



Ashton Parish Council CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024-25

7 Cllrs were elected uncontested at the May 2024 meeting. We lost JD and gained LC (Co-opted) during the year

What has happened during this last year for APC:

- All Cllrs have new email addresses. Main contact is always the Clerk:
clerk@ashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- We have a new website.
- APC laid a village wreath for Remembrance and one was put on the Commonwealth Grave.
- APC continue to budget funds for the **Ashton Village News**. We just request to put in a page update in each one published so we can update everyone on what we are doing.
- APC continue to budget to fund the flower planters for the village. Julia Lawrence (Jules at home) is doing these for us and does a fantastic job.
- APC are to still invest in the third Speed Sign for the village as permanently siting them makes more sense and less H&S issues. We await the licenses and electricity changes to come through.
- Defibrillator and a bleed kit for the village are sited at the pub and the system for it's use/ monitoring works well. We have now distributed alert cards for the whole village. Reminders will go into the AVN regularly.
- Parish Online is proving very useful. We have many maps now available.
- Our Clerk remains the Chair of NCalc.
- Playing Field (The Rec) now has a total of £k of Playground equipment installed on it. It is now a Clerk responsibility to maintain it and its annual safety inspections.
- Police covert CCTV cameras for fly tipping are in place in various sites. APC do not know where they are.
- Cllr Peter Bullock is the Police Liaison Cllr.
- We are still awaiting a new electricity contract
- We have a new bank – we can do online banking and have a 'savings' account.
- We are awaiting new noticeboards.
- All Cllr's are encouraged to do NCalc training each year (annex B)

Outstanding issues:

- Flood Alleviation meeting Dec 2021 – we are still awaiting a plan for our culverts.
- Purchase of dog poo bins. We have applied for permission to site 4 in the village.

Year 4: we have applied for and now granted funding for the following projects:

1. New notice signage by the playing field
2. A bench seat in the Rec

APC would like to thank our Ward Cllr Ian McCord, who has been supportive and responsive to issues we have had. eg: Fly tipping, planning queries, flooding issues. WNC changed the Ward boundaries from May 2025 so we will now come under the Hackleton & Roade Ward,

West Northamptonshire Council. Our new Ward Councillors are

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/hackleton-and-roade-councillors>

Cllr Fiona Cole M: 07977 501573

Cllr Adam Smith (no info given)

Attached is a APC 'to do' list (annex A)

Sarah

Sarah McAllister May 2025

CHAIRMAN Ashton Parish Council

ANNEX A

APC 'TO DO' LIST

Not an exhaustive list and not in priority order

PC

1. VE80 celebrations
2. Emergency Plan
3. Flooding Culvert / Repair to Stoke Road Bridge Etc
4. Village CCTV - Will Need S50 license.
5. Speed Signs - 2nd Sign Issues & 3rd Sign Plan
6. Dog Bin Locations Will Need S50
7. Planning In Ashton
8. CIL
9. Hedgerows Roade Hill And Crown Corner
10. Highways Path Road Closures Etc
11. Bus Stop
12. Cllr Recruit/ Training – see annex B
13. Safety Checks - Does New System Work?
14. Footpaths + Fix My Street Reporting
15. Speed Data Reporting

Clerk

1. Year end accounts
2. Audit internal /external
3. Charity commission
4. Pension enrolment
5. S50's
6. Funding - windfarm/housing
7. Playground equipment inspections

NCALC TRAINING

Foundation

Below are the courses you need to complete to reach Foundation

- [Off to a Flying Start](#) (training)
- [Finance for Councillors](#) (training)
- [Code of Conduct in Practice](#) (training)
- [The Good Councillors Guide](#) (reading)
- [The Good Councillors Guide to Finance and Transparency](#) (reading)
- [The Good Councillors Guide to Being a Good Employer](#) (reading)

Suggested timeframe: within first 12 months of becoming a Councillor

Core

Below are the courses you need to complete to reach Core

- [Planning Nuts and Bolts](#) (training)
- [An intro to employment law](#) (training)

Suggested timeframe: within first 24 months of becoming a Councillor

Leader

Running alongside these stages is **Leader**. You don't need to complete **Foundation, Core and Advanced** before attempting to reach **Leader** (although it may help if you are new to the sector).

Below are the courses you are recommended to complete for **Leader**:

- [Chairperson and Leadership Training](#) (training)
- [Leadership in the Community](#) (training)
- [An introduction to Leadership and Management](#) (e-learning)

Advanced

Once you have reached **Foundation and Core**, and for those Councillors who are really keen, you can specialise in areas of training to reach **Advanced**. You can complete as many or, as little, of the various courses under the **Advanced** stages as you wish and there's no timeframe for completion. The following is not an exhaustive list:

Finance

- Internal controls
- Internal and external audits
- An intro to VAT
- Contracts and Procurement

Planning

- Community infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106
- Neighbourhood Planning
- [The Good Councillor's Guide to Neighbourhood Planning](#)
- Community Emergency Plan Workshop

Employment Law

- Appraisal training
- Disciplinary/ grievance handling

Regulatory

- GDPR
- FOI
- Transparency code
- [The Good Councillors Guide to Cyber Security](#)

Other

- Common Land and Village Greens
- Parish Mapping
- [The Good Councillors guide to Transport Planning](#)
- [The Good Councillors guide to Community Business](#)
- Allotment Management
- Playground Management and Inspection
- Risk Assessment