



MINUTES OF ASHMANHAUGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held in the Preston Rooms, Ashmanhaugh on

Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 8pm

(Commenced at 19:46)

Chair: Cllr H Buxton

Clerk: Sarah Martin

Present: Chris Phillipo, Chris Ramsbottom, Annie Naylor-Clements, Noel Coleman, District/County Cllr. Nigel Dixon, Hazel Flavell, Neal Sharpe, Helen Coleman, Steve Newstead and Jane Pond.

Apologies received from Hannah Casey, Samuel Buxton, PC Matt Pritty, Bernie Everett (Cricket Club) and Anne Mulhall (Churchwarden).

The Chair welcomed all attending and stated that this was not a Parish Council meeting but the Annual Parish Meeting. After the usual reports, parishioners could raise any matters of concern to them or the village.

1. Agree minutes of the previous meeting – 8th May 2024

It was confirmed/agreed the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2024.

2. Norfolk Police Beat Manager Report for the Village

Apologies received from PC Matt Pritty – report read by Harry Buxton.

In 12 months we have had a total of 24 calls from the parish broken down as:

- 13 calls relating to Abnormal loads coming through the village
- 6 calls not requiring attendance
- 3 road traffic collisions
- 1 sheep in the road
- 1 elderly gentleman possibly a victim of telephone fraud but upon attendance confirmed not to be

Overall, no crime to report from the parish

Our current priority settings are Retail theft and vehicle ASB targeting which I have had no reports of either from the village

Please do let me know if anything arises from the meeting I can assist with.

3. Parish Councils Chair's report

The Parish council has met six times in the last year, along with the hosting of the Annual Parish Meeting. During this time, we have seen one new Councillor join, Samuel Buxton, following the resignation of Doug Bradley and since the sad news of Doug's passing. Also to mention the passing of another former Parish Council member Andrew Buxton.

Within this year the parish council has continued to monitor speeding throughout the village using the SAM2 camera. Apart from some speeding issues we are very fortunate that there are very few other issues.

We are awaiting the installation of a gateway on Rectory Road and have been successful in a further Parish Partnership bid for two gateways on Stone Lane.

We as a Council have made the move to .gov.uk domain and Council and Councillors emails as recommended by various authorities. This promotes a consistent and professional image for the authority and ensures all communications are easily identifiable as coming from the authority.

As always, we are thankful to Nigel Dixon for giving up his time to keep Ashmanhaugh informed of the wider picture as well as others who have come to meetings. We are also thankful to our Parishioners not only to those who come to the meetings but also those who support and suggest from further afield.

Financially the Parish Council ended the year with £4,010.94. We continue to have a reserve for projects that may arise, and we are committed to making Ashmanhaugh a place to be proud of.

All parishioners are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings which are advertised on our website or noticeboards, and can contact our clerk if you would like to raise any issues: clerk@ashmanhaughparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07749 167735.

Finally, I would like to thank all our parish councillors and our clerk for their hard work and diligence throughout this year and all the volunteers who help around the parish.

4. District and County Councillor's report

District/County Councillor Nigel Dixon verbally reported on the topics he has raised with the PC over the last year:

- Local Plan and progress
- Land allocations in Hoveton
- Local housing pressures
- Scope for small housing schemes in small villages
- District and County difficulties in balancing budgets, whilst continuing to provide services

- Traffic calming measures referencing the County Council Speed Management Strategy which is about making the case for schemes which are deemed appropriate
- Parish Partnership Schemes
- Devolution – powers from Westminster to Norfolk and Suffolk elected Mayor
- Local Government Reorganisation – next May election of Mayor for one or more unitary councils in Norfolk/Suffolk.

Work is currently being undertaken to evidence support of Local Government Reorganisation.

Cllr. Dixon part of working group of 7 looking at this evidence for a common submission by 26th September 2025 - including financial situations.

It is hoped that all 7 Councils will agree, however, the response from Central Government will be final.

No response received from initial submission in March 2025.

A lot of work still to be done.

5. Church Warden's report

Apologies received from Churchwarden Anne Mulhall – report read by Sarah Martin.

Our Rector has continued to breath new life into our benefice as he attracts more young people into the church with regular Sunday Clubs and special outings. Our open day in July was also a great success and raised the profile of the church within the village.

There was great interest in the roll of honour and information relating to those who lost their lives is now held in the church.

A special mention must also be made of the 24 hours vigil that Ben undertook at St Swithins to emphasise the importance of prayer and raise funds for his upcoming visit to Tariro Children's Charity in Zimbabwe.

Sadly this year we lost Andrew Buxton, a long time supporter of the church in Ashmanhaugh since he moved to Blacksmith's Farm with his wife Barbara.

As always our thanks are due to several parishioners who help to maintain the church and churchyard. Simon Hannant, who cuts the grass and keeps the churchyard neat and tidy. Pam Culley who has tended the plants outside and also the displays of flowers inside the church and Helen Coleman who continues to clean the church for us. I would like to record my thanks to everyone who gives of their time and skills to St Swithin's.

6. Preston Rooms report

Verbal report from Steve Newstead - Preston Rooms Committee

The Preston Rooms floor has been sanded and varnished, walls repainted, and electrics tested.

The defibrillator has had one call in the last year, however, was not used and returned and checked weekly.

7. Cricket Club report

Apologies received from Bernie Everett – Cricket Club Chair. Report read by Harry Buxton

I am delighted to take on the role of chairman this year, at a club I have been involved in for over 50 years, firstly with Ashmanhaugh CC and latterly with the merger of two local clubs to become the club we are now, Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers CC. 2024 was another great year for us, despite a shaky start due to the cold and wet weather! The 1st XI cemented their place in the East Anglian Premier League, the highest league available covering the East of England. This involved travel to Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds, Essex as well as the few Norfolk clubs who are in the league. Finishing mid table in the first year of playing at this level was no mean feat! Our 2nd XI, led by Michael Mulhall, went unbeaten for the entirety of the season and achieved promotion to division 3 of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance.

Our 3rd XI, a team formed in 2022, have shown amazing growth, led by Harry Buxton they also ended the season with a promotion. Our younger players are finding their feet in this and the 4th XI, giving them a competitive taste of senior cricket.

Our 4th XI, formed for the 2024 season due to the increased membership, ended the season just outside of the top 3, their philosophy is centered around the growing youth section which remains strong and full of talent.

Our Sunday team, led by Dan Gedge, had a season to be proud of. Teams made up with young players and older more experienced team mates, ensured there was a game for everyone.

Both grounds have had a make-over during the off season and we would welcome you to come along and watch a match, we have a licensed bar at Barton Turf for you to enjoy.

And we are proud to have been asked to host the Norfolk T20 finals day once again at Barton Turf. This will involve 4 Norfolk teams playing throughout the day on Monday May 26th with refreshments, music and ice-cream available all day.

We are always very appreciative of all the support we receive from villagers and local businesses alike – either financial help, support from the boundary or volunteering your time.

We continue to be an ambitious club based in a village setting, and one that has been successful in growing and improving when many of the small village clubs are in decline or folding altogether.

8. Poor's Land report – read by Neal Sharpe (Trustee)

We have a full complement of Trustees. They are Mrs Rachel Buxton (Chair), Mr Terry Childerhouse, Mr Chris Phillipo, Mr John Pond and Mr Neal Sharpe.

The Board has three regular meetings a year but will call extraordinary meetings if necessary.

The objective of the Trust is

- The relief of poverty
- To improve the quality of life for those residents who have need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantages.

- The advancement of education.
- The advancement of community development.
- Greater use of community buildings.

The annual return to the Charity Commission has been completed and is available to view, on the Charity Commission website.

Currently, the Trust has some £1,000 of uncommitted funds available for grants.

If there is any person or group, who is in need of a grant and meets the objective, please contact one of the Trustees.

9. Any further reports

None.

10. Open forum

None.

Thanks were given to all those who attended – refreshments served.

Meeting closed: 20:04.