

139. Community Grants Application. (agenda item 6)

Members to consider the application from Ash Villages Food Parcels Project.

Resolved upon consideration to agree to donation of £500 to Ash Villages Food Parcels Project.

140. Events Working Group. (agenda item 7)

Members noted the minutes of the minutes of the Events Working Group Meeting held on 21 January 2026 as at Agenda Appendix A.

141. Correspondence. (agenda item 8)

There was no correspondence.

142. Date of Next Meeting. (agenda item 9)

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 26 May 2026** commencing at 19:00 or following the close of the Planning Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:06

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Agenda Appendix A**ASH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Events Working Group
held in the Ash Centre, Ash Hill Road, Ash and via Microsoft Teams on 21 January 2026
which commenced at 14:30**

Present:	Cllr John Tonks	✓
	Cllr Paul Golding	x
	Cllr Richard Lucas	x
	Cllr Michael Moriarty	x
	Ali Watmore	✓
	Lowan Daley	✓
	Graham Bidwell (Guest)	✓
	Jo Packman (Guest)	x
	Richard Tolley (Guest)	✓
	Len Scott (Guest)	✓
	Pauline Baxter (Guest)	x
	Paula Hunt (Guest)	✓
	Nassar Amauk (Guest)	✓

1. Apologies for Absence. (agenda item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest. (agenda item 2)

There were no declarations of interest to report.

3. Confirmation of Minutes. (agenda item 3)

The minutes of the Events Working Group Meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2025, copies of which have been circulated to members, were confirmed as a true record.

4. Year-End Recap: 2025. (agenda item 4)

Cllr John Tonks opened up by saying how successful the year was with regards to the events. VE Day went really well and was very well received and well attended. Cllr Tonks also expressed his sincere thanks to the Events Working Group members and all volunteers for their invaluable support.

Village Fete:

The working group agreed that the increased parking on the field behind the stalls had worked well at the previous event and should be implemented again for the upcoming fete.

It was agreed that communication should begin with local theatre, dance, and Taekwondo groups to confirm their availability, with the intention of creating a performance itinerary.

Cllr Paul Golding previously suggested contacting Ash Manor to explore whether they could contribute music or other performances to the event. This suggestion will be followed up as part of the entertainment planning.

Christmas Fantasia:

Len Scott added that he was pleased with how Christmas Fantasia unfolded and extended his thanks to those responsible for operating the snow machine.

Cllr John Tonks noted that thanks should be extended to Cllr Paul Golding. He also highlighted that the inclusion of the colourful theatrical lights at the Wharf during the light switch-on was highly effective and expressed further thanks to Cllr Paul Golding for this contribution.

Cllr Tonks stressed that, from next year onward, we are to use the usual countdown from 10 for the Christmas Lights Switch-On, with the Ensemble beginning on '1'.

Cllr Tonks proposed that Santa use the microphone to help create greater enthusiasm among the crowd, noting that the Ash Vale Ensemble had also benefited from using one. Len agreed.

Cllr John Tonks also expressed his thanks to Cllr Moriarty and Cllr Faisal for their support and for ensuring the car park was well maintained. He noted that having two people manning the entrance proved effective.

Cllr John Tonks feels that the Traffic Management Company worked well and the closure was very slick. He also added that the briefing prior to the Float exiting the APC Carpark to make its way down to the Wharf was effective and was in a good location.

Cllr Tonks commented that positioning the medic in the Post Room worked well. He also highlighted that the medical cover at both events fell short of the expected standard, noting that this will need to be reviewed.

Cllr John Tonks suggested that going forward, we will use real map images to mark out the exact positioning for the Traffic Management operatives, so everyone is clear on where they are to be and when.

The events working group unanimously agreed that the Gator was safe and functioned effectively as the float for this year.

Lowan Daley suggested using the walkway behind the Ash Centre, leading to Balmoral Road, as the departure point for the Gator float, as it allows safe manoeuvring and avoids the live road on Ash Hill Road.

Cllr Tonks agreed and liked the idea.

Graham Bidwell suggested that we trial it by doing a mock-up run.

Cllr John Tonks feels that the fair side of Christmas Fantasia was extremely well attended and included a good variety of stalls.

Cllr John Tonks noted that the farm attraction had been very popular and offered good value for money. It was agreed that Ash Parish Council should arrange to rebook them for next year as soon as possible.

Cllr Tonks added that the forms should be revised to include more specific information, enabling us to better gauge how to cater for everyone. It should also be made clear that stallholders positioned at the end of a row are not permitted to add an additional table.

5. Charity 2026. (agenda item 5)

It was agreed that The Ashes Good Neighbours Society – In support of the residents of Ash, Ash Vale & Ash Green will be our charity for 2026.

6. 2026 Events. (agenda item 6)

The Events Working Group agreed the dates for the 2026 events as follows:

Ash In Bloom – competition runs from April through to September.

Ash Village Fete – Saturday 20th June 2026

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 8th November 2026

Christmas Fantasia – Saturday 28th November 2026

7. A Formal Welcoming to a New Events Working Group Member, Nassar Amauk. (agenda item 7)

Cllr John Tonks formally welcomed the new Events Working Group Member, Nassar Amauk.

Nassar Amauk added that it has been wonderful since working together and long may it continue.

Nassar also mentioned that there will be an Ash Community Dinner which is an open event to all where everyone can meet and greet over a meal at the Ash Centre which is due to take place on Saturday 28th March.

8. Date of Next Meeting. (agenda item 8)

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 14:30 via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 15:40pm

Signed Date