounts, Cllr Cope seconded and all voted in favour.

Bank balances as at 30th June 2025:

Current account balance	-	£22,538.46
Savings account balance	-	£16,115.71
Total		£38,654.17

Payments May / Jun 2025

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Amount (£)
1	Worcs Pension Fund	Pension Contributions Apr 25	01/05/25	£ 206.61
2	Fast Signs	Tennis Court Signage Inv 29701	01/05/25	£ 85.75
3	Hartwells & Co	Replacement Oak Bench (Cottons Lane)	13/05/25	£ 572.57
4	A Robinson	Clerk Salary May 25	28/05/25	£ 615.09
5	AUH Chapel	Meeting Hall Venue 24-25	29/05/25	£ 150.00
6	The Defib Pad	Replacement Responder Kit	29/05/25	£ 17.82
7	Zurich	Parish Council Insurance 25-26	29/05/25	£ 395.04
8	Worcs Pension Fund	Pension Contributions May 25	29/05/25	£ 206.61
9	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	31/05/25	£ 6.00
10	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office May 25	02/06/25	£ 15.00
11	Webbees	Web hosting Jun - Nov 25	18/06/25	£ 140.00
12	PATA	Payroll Apr / May / Jun 25	18/06/25	£ 37.35
13	WCC Pension Fund	Pension Contributions Jun 25	18/06/25	£ 206.61
14	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office Jun 25	30/06/25	£ 15.00
15	A Robinson	Clerk Salary Jun 25	30/06/25	£ 614.89
16	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Service Charge	30/06/25	£ 6.00

Receipts May / Jun 2025

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Total (£)
1	ASC	Donation for replacement bench Cottons Lane	12/5/25	£477.14
2	HMRC	VAT Reclaim 2024-25	10/6/25	£342.36
3	Unity Trust Bank	Interest	30/6/25	£93.72

12. DEFIBRILLATOR:

Cllr Rose proposed to authorise up to £20.00 (to include delivery costs) for the purchase of a spare 'responders kit', Cllr Cope seconded the proposal and all voted in favour.

13. TREE SURVEY:

Discussed during item 9.

14. PLAYGROUND:

Cllr Rose gave updates on the progress of the planned upgrade of the Childrens playground area. It was noted that this was within the planning and feasibility stage and that no authority for spending is yet to be authorised.

15. DAMAGED BENCH (THE GROATEN):

It was reported that this is being taken care of by Worcestershire County Council and Barry Barnes is leading the repair work, it is anticipated that this should be completed within approximately 2 weeks.

16. CRAFT GROUP CASH DONATION:

Cllr Rose proposed to authorise spending of £75.00 to purchase items for the Parish Craft Group, Cllr Baylis seconded the proposal and all voted in favour. Cllr Rose will liaise with the Craft Group to establish suitable items to purchase to the value of £75.00.

17. WEB HOSTING:

Item postponed for next meeting.

18. VILLAGE SECURITY:

Council discussed the concerns over increased theft in the Village. It was resolved that the Clerk would invite the Safer Neighbourhood Team to the next meeting.

19. DOG FOULING:

Concerns have been raised to the Council regarding an increase in dog fouling in the Parish despite the vast number of dog waste bins available. The Council felt the best way to deal with this was to spread awareness of the issue and ask that members of the Parish pick up after their dogs. The Council will post on Social Media.

20. LETTER TO NEW OWNER OF THE ARBORETUM:

Cllr Rose provided the Council with an update on efforts to communicate with the new owner of the arboretum but reported that there has been no response to letters sent. Cllr Cope reported that the new owner was having a meeting with the First School on Friday in relation to the School being able to use the land in the future.

21. SCHOOL TRAFFIC:

Discussed during updates from Cllr Adrian Hardman.

22. TRACKER:

Council to review tracker in between meetings via email.

23. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA'S:

Nothing further.

24. ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE (data protection edited versions available from the Clerk on request):

Email in relation to trees at Yew Tree House.

25. PROVISIONAL NEXT MEETING DATE (PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES):

Tuesday 9th September 2025.

2115 hours meeting concluded.