

ARDLEY with FEWCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council on Monday 12th May 2025 in the Norman Fraser Room of the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs H Jenkins, J Sparrow, and J Mills

Apologies: S Hazelwonder, N Lewis, M Ellis, Cllr N Simpson (CDC)

In Attendance: Representatives from Puy du Fou

Members of the public: 10

1. Election of Chairman and appointment of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Huw Jenkins was unanimously elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2025/6 and Cllr John Sparrow was unanimously appointed Vice Chairman.

2. Presentation on behalf of Puy du Fou, a company proposing a historical theme park in Bucknell.

The Head of international Development and the Engagement Manager of Puy du Fou attended the meeting to explain the company's proposals for their first site in the UK, which is currently planned to be located on a 300 acres of farmland in Bucknell. Plans for the development are likely to be submitted by Summer 2025, and will include 4 historical areas, producing 13 shows both during the day and into the evening.

Their transport strategy assumes that 50% of daytime visitors will travel by public transport, and the company is currently working with OCC and the transport companies to develop their travel plans. The company were questioned on their traffic assumptions, including the design and capacity of junction 10 M40, and their current access proposals off the B4100.

The company confirmed that they are planning to employ about 700 on the site, include permanent and casual workers, and they are working with education providers to help develop training plans. The site is also likely to support an additional 6000 indirect employment opportunities.

There are plans for 3 hotels to be located on the site, mainly comprising family rooms for visitors, open mainly from April to October, with one hotel available for conference use all year round.

Finally the meeting was reminded that Puy du Fou is a "not for profit" company.

3. Parishioner's Issues

The Clerk was asked to request OCC to remove their traffic notices, and to ask the grass cutting contractor to cut the alleyway by the White Lion when possible.

4. Declarations of interest

Cllr Jenkins declared a personal interest in the proposed development by Puy du Fou in Bucknell and took no part in any later discussion.

5. Minutes of the meeting of 10th March 2025

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the 10th March 2025 were an accurate record.

6. Progress on Parish Matters

A. Highways/s106 monies

The Clerk agreed to chase up the agreed actions from the recent "walk and talk" and to confirm OCC plans to carry out speed monitoring on the Ardley Road and by the bus stop in Water Lane. OCC have reported they are currently clearing gullies in the county.

The Parish Council asked the clerk to confirm with CDC/OCC the amount of s106 monies available for traffic schemes in the village.

B. Governance

The Parish Council noted and approved the updated Standing Orders, Financial regulations and Code of Conduct for Ardley Parish Council.

7. Finance

The Council also noted the financial report contained in Appendix 1 and authorised the following payments:-

The Parish Council received and note the Internal Audit report relating to the financial year 2024/5. Approved the Annual Governance statement and authorised the Clerk (RFO) and Chairman to sign the same and considered, approved and authorised the chairman and Clerk(responsible Financial Officer) to sign the accounts for 24/25.

8. Planning

None

9. Items for information or next Agenda

Congratulations were sent to a potential international rugby player from the village.

10. Date of next Meeting

14th July 2025.

Signed by.....

Ardley w. Fewcott Parish Council				Monthly Financial Report	
				Parish Council Meeting	12 May 2025
Payments processed since last meeting					£877.68
	12-Mar-25	A Davies	B/P		£354.50
	12-Mar-25	HMRC	B/P		£86.20
	12-Mar-25	AwFVH	B/P		£78.00
	12-Mar-25	AwFVH	B/P		£67.02
	12-Mar-25	AwFVH Chair	B/P		£33.96
	12-Mar-25	OALC	B/P		£240.00
	28-Feb-25	Bank			£6.00
	31-Mar-25	Bank			£6.00
	30-Apr-25	Bank			£6.00
Receipts processed since previous report					£13,315.94
	11-Mar-25	CDC			£6,680.44
	09-Apr-25	CDC			£6,635.50
Bank Reconciliation		Statement dated		31 March 2025	
		Unity Trust Current account			£43,471.56
		Barclays Current account			£20,109.07
Items not yet cleared:					
	Receipts	None			
	Payments	None			
				Net Total	£63,580.63
Of which:					
Allocated reserves		Trees/Footpath			£13,365.00
		Resilience			£5,500.00
General reserve					£50,215.63