# ASHFIELD-CUM-THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

***All Councillors are reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct Regulations.***

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2026 at the Community Hall

Attendance Robert Grimsey (RG) - Chair Simon Garrett (SG) Chris Sharpe (CS)

Lindsay Pearson (LP)

Sarah Clare (Clerk)

Public present at the meeting: 3

ACTPC 26-06-01 Apologies for Absence

Tom Luxmoore (TL) had sent his apologies due to work commitments. The Council accepted.

ACTPC 26-06-02 Public Forum

A parishioner raised a concern about a caravan on a footpath that had been reported to the PROW officer. RG confirmed that the PROW officer had visited the site twice and although the corner of the caravan is on the edge of the footpath, it is not actually blocking the route. The owner of the caravan has been advised of their responsibilities and that should any fencing be put up, this needs to be approved when the caravan is moved.

ACTPC 26-06-03 Declaration of Interests

None

ACTPC 26-06-04 Minutes of previous meetings

CS proposed the amendment of the word 'supported' to 'subsidised' in the final sentence of paragraph 2 two of the County Councillor's report to avoid any misunderstanding, after discussion all present agreed.

Subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2026 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by SG, seconded by CS all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

ACTPC 26-06-05 Matters Arising and Action Points from the 9th September Minutes

1. Speak to landowner about overgrown footpath by The Ashes and update resident who had raised the concern. ONGOING – RG noted that all of the ditches around the field have been flailed out, but the strip of the footpath has not been cleared, so RG will check out why.

2. Speak to MHi about possibility of getting Slow signs painted on road heading towards Framlingham/Earl Soham. ONGOING

3. Report the overgrown hedges and raised central section of Grove Lane using the Online Reporting Tool. ONGOING

4. Chase up Suffolk Highways on drainage issues in Low Road. ONGOING – RG has received a long report from Suffolk Highways, stating that the annual check of the drains in the village was done in July, RG focussed on one particular drain which states that the drain was not working, but no further work required. RG will be taking this matter up with MHi.

5. Compile list of landowners of the fields surrounding the village. ONGOING

6. Make Locality Budget applications for defibrillator purchase. DISCHARGED

7. Arrange for purchase of defibrillator once funds approved. DISCHARGED



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8. Supply What3Words location data and apply for licence for dog bin. DISCHARGED

9. Upon receipt of dog bin licence arrange purchase and installation of dog bin in Grove Lane. ONGOING

10. Raise pro-forma invoice for glasswasher and arrange installation in Community Hall when received. DISCHARGED

11. Publish Risk Assessment, Statement of Internal Control and re-adopted policies on website. ONGOING

12. Confirm insurance renewal. DISCHARGED

13. Re-circulate Rural Connect Community Transport Evaluation via Ashfield Talk. DISCHARGED

14. Advise SALC that NJC pay settlement has been accepted. DISCHARGED

15. To distribute payments as approved at the meeting. DISCHARGED

16. Check the route of the footpath at the back of Great Wood. DISCHARGED - RG noted that most of the footpath follows the parish boundary, but the parish boundary goes into the wood slightly. SG had circulated a copy of the Ordinance Survey map which as it is in colour makes it much clearer than the black and white version currently on the Community Council website. SG will upload the Ordinance Survey version to the website and send a copy out on Ashfield Mail via the Clerk. RG will print off a few copies for putting in the phone box and church.

ACTPC 26-06-06 Planning

*a)* To consider planning applications that had been submitted since the last meeting:

*i)* DC/26/03696 – Householder Application – Erection of first floor extension over an existing garage, and open porch over front main entrance and colour rendering to the complete front elevation. Bramcote, The Street, IP14 6LY

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to **SUPPORT** the application, with the following notes:

- Although the plans are correct, the wording of the application is incorrect as the existing garage is already an incorporated part of the house.
- Existing work that has been taking place at the house has caused considerable noise and disruption to neighbouring properties and given rise to highways safety concerns, with vehicles associated with the work being parked dangerously on bends. The Parish Council would appreciate that if permission is granted then conditions of how and when the works are conducted be applied.

SG proposed, CS seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

*b)* To consider any planning applications that have been submitted since agenda was published: None

*c)* Updates and outcomes on previous planning applications: None

ACTPC 25-06-07 Parish Council Activities

a) To consider co-option to fill vacancies on Council – Nobody came forward. RG suggested that the Save The Parish Council leaflet be recirculated when the December meeting agenda went out.

b) Consideration of hosting a screening of the People's National Emergency Briefing – CS felt that the leaflet that had been recently circulated by someone in the village had been very alarmist, LP commenting that the use of the word 'Emergency' had muddied the waters of the work that the Village Emergency Planning Group had been doing. The briefing itself can be viewed online, but the advertised advantage of hosting a screening is that it gives a chance for discussion, but it is unclear how much support such an event would have in the village, especially as there are other screenings being arranged locally.

LP offered to find out a little more about how a screening would be managed and report back at the December meeting, when a final decision could be taken.



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ACTPC 26-06-08 Finance

a) To review the Financial Statement as supplied by the Clerk – The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement. There were no queries. RG proposed acceptance, CS seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Chair signed the corresponding Bank Statements to confirm the figures.

b) Virement from Reserves of £3,460 for cashflow purposes/use of CIL funds - RG proposed the movement, LP seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

c) To agree payments as detailed on the Payment Schedule
RG proposed authorisation, CS seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**

ACTPC – 26-06-09 Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

a) Items for next agenda:
- Budget & Precept
- Further CIL money ideas – such as display boards
- People's National Emergency Briefing screening

Items for the December Agenda – please notify the Clerk of any further items for the agenda as soon as possible and by Monday 30th November at the latest, with any accompanying paperwork ready to be circulated with the agenda upon publication.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Parish Council, the meeting was closed at 8.31pm. The next meeting is set for **Wednesday 9th December 2026** at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall.

Sarah Clare
Parish Clerk

Robert Grimsey
Chair

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