

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL (“the Council”)

Minutes of the meeting held:

At 7.30pm

On Monday 6 October 2025

At Great Ashfield Village Hall

Present:

Councillors:

Mr J Myers (Chair), Mr B Barker, , Mr N. Jones, Mr M Livens, Cllr J Harding

Clerk:

Mr D Ogden

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Mr S Miles

In attendance:

Mr R Winch (District Councillor)

Mr A Mellen (County Councillor)

1. Record any Councillors’ apologies for absence

Cllr Miles had offered apologies for his absence in advance; this was accepted

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. To consider the minutes of the meeting of 15 October 2024 and confirm as a true record

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2024 were agreed to represent a true record of that meeting.

4. Resignation of Cllr Stick and Consideration of the Make-Up of the Council

Cllr Stick’s resignation was acknowledged and accepted. Councillors acknowledged that there was a lack of diversity among their number and agreed to seek willing volunteers to serve. It is also pertinent that the minimum number of Councillors is five.

5. Report from District Councillor Richard Winch

RW highlighted:

- Investment to provide accommodation for homeless people had delivered good value as they were less expensive than via private landlords
- A financial penalty levied on a housing developer for failing to landscape as planned in Badwell Ash
- Investment in sporting facilities in Stowmarket

And advised that these issues, and others, were reported on in the Mid-Suffolk magazine which would be delivered to all households in the area.

6. Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen

AM advised that:

- A decision on the proposed Unitary system of local government would be confirmed towards the end of the first quarter of 2026.
- That steps were being taken to extend the footpath from Elmswell towards Great Ashfield
- That some locality grants may be available

7. Review of the Outstanding Actions Log

The following items were confirmed as closed:

- Vegetation clearance on footpath along the main Elmswell Road
- The work done had revealed several items where the path was in poor repair and should be reported to Highways Department. **ACTIONS ML** to identify relevant areas, **DO** to report to Highways
- Removal of salt boxes (as unused)
- Meeting with Portable Space- Cllr. Barker had attended a meeting and confirmed that PS had been open and collaborative. Vehicle movements were greatly reduced, and they had agreed not to operate in convoy as this made passing on smaller roads very challenging.
- Sale of speedgun to Cllr. Harding, who advised that it remained available for village use if volunteers came forward
- Recognising the assistance given by the former parish Clerk
- Seeking an adjustment to the location of the village sign at the foot of Hollands Hill.

8. Planning Matters

No comments were made or objections raised in relation to the planning application made at Granary Barn, Daisy Green.

9. Financial Report

The financial report was accepted. DO advised that the Council held £1,386.43 from the Community Infrastructure Levy, and that this sum must be spent on an appropriate infrastructure project before the end of September 2026. After some discussion ML proposed that a further streetlight be replaced following the project earlier this year to replace the light on the Elmswell Road cul-de-sac. DO advised that an earlier meeting had identified the next light to be addressed as a priority. AM advised that the locality grants referred to in his report would be a potential source of overall funding. **ACTIONS – DO** to confirm which light would be replaced, seek a quotation and apply for a locality grant.

10. Village Maintenance & Projects

a. Village hall sign

JM confirmed that completion of the sign (lettering etc.) would cost £156. ML had offered to install the sign when that had been achieved.

a. Booklet Production – ‘Here We Go Again’

A quote had been received for the production of twenty booklets of a publication which recounts village experiences during the second world war. It was agreed that the cost, which worked out at £9.50 per booklet seemed excessive and that it would be more cost-effective to publish on-line and make PDF copies available on request.

11. Bonfires

Following a request from a member of the public it was agreed that reminders would be issued, at appropriate times of the year, via the various communication channels available that individuals have an obligation not to cause nuisance to others.

12. Public Forum

No members of the public were in attendance

13. Future Meetings

It was agreed that as part of an overall drive to enhance communication of parish council activities to the village that it would be positive to arrange future meetings. The following dates, subject to confirmation, were therefore set:

1 December 2025

2 March 2026

18 May 2026 (including annual meeting of the parish)

Also in respect of communications it was agreed that a brief summary of decisions taken would be posted on the village Whatsapp group with the caveat that it was not considered to be an appropriate forum for ongoing debate