ASHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, Church Lane, Ashampstead on Monday 7th September 2026 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors A Dick (Chair), R Fisken (Vice Chair), G Light, M Mitchell
In Attendance: Cllr L Coye (WBC), Jean Lindsell (Clerk/RFO)
Members of the Public: None

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Goodman, James Hole (Yattendon Estates)

2. **Declarations of interest:** None declared.

3. **Open Session:** to receive questions or comments from members of the public regarding items on the agenda
None Raised.

4. **Minutes** – to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 6th July 2026
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **To discuss any matters arising from the previous meeting –** none raised

6. **District Councillor's Report**
Local Government Reorganisation – Cllr Coyle advised the Government had announced it would be reviewing the reorganisation decisions across England following updated and privileged legal advice and several councils had launched legal challenges. As part of this review previously announced decisions affecting Oxfordshire and West Berkshire had been paused while Government reassessed the process and next steps. 2027 local elections would still go ahead but based on existing council boundaries therefore just for West Berkshire.
B4009 Road Closure (Four Points) – Cllr Dick reiterated the chaos that was caused by this unscheduled closure by Thames Water, the lack of signage until reaching the closure and the inappropriate use of Hartridge Lane as the diversion route due to it being a single-track lane.
Cllr Coyle advised Thames Water were permitted to close a road without a permit and set diversions. However a highways inspector should then check diversion routes to ensure they were appropriate and change them if necessary
Cllr Coyle to raise issue of why the use of Hartridge Lane as the diversion was not altered with WBC Streetworks.
Cllr Coyle further advised there was a meeting scheduled between Thames Water meeting and WBC to discuss such matters.
Cllr Fisken requested that the placement of road closed signage be raised in order to give motorists sufficient forewarning to enable them to change route prior to actually encountering the closure.

7. **Report from Yattendon Estates**
Nothing to report.

8. **Speeding**
a) Submission of case to WBC for reduction to national speed limit from Lyeview (Holly Lane) to bottom of Palmers Hill – Cllr Coyle advised this was on the agenda for next WBC Full Council meeting in October.
Cllr Dick advised that the proposal for a speed reduction to 20mph in Hermitage had been rejected.

b) Speeding in 30mph area – update on potential for Community Speed Watch group
Cllr Fisken offered to send a message on the village WhatsApp group to gauge the level of interest from residents in forming a group.

9. Parish Road Markings and Signage

The Clerk advised that the Council's volunteer had reported several issues via the WBC website which had been raised at the onsite meeting with WBC Roads and Traffic Safety in September 2025 which had still not been actioned. As a result of these reports having been submitted some had been resolved.

Following the site meeting WBC confirmed it had noted that the 30mph speed repeater signs were in need of cleaning, terminal signs into the village were faded, dirty or hidden in vegetation, line markings including slow markings were in need of a refresh and a road narrowing sign leading towards Noakes Hill/Holly Lane was almost white where it was so badly faded. A site inspection carried out in October confirmed that signage showed signs of wear and tear and general grubbiness and there would be some merit in installing horse warning signs near the entrance to Vicars Game.

WBC subsequently confirmed these works plus the installation of two horse warning signs and new slow road markings near Vicars Game would be added to the next works programme which had not been carried out to date. Clerk to send details to Cllr Coyle to follow up with WBC.

10. Members Bid – to consider submitting request to WBC for award to be reassigned

It was agreed to relinquish the award as there were no pressing projects for a similar amount at the present time. Cllr Coyle to advise WBC.

11. District Parish Conference

The Clerk advised Councillors that the DPC was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 13th October from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and anyone wishing to attend either in person or via Zoom to reply to the email.

12. Village Information Board – update from Cllr Light

Cllr Light advised all artwork was completed and would create the QR codes to link to further information on the Council's website. Cllr Light to provide the Clerk with the information to be loaded to the website.

13. Barcham Tree Foundation – to consider submitting an application

Cllr Dick advised that Barcham Trees had launched a new grant scheme to support community projects providing up to 50 trees.
Cllr Light suggested the scheme might be better suited to go through ART. All Councillors agreed.
Cllr Light to present to ART.

14. Police Matters

Cllr Dick advised as usual at this time of year there was a significant increase in illegal off roading and hare coursing.
Cllr Mitchell raised the issue of unauthorised vehicles driving along the chalk path (byway 24) and asked about the potential to install some method of blocking vehicle access but still allowing walkers and horse riders.
Cllr Dick to email Yattendon Estates regarding both byway 24 and 30 to confirm that these byways are designated as restricted byways and raise the question of potentially blocking vehicle access.

15. Footpaths and Byways

Cllr Light advised nothing to report.

16. Roads

Cllr Coyle advised she was attending a meeting with the police to discuss better signage at the Hook End Lane junction

17. Open Spaces Review

Nothing to report

18. Planning

a) **Planning Applications –** no new applications
b) **Planning Application Update:** all duly noted

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26/01048/FULMAJ – Land East of Sucks Lane, Ashampstead Common RG8
Change of use of agricultural land to use for exercising of dogs including perimeter fence, pathway, shelter and associated parking
Extension to time agreed to 2nd October 2026 to allow results of traffic survey and visibility splays to be submitted to WBC.

c) Planning Decisions
26/01146/HOUSE – Pyt House, Ashampstead RG8 8RA
Erection of greenhouse
Approved

Cllr Dick advised a large solar array had been installed at Vicars Game and Yattendon Estates had responded stating the array was installed using a non-permanent mounting system, with the panels placed on weighted support structures rather than fixed foundations and there were no permanent structures associated with the installation. The purpose of the installation was to reduce the carbon emissions associated with operations at Vicars Game and it had made a significant contribution towards reducing the site's reliance on grid electricity.

19. Finance

a) To approve finance reports to 31-08-26 reconciled to bank statement
The reports and bank reconciliation were verified, approved and signed by Cllr Dick.

b) S137 Donations
- To approve donation of £100 to West Berkshire Countryside Society - approved
- To consider making a donation to Greenfest 2026 – it was agreed not to make a donation as there was no evidence of direct benefit to residents.

c) To approve payments as per payment schedule
The payments schedule was approved and signed by the Chair
Cllr Light raised the question of regular monthly payments for grass cutting when due to the drought the grass had not been cut. Clerk to raise with contractor.

d) To note Local Government Services 2026/27 pay award effective 1st April 2026
Duly noted by all Councillors.

20. Parish Council Email Communications

Cllr Dick felt the move to the new .gov.uk domain had gone smoothly and asked all Councillors to check their council email regularly and respond to any communications as necessary.

21. Late Agenda Item

Cllr Dick advised that the Thames Valley PCC had opened another round of the Community Fund which offered grants for projects that supported protecting communities, people and properties. Cllr Dick asked if Council wished an application to be submitted for reactive CCTV to be installed at both ends of the village but added that the previous application had been rejected. All Councillors agreed. Cllr Dick to submit application.

22. Items for information or next Agenda only

Cllr Fisken advised the defibrillator required new pads which he would purchase.
It was agreed that paediatric pads should also be purchased and potentially a new carry bag for the defibrillator as the existing one was very small.

23. Date of next meeting: Monday 9th November 2026

The meeting closed at 19.46

Signed:	**Position:**	**Date:**

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