

## MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7.00pm in THE FOX ASPENDEN.

Present                      Cllr Richard Blackburn (Chair)    Cllr Stuart Chambers    Cllr Joe Murphy  
                                 Cllr Thomas Poulton  
                                 County Councillor Terry Smith (arrived at 7.30pm)  
                                 0 members of the public  
Officer attending        Denise Anderson (Clerk)

### APOLOGIES

25.70    Apologies were received from Cllr Tracy Devonshire due to work commitments.

***It was resolved to approve Cllr Devonshire's absence.***

Apologies were received from District Councillor Sue Nicholls who was attending an EH Audit & Governance meeting. Cllr Nicholls sent a report.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25.71    None

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

25.72    No public present.

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

25.73    The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 having been circulated previously, were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

25.74    **Aspenden Parish Council Chair's Report**

#### **Play Area & Village Green Flooding**

Following the completion of the remedial works we are closely monitoring the green, although to date we have not had any significant rainfall to be able to determine the effectiveness of the works.

#### **Dandara Phase 2/Aspenden Road**

We are waiting to be advised of the timing of the works. It was accepted by both Highways and Dandara that any road closure will be kept to a minimum and if necessary, overnight only.

The recent closure of Aspenden Road was unrelated to the Dandara works and was a result of emergency cabling works by UK Power Networks, who effectively have the right to close roads without any consultation or notification.

#### **Un-named Road Between Aspenden & Westmill**

A meeting was held with Ringway, Herts CC's appointed contractor, Cllr Terry Smith & representatives from both Aspenden & Westmill Parish Council. The poor road quality was acknowledged and we were advised that repair works would be undertaken following completion of the Dandara highway works to Aspenden Road.

#### **Highways**

We would recommend residents continue to report pot holes, broken surfaces etc. through the East Herts website: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/highways-parking/report-street-light-or-pothole>

#### **St Mary's Church**

Volunteers are being sought to help with grass cutting and also keeping an eye on the Church at weekends as it will now be left open. If this proves successful, St Mary's would welcome offers to help lock and unlock on a regular basis.

If you are interested and can help, please contact Reverend Kirsty Wainwright:

M 07704 695787 E [vicarbw@gmail.com](mailto:vicarbw@gmail.com)

#### **Chris Newman**

It is with great sadness to inform you of the recent passing of Chris Newman. Chris was a great supporter of the village and could be seen regularly litter picking, carrying out odd jobs on the village green and in the Pavilion and maintaining the planters. He will be greatly missed and our condolences are sent to his wife Christine and his family.

**COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

25.75

**District Councillor's Report****Local Government Reorganisation and Public Consultation**

The public engagement on the future of local government in Hertfordshire have all taken place now, but there is still an opportunity to learn more about reorganisation and have your say via the online survey.

The details of this are on the dedicated microsite which also provides background information and set the scene for residents.

<https://www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk/>

**LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) Public Consultation**

The Public consultation for the East Herts Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is live from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> November.

This marks an important step forward in our commitment to improving active travel infrastructure across East Hertfordshire. The LCWIP outlines a strategic approach to developing safe, accessible, and well-connected walking and cycling routes that support healthier lifestyles, reduce congestion, and contribute to our sustainability goals.

You can view the plan and supporting information on the dedicated webpage:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/easthertslcwip](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/easthertslcwip)

Everyone is encouraged to explore the site and share it with your networks to help raise awareness and support for the initiative.

Public engagement events are being held across the district including one at Buntingford Market on Monday 29 September between 10am and 12pm.

**Arts in East Herts Showcase**

The Arts in East Herts Showcase has been running for a few weeks now and continues until the end of October with a wide variety of events taking place across the district.

Full details are available on the Arts in East Herts hub page on the East Herts website including an interactive map.

<https://yourvoice.eastherts.gov.uk/arts-in-east-herts>

**New Skills Campaign for East Herts – Seedl**

East Herts Council have recently launched a new training and skills campaign, Open Possibilities, to support residents, pupils, and local businesses in accessing training and boosting employment opportunities.

The initiative gives residents and businesses free access to a wide range of online training via the SEEDL platform. Courses cover areas such as IT, customer service, professional development, and sector-specific training, and are available both live and on-demand.

There is support for both residents and local businesses via two dedicated website hubs.

<https://www.seedl.com/o/easthertsresidentshub>

<https://www.seedl.com/o/easthertsdistrictcouncil>

**County Councillor's Report**

County Cllr Smith reported he had been dealing with the issues related to the Aspenden Road works and complaints from Dandara residents about unfinished planning requirements.

**FINANCE****25.76 Finance report and payments authorised**

To receive the finance report. The report is an appendix to the minutes.

**25.77 Barclays and Lloyds Parish Council Bank Accounts**

The Clerk reported she was trying to complete to move the Parish Council Account from Barclays Bank to Lloyds Bank but still had some problems to resolve re. Online Payment management.

*It was resolved to add Cllr Murphy to the Lloyds Bank Mandate.*

**PLANNING****25.78 Planning Report**

To receive the updated Planning Report. The report is an appendix to these minutes.

3/25/0498/OUT	Little Meadow Baldock Road Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RH	Refused
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**25.79 Planning Applications since the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**

3/25/1353/FUL	Aura Westmill Hertfordshire SG9 9LA	The Parish Council made no comment on this Planning Application.
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**25.80 Planning Applications**

None

**HIGHWAYS****25.81 Aspenden Road Works and Diversion & Unnamed Road between Aspenden and Westmill**

This was covered in the Chair's Report.

**PARISH MATTERS****25.82 Police Report AUGUST 2025**

The monthly comprehensive Police Report by the Neighbourhood Policing Team had been received and circulated to Councillors. There were no reported crimes for Aspenden.

**25.83 Pavilion Management Committee (PMC)**

Cllr Blackburn reported that there was no update but a meeting was pending.

**25.84 Children's Playground**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Playground Inspection Report was due mid-October.

**25.85 Tree Survey**

The Clerk reported that on the advice received it would be prudent to undertake another Tree Safety Inspection. She presented a quote from Maydencroft for £840.00 for a Tree Safety Inspection for all the trees located on Aspenden Village Green.

***It was resolved to accept the quote and the Clerk was instructed to ask Maydencroft to proceed with the Tree Safety Inspection.***

**25.86 General Village Matters**

I. Aspenden Defibrillator Annual Support/Pay as you go

***Resolved to renew the 5-year Annual Support contract. The Clerk to arrange for this to be implemented.***

II. Local Nature Recovery Scheme

Cllr Chambers presented a report on the Local Nature Recovery Scheme

III. QEII Jubilee Tree – update Cllr Chambers

Cllr Chambers reported a new Lilac tree was on order and will be delivered soon.

**CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE****25.87 Clerks Report and Correspondence**

The Clerk stated there was an ongoing problem with the collection of the Litter Picker rubbish sacks which had taken 3 emails to resolve. She has asked for clarification on the new system for collection but to date has received no details. She will continue to pursue this.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date	Meeting	Venue
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Parish Council Meeting	The Fox
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Parish Council Meeting	The Fox

Agendas will be put on the Parish Council website [www.aspendenpc.org.uk](http://www.aspendenpc.org.uk) and the village noticeboard.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_