

Ashbrittle Parish Council

13/1/2026 5.30 pm Village Hall

Charles Doble
Paul Leyland
Jeremy Robbins
Geoff Skinner
Philip Wilson

Parish councillor appointments

Everyone welcomed Geoff Skinner as a new councillor. Apologies for absence from Charlotte Westcott.

Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting on 20/11/25 were all agreed. PL said the next meeting should include Dave Mansell if possible.

PL to contact Dave to check availability.

Village green Grogham Woods

Charles explained the issues to GS detailed in last meeting. No new updates.

Roads

Potholes were discussed with one particular one at the bottom of Ashbrittle Hill just before reaching Tracebridge. PL to report to County Council.

It was also discussed that a verge plough would be good to reclaim lost tarmac at the sides of roads.

The drain outside the Village Hall remains blocked. It has been reported several times by PL and he has been told it is on their 'to do' list.

PL to call again.

Planning

The development on Stawley Hill. PW has finally had a reply from County council planning and an officer has been appointed to investigate in the next two weeks.

Everyone thought we should raise other planning concerns but agreed it might be easier to talk to the officer in person if possible. JR to write up and pass to PW various outstanding concerns.

Finance

CD thanked everyone for the recent contribution to churchyard maintenance which was agreed at the last meeting. It was agreed that this would be a one - off payment and would be looked at again once the new precept was agreed by APC and received from the county..

PW updated everyone on the current balance and shared options on potential outgoings for the year ahead.

PL has asked Timsbury Clocks for potential costs of automating the church clock. JR thought this would be a shame as it keeps some sort of community engagement with the church.

JR said there was a young woman in the village who might be willing to help with winding and he would make contact with her.

PL said he would also write an article for the parish mag asking for volunteers.

The possibility of a boule court in front of the skittle alley was raised again. GS, PL and PW were in favour and CD who owns the land would be happy for it to happen. JR expressed reservations thinking it would not be used and therefore couldn't justify the potential cost to APC.

The expected cost for creating it is approx £2000.

PW had also looked into the possibility of raising the precept and how that would impact on the council tax bills in the village. The precept is currently £2395 PA. It was agreed to raise this to £3000 to cover all planned activities. This would raise the Band D annual payment by £5.

CD shared the annual outgoings of the church.

Outgoings

churchyard maintenance	£1125
Insurance	£1989
Parish Share	£1374
Electric	£743
Vicar expenses	£222
Total	£5453

Income

Collections	£935
Ash PC	£495
Donations	£721
Investment income	£601
Occasional offices	£1172
Burial grant Stawely	£77

Total £4001

Deficit £1452

Village Hall roof.

PL said that Jon Dawes had been in contact with the roofer and was informed would hopefully start work in the coming few months.

Church Clock

As previously mention PL has asked for costings for automation. this can be discussed once they come in and at the next meeting.

Parish councillor appointments

Everyone welcomed Geoff Skinner as a new councillor.

PL raised the issue that we should have a Clerk on the PC. He offered to take on the task and sign up to training when it becomes available. There apparently are no real qualification requirement, but SALC offer a variety of courses that clarify some questions that have been raised in the past. .

Date of next meeting

All agreed it would be good to plan around the attendance/availability of Dave Mansell as he might shed light on some of the outstanding questions.