



Ashton Parish Council CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025-26

5 Cllrs were elected uncontested at the May 2025 meeting NS and CC stood down beforehand.

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. All information is added by Amy Holt – Admin for APC/ Clerk for Hartwell PC.
- We have a new LOGO
- APC have funded new lighting along the school path.
- VE80 celebration went well. The Pub hosted the ticketed event, subsidised by APC.
- APC laid a village wreath for Remembrance and one was put on the Commonwealth Grave.
- APC continue to budget funds for a colourised version of 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. Jules at home is doing these for us and does a fantastic job.
- APC supported the new Ashton Annual Firework display at the new Sport & Community Centre (old Men's Own Club) to help them start this event up again.
- 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. We have invested in village 20mph signage.
- We have purchased our new dog poo bins. We have for permission to site 4 in the village. They are booked to be sited.
- We tendered for a formal Green Contract for our verges/green areas and hedging. **TOVE Landscapes & Maintenance awarded contract.**
- Stoke Road bridge railings have been repaired and repainted.
- APC funded 2 new streetlights on Hartwell Rd.
- Village having regular power outages and National Grid plan to re-site junction box on Stoke Road. APC in discussion with National Grid contact.
- APC have had WNC/Highways/Rights of Way Officer/Kier representatives to look at signage, potential village accident hotspots (Bridge in Little Ashton, Pub corner, Roade Hill corner & flooding under RH Bridge).
- We now have 2 new trained Flood Wardens.
- We have paused the new noticeboards. We will purchase the new one for the Rec – for safety notices.

Outstanding issues:

- Flood Alleviation meeting Dec 2021 – we are still awaiting a plan for our culverts.
- East Midlands in Bloom application – part of our biodiversity plan

Year 5: 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 Information:

- Parish Online is proving very useful. We have many maps now available and these are updated as necessary
- Our Clerk remains the Chair of NCalc.
- Playing Field (The Rec) now has a total of approx. £60k of Playground equipment installed on it. It is now a Clerk responsibility to maintain it and its annual safety inspections. We have removed the slide from the playground equipment for safety reasons and a new one ordered.
- Cllr Peter Bullock is the Police Liaison Cllr.
- Cllr Roychoudhury is liaising about the new electricity Junction Box siting.
- Our new electricity contract is with
- We have a new bank savings account with Unity Bank – we can do online banking and have a ‘savings’ account.
- Attached is an APC ‘to do’ list (annex A)
- All Cllr’s are encouraged to do NCalc training each year (annex B)

We now come under the Hackleton & Roade Ward, West Northamptonshire Council. Our Ward Councillors are found:

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

Cllr Fiona Cole M: 07977 501573 (was off sick for a long period)

Cllr Adam Smith (no info given) – resigned from his post and we are awaiting an election May 2026

APC would like to thank Ward Cllr Ian McCord, who has been covering us whilst our Ward Cllrs were absent.

Sarah

Sarah McAllister May 2026

CHAIRMAN Ashton Parish Council



ANNEX A

APC 'TO DO' LIST

Not an exhaustive list and not in priority order

PC

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



ANNEX B:



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