

COUNCIL 10 JULY 2025

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Ashwell Parish Council submitted a response to the first Community Governance Review consultation. However, due to an omission did not respond the second consultation, to echo the first consultation response, and was therefore not considered as part of the final recommendations. The Parish Council further considered the matter at a meeting on 2 July 2025. Attached as Appendix A is the response of the Parish Council specifically in relation to the reduction in the number of Parish Councillors from 12 to 7 and the following proposed amendment to recommendations has been submitted.

Recommendation 2.2 to be amended to read:

2.2. That Council agree the Final Recommendations for the Community Governance Review (as detailed under para 8.10 of the report – R1 – 41) subject to the amendment to R1 regarding Ashwell:

R1 Reduce the number of parish Councillors for Ashwell parish council from 12 to 9.

Proposer: Cllr Tom Tyson

Seconder: Cllr Ruth Brown

Appendix A

Ashwell Parish Council held their meeting yesterday evening (2 July 2025). There was a majority vote on the decision to request 9 Parish Councillors for Ashwell instead of the proposed 7. The reasons put forward are:

1. An amendment to 7 councillors represents a significant reduction compared to the current 12.
2. Household numbers and the population of Ashwell has grown significantly since the previous councillor allocation was determined - and it was felt a reduction to 7 was contrary to the growing population and issues associated with that number.
3. The profile of councillors has become older over the years as more households have both partners working full time reducing their opportunity to carry out voluntary work, this in turn means an increase tendency for ill health for councillors to attend meetings and make a useful contribution to the workings of the Parish Council, 9 parish councillors would provide the scope for maintaining voluntary input to support the paid staff.