



# SIMPSON AND ASHLAND PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Simpson Village Hall

**Councillors present:** Cllr Barnes - Chair (PB), Cllr Tucker – Vice Chair (DT), Cllr Biswas (VB), Cllr Dalgarno (RD), Cllr Ezeh (CE),  
**Apologies:** None  
**Officers attending:** Katherine Harmsworth (Parish Clerk)  
**Others present:** 3 Members of Public (MOP)

### 44) Apologies for Absence

None received.

### 45) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the council held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were received and signed as a correct Record by the Chair.

### 46) Council Vacancies

It was noted that the Parish Council currently has three vacancies, all in the ward of Ashland and is now able to co-opt.

### 47) Finance Report and Discussion

- a) Payments between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 were reviewed and approved.
- b) The financial summary up until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 was reviewed and approved.
- c) It was noted that the external audit has been completed with no issues identified. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to the Parish Clerk for ensuring a successful outcome.

### 48) Winter Funding

- a) The Parish Council has received a grant of £2000 from MKCC as part of the Household Support Fund. It was agreed that this grant will be put towards the Citizens Advice Sessions held in conjunction with Old Woughton Parish Council, the Saturday Skill Sharing Sessions held by the Friends of Simpson Village Hall, the Ashland Lakeside Holiday Club and potentially, if agreed, Robot Reg sessions at Ashland Lakeside.

### 49) Public Forum

- a) A member of the public (MOP) expressed frustration regarding the repeated closure of the H9 Groveway.
- b) A MOP queried why building works were permitted at Walton, off Simpson Road, as they believed the site to be on a floodplain. Ward Councillor Paul Trendall clarified that although parts of the area are prone to flooding, this does not necessarily designate it as a floodplain. He further noted that Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) would be installed to mitigate potential flood risks.
- c) A MOP also raised concerns about frequent flooding on the road between Simpson and Fenny Stratford. DT explained that this issue is due to a blocked drain and residents are encouraged to report issues via the MKCC website 'report it' page.

## **50) Highways**

- a) The Parish Council agreed to recommend the removal of the wooden bus shelter opposite St Thomas' Church in Simpson.
- b) It was noted that several drains in Simpson are blocked, including at various locations on Simpson Road and on Hanmer Road.
- c) It was noted that a pavement on Langham Way, Ashland, is cracked, and the resident has been advised to contact the landowner. It was further noted that cracks have appeared in pathways around the lake, and the Parish Council will notify the Parks Trust.
- d) It was noted that the ownership of Abbey Road, Simpson, is under dispute. This matter has been raised with Ward Councillor Paul Trendall, who will investigate further and update the Parish Council.
- e) The Parish Council agreed its response to the consultation on the Vehicle-Related Anti-Social Behaviour Public Space Protection Order, confirming full support for the PSPO and for extending its powers.
- f) It was noted that there was no update from the Simpson Traffic Management Working Group, as it has not met for several months.

## **51) E-Scooters**

- a) Proposed locations of e-scooter and e-bike parking bays in Simpson and Ashland were reviewed and approved.

## **52) Planning Applications**

No planning applications were received.

## **53) Open Space**

- a) To note that all eight dog waste bins have now been replaced.

## **54) Ashland Lakeside**

- a) Payments and hire income for Ashland Lakeside were reviewed and approved.
- b) Improvement works at Ashland Lakeside were reviewed and approved, including installing a new heating system at a cost of approximately £4500, repainting the main hall at a cost of approximately £1600 and installing a new cupboard area in the entrance way at a cost of approximately £2500. Responsibility for managing this process has been delegated to the Parish Clerk and Facilities Manager.

## **55) Simpson Village Hall**

- a) Payments and hire income for Simpson Village Hall were reviewed and approved.
- b) There was nothing further to report on Simpson Village Hall.

## **56) Young People**

- a) CE reported that the summer holiday play sessions were well attended by families. Plans are in place to continue this provision with a session during the Christmas holidays.
- b) It was agreed that the Moorlands Family Centre will host Robot Reg sessions at Ashland Lakeside from the beginning of October until the end of March. The Parish Council will fund the hire of Ashland Lakeside Community Centre, while the Moorlands Family Centre will cover all other costs.

## **57) Community Engagement**

- a) The Street Champions have not met since the last PC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

## **58) Review of Delegated Decisions**

The delegated decisions were reviewed and approved.

**59) To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8pm at Ashland Lakeside.**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**60) HR**

- a) PB conducted an appraisal with both the Parish Clerk and the Facilities Manager and it has been agreed that both roles will increase one pay scale point commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

**The meeting closed at 21:15**

**Signed (Chair)** .....

**Date** .....

**Signed (Clerk)** .....

**Date** .....