

# Aspenden Parish

## Reports from Village Organisations 2026

Aspenden Village Organisations were invited to submit a report on their activities throughout the last year for the Aspenden Annual Parish (Community) Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

### **Aspenden Village Fund - Steve Parlor (Treasurer)**

The Aspenden Village Fund (AVF) charity was entered onto the Register of Charities on 14 October 2019. Registered Charity Number: 1185788.

The Purposes and Objects of the AVF are:

1. The advancement of community development - to promote rural regeneration and local volunteering;
2. The advancement of health and saving of lives;
3. The relief of those in need, by reasons of ill-health, disability or other disadvantage.

AVF attempts to raise funds to:

1. Organise and run the Aspenden village Fete.
2. Help with maintenance and improvement of a children's play area on the Village Green.
3. Donate to other selected Charities which have a connection to the Village and its residents, such as Parkinson's UK and the Buntingford Food Bank.

In order to carry out our Purposes, the AVF will organise local village events (ie Aspenden Autumn Ball) to raise funds in order to help with the organisation and running costs of the annual Village Fete.

Due to the AVF staging 2 events; a Fete and Ball in 2024, the Committee decided to have a rest and re-charge during 2025. The AVF is run by a committee of 6 volunteers, 5 of which are residents of the Village. Of these, 3 are appointed Trustees, whom are long term residents of the village. A member of the Committee is also Chair of the Parish Council.

Looking to 2026, we are planning on having an Aspenden Village Fete.

Anyone interested in either volunteering to help with the organisation of the Fete or Ball or who would like to be a named Sponsor of the event can contact: Steve Parlor, Treasurer Aspenden Village Fund [STEPHEN.PARLOR@sky.com](mailto:STEPHEN.PARLOR@sky.com) Mobile: 07792 204571

### **Aspenden Standon & Puckeridge Cricket Club - Neil Curtis (ASPCC Secretary)**

Aspenden Standon & Puckeridge cricket club played Saturday league cricket in Cambridgeshire Cricket Association Junior Division 1 South in 2025. Reece Fitzgerald captained the side with Rob Devonshire his vice-captain. The club finished third in an evenly matched division of 9 teams having won 7 league matches, lost 6, with 2 games abandoned or cancelled due to the weather, and one conceded by the opposition.

The highest run scorers for the 2025 season were Scott Caine (673 runs) and Reece Fitzgerald (527). Most wickets were taken by George Johnson (18), Clark Baxter (16), and Reece Fitzgerald (16).

The club started the 2026 season at the beginning of May, losing the first two league matches and winning the third. It has been a struggling getting enough players so far, primarily due to injuries and a couple of players moving on. Pitches prepared by groundsman Michael Strange and assistant Rob Devonshire for the two home games to date have been good. The area by the play park dried out in time for the start of the season after flooding early in the New Year.

The cricket club are again indebted to the Pavilion Management Committee for the running of the pavilion. Costs of playing cricket on the green are high given the low number of games to collect match fees. The club thanks local companies Baron Brewing, First Class Business Solutions (FCBS), Johnson Elborne, Alswick Hall Farms, Triform Brickwork, Blakeney Motor Sports, and SJS Plumbing and Heating for much needed sponsorship over the last two years.

## **Aspenden Interim Pavilion Management Committee (PMC) – Richard Blackburn (acting Secretary)**

The interim Committee, formed in January 2024 comprises Tracy Devonshire (acting Chair), Denise Anderson (acting Treasurer), Richard Blackburn (acting Secretary) & Mark Pankhust (General Committee member).

The interim committee was formed to manage the Pavilion whilst options are explored to secure its long-term future.

The PMC is a registered charity [Charity No: 800714] and the following trustees were appointed: Mark Pankhust & Richard Blackburn.

The interim committee has met twice in the last 12 months and I can report the following:

- Charity Commission reporting up to date;
- Minor interior improvement works taken place;
- New Annual Budget agreed.

## **The Fox Petanque Team**

The Fox Petanque Team is a Petanque team representing The Fox Pub in Aspenden. We were one of 12 teams competing in one division within the Independent Petanque League. Details on the League; results, schedule of games, rules etc can be found on the [Independent Petanque League](#) website. We normally play our matches on a Wednesday evening; either home or away, from 7.30 until 10.30pm, from April to September. Each Team within the League will play a Home and Away match against each of the opposing teams. The Fox Petanque Team Captain is Steve Parlor who selects his weekly team of 6 from a squad of 13 persons. Selection is mainly made on availability rather than talent...whilst we want to naturally win, we don't take ourselves too seriously. Stewart & Gena Snelling, the new landlords at The Fox have been extremely supportive, kindly providing the post-match food for both home and visiting teams.

During 2025, we played 22 matches, won 15 and lost 7. The League is calculated on points won rather than games won. We finished in 3rd place just losing out on 2<sup>nd</sup> place by 12pts! It was a tremendous season played in a very friendly manner. We've received a few new expressions of interest to be part of the Squad for 2026 and look forward to another successful season.

Anyone interested in being part of The Fox Petanque team can contact me at [STEPHEN.PARLOR@sky.com](mailto:STEPHEN.PARLOR@sky.com) or 07792 204571.