

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 18th NOVEMBER 2025 at 7.00pm in THE FOX ASPENDEN.

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Present | Cllr Richard Blackburn (Chair) | Cllr Stuart Chambers | Cllr Tracy Devonshire |
| | Cllr Joe Murphy | Cllr Thomas Poulton | |
| | District Councillor Sue Nicholls | | |
| | 0 members of the public | | |
| Officer attending | Denise Anderson (Clerk) | | |

APOLOGIES

25.88 None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25.89 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

25.90 No public present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

25.91 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30th September 2025 having been circulated previously, were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIR'S REPORT

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

Play Area & Village Green Flooding

We continue to monitor the village green play area for flooding following the remedial works and to date we have seen no signs of flooding despite the heavy rain.

Tree Survey

A recent Village Green tree safety survey commissioned by the Parish Council identified a number matters to address and this work will be carried out over the following few months.

Dandara Phase 2/Aspenden Road

We are waiting to be advised of the timing of the works

Un-named Road Between Aspenden & Westmill

The road works are scheduled for the 24th – 28th November and it is likely the road will be closed whilst they are carried out.

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

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November by Chairman.

Forthcoming events:

The Christmas Tree Festival will be held once again over the weekend of the 13th/14th December.

Aspenden Candlelit Carol Service will be held on 18th December at 7.30pm.

A Crib Service will be held on 24th December at 4pm and

A Christmas Day All Age Holy Communion service will start at 9.30am.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

25.93

County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Smith was not in attendance and didn't send a report.

District Councillor's Report

Litter and food waste bin issues

Hopefully the local bins issues have been largely sorted out.

Jeanette Lowden, Head of Waste Services contacted me last week to say:

‘Please accept our apologies for the ongoing disruption to food caddy collections. We recognise the frustration caused by the inconsistent service, particularly where residents have made repeated reports without seeing improvement. I can confirm that additional resources have now been allocated to the food waste service, and we’ve seen a marked improvement in collection standards across the district as a result. We are continuing to monitor Aspenden specifically to ensure all properties are being serviced as scheduled, and we’ve asked the contractor to review the round to identify any operational issues or address any difficulties in locating individual properties.’

Hopefully the issue with litter picking sacks not being collected has also been resolved. Do let me know if you need me to look into that for you.

Generally, most of the issues with the new service have been resolved and there has been a 43% decrease in waste going to landfill which is a really positive change.

There were various operational difficulties, some of which outside the council’s control that contributed to the issues experienced over the past couple of months. A comprehensive and detailed analysis is available as part of the 4 November East Herts Overview and Scrutiny Agenda Pack which is available to read on the East Herts website [here](#).

Refusal of Hallam Planning Application

As you are probably aware, the application for 600 houses on Land West of the A10 has been refused. This is a welcome decision by East Herts Planning Officers. Legal advice was taken before making the decision as to the likelihood of an appeal against the decision by the applicant and its thought that there is likely to be a fifty/fifty probability as to whether that will happen or not. The applicants have not made any comment on that likelihood at the moment. The second part of the planning application is yet to be determined.

New East Herts Council App

The new East Herts Council app is now available to be download from app stores. It offers a variety of services including a useful facility that enables you to keep track of which bins are due for collection each week. By providing your address details you can opt in to receive information on which bins to put out each week and also set up an alert which sends a reminder on the day before your collection day.

The app can also be used to look up information on recycling, the location of a range of local services and it can also be used to report a range of issues including missed bin collections, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and graffiti.

FINANCE

25.94 Finance report and payments authorised

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

25.95 Barclays and Lloyds Parish Council Bank Accounts

The Clerk reported she had put in a complaint to Lloyds Bank after some mis-guidance from them resulting in the account being unusable. New paperwork will have to be completed to resolve this issue and it was agreed that the Lloyds account required previous Cllr Andrew Huggins’s name to be removed from the mandate and Cllr Joe Murphy to be added (as resolved at the previous Parish Council Meeting).

25.96 Budget 2026 -2027

The Budget proposal for 2026 -2027 was circulated for discussion. The proposal took into consideration the quotes for works in Agenda item 10 PARISH MATTERS and the need for a new laptop for the Clerk as well as the requirement to maintain a surplus.

Councillor Blackburn proposed that the budget be agreed this as seconded by Councillor Devonshire.

Resolved to approve the Budget for 2026 -2027

25.97 Precept 2026 -2027

Councillor Blackburn proposed that the Precept be increased to £13,000 this as seconded by Councillor Murphy.

Resolved to increase the Precept to £13,000 for 2026 -2027

PLANNING

25.98 Planning Report

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

25.99 Planning Applications since the Parish Council meeting held on 30th September 2025

| | | |
|---------------|--|---|
| 3/25/1505/FUL | Wahringa The Street Aspenden Hertfordshire SG9 9PB | The Parish Council submitted concerns re. Parking |
|---------------|--|---|

25.100 Planning Applications

None

HIGHWAYS**25.101 Aspenden Road Works and Diversion & Unnamed Road between Aspenden and Westmill**

This was updated in the Chair's Report.

PARISH MATTERS**25.102 Police Report OCTOBER 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.

25.103 Pavilion Management Committee (PMC)

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

25.104 Children's Playground

The Clerk reported that the Annual Playground Inspection Report had been received. Broadmead Leisure were asked to look at the report and in conjunction with their previous H&S report provide a quote for the necessary works.

Resolved to approve the Broadmead quote of £1,135 (+ VAT) to carry out the works with the request this should be scheduled for January/February to allow the Parish Council to monitor the area as to the success of the flood alleviation works that were carried out earlier this year.

25.105 Tree Survey

The Clerk reported that the Tree Safety Inspection had been received from Maydencroft. It identified one tree as requiring immediate attention with all other trees requiring works within 6 months to one year. JD Tree Care were asked to provide quotes for the works identified in the report.

It was resolved to accept the Quote 3 for all the works to be carried out at once at a cost of £3,500 (+VAT) as this was the most cost effective option with a saving of £400 and that \$106 monies would be applied for the fund these works.

25.106 Chris Newman Memorial Bench

The Clerk presented a quote from Streetmaster for a Cavendish 1800mm Iroko bench with Stainless Steel plaque with inscription and fixing brackets.

Resolved to approve the quote of £837 (+VAT).

25.107 General Village Matters

I. St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had applied to participate in this event and she was awaiting confirmation of acceptance.

Cllr Poulton reported that he had been clearing the leaves on the footpath. Councillors thanked him for doing this.

CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE**25.108 Clerks Report and Correspondence**

The Clerk reported she was still trying to get an invoice for the Aspenden Defibrillator annual support package and will continue to pursue this.

There was still an ongoing problem with the collection of the Litter Picker rubbish sacks. She has asked for clarification on the new system for collection but to date has received no details. She will continue to pursue this. Due to the imminent update of Windows 11 the Clerk reported that her laptop would not support the update and she would require a new laptop to carry out the Parish Council administration.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

| Date | Meeting | Venue |
|--|------------------------|---------|
| Tuesday 17 th February 2026 | Parish Council Meeting | The Fox |

Agendas will be put on the Parish Council website www.aspendenpc.org.uk and the village noticeboard.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed _____

Date _____