

PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PILLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY
10th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7pm



Present:

Pilling Parish Councillors;

*Neil Cookson, Chairman
Graham Curwen, Vice Chairman,
Elizabeth Cookson,
Steve Phillpotts,
Alf Whiteside,
Dave Ponton
John Savage
Lisa Stanger
Paul McWhirter
Julia Brewer (Clerk)
Wyre Cllr Adam Leigh
Lancashire County Council Cllr Matthew Salter
PCSO Peter Atkinson
PCSO Anna Fishpool*

In attendance

5689 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

5690 DECLARATION ON INTERESTS

Cllr G Curwen, Cllr P McWhirter, and Cllr J Savage declared their interests as members of Pilling Village Hall Committee.

5691 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2025 having been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5692 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing orders were suspended to allow public to speak.

- **PCSO Peter Atkinson**

PCSO Peter Atkinson introduced himself and PCSO Anna Fishpool who would be replacing PCSO Beth Kirkpatrick.

He reported that there were no major issues within Pilling that he was aware of. Cllr N Cookson drew attention to the theft of wheelnuts from cars parked on the Elletsons Arms resulting in the wheels coming off cars when they were driven away. PCSO Atkinson indicated that he would check to see if there were any other incidents of this type or whether this was an isolated incident.

The recent incident of a two individuals trying car doors within the area was also raised although it was noted that they had not been seen within Pilling since the incident.

- **Wyre Cllr Adam Leigh**

Planning: Cllr Leigh gave an update on recent planning appeals which had been successful and also the position regarding outstanding enforcement orders that had still not been actioned in particular:

Planning Portal: Cllr Leigh also informed the meeting that it he had been informed by Planning that due to IT problems, the planning portal would no longer display the comments on planning applications raised by individuals.

Cllr N Cookson raised concerns as it was felt that this was a retrospective step in terms of transparency and democracy and it was agreed that a letter stating the Parish Council's objection to this be sent.

Resolved: Parish Clerk to draft a letter to be sent to Wyre regarding the decision not to publish individual comments on planning applications.

- **Lancashire County Council Cllr Matthew Salter**

Preesall Quarry: Cllr Salter reported that this would be decided at a meeting on 15/10/2025.

Local Government Review (LGR): Cllr Salter reported that the Government were looking to make savings from this review so it was more likely that there would be 3 or 4 larger unitary authorities rather than smaller authorities.

Lancashire County Council Grass Cutting Contract: Cllr McWhirter raised the issue of the contract with Lancashire County Council for grass cutting which should be 3 times per year and whether this was something that could be devolved to the Parish Council in future.

Resolved: The Parish Council meeting and Standing Orders were resumed.

5693 CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was received.

5694 PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

- **Reserves Policy**

Following discussion at the last meeting the revised Reserves Policy was presented to the meeting.

Resolved: Parish Council approved the revised Reserves Policy.

5695 VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**• Co-option to the Council: Lisa Stanger**

Following interview by the Personnel Committee, it was recommended that Liz Kiersey be appointed to the Parish Council.

Resolved: The Parish Council approved the recommendation that Liz Kiersey be appointed to the Parish Council.

5696 ROAD SAFETY MEASURES – GARSTANG ROAD

Lancashire County Council Cllr Salter was in attendance for this item and the issue of the footpath on Garstang Road which had been outstanding for some time was discussed along with the need to provide a safe pedestrian crossing for children attending school at St Williams, particularly in the light of the new housing estates that had been built within the area.

Resolved: Cllr Salter agreed to take the issues back to Lancashire County Council Highways and report back to the Parish Council.

5697 DOG FOULING

Cllr Stanger raised the issue of dog fouling within the area of Gardners Close and the embankment and St William's Church, although it was acknowledged that extra bins had already been provided at Gardners Close.

Resolved: Parish Clerk to notify Dog Warden at Wyre Council and signs to be erected within the area.

5698 WYRE COUNCIL SURVEY: PARISHES FRAMEWORK

A survey had been received from Wyre Council in advance of the LGR to ascertain the value of the working relations between parish councils and Wyre Council.

Resolved: To complete the survey and return to Wyre.

5699 PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE 20 POPPIES FOR DISPLAY AROUND THE VILLAGE FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

As previously discussed at the meeting on, it was proposed to purchase poppies for display around the village on Remembrance Day at a cost of £5 per poppy.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to the purchase of 20 poppies at a cost of £100.00.

5700 ELECTRICAL SAFETY FIRST: COMMUNITY GRANTS

Correspondence had been received regarding the availability of community grants to improve electrical safety.

Resolved: The Parish Council did not consider that there was suitable project that would fulfil the criteria for a community grant.

5701 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Correspondence had been received from Lancashire County Council regarding King's Award for Voluntary Service for volunteer groups.

Resolved: Parish Council to consider nomination of the 'Meet and Eat' group for an award.

5702 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications considered:

Application Number: 25/00698/COUQ

Proposal: Conversion of 1.no existing agricultural building into 1.no 3 bedroom Dwelling

Location: Bluebell Barn Moss House Lane Pilling PR3 6BX

Resolved: The Parish Council objected to this proposal as they felt that the proposed dwelling was not in keeping with the area and that this could set a precedent for further development of this type of substandard dwelling.

Applications permitted:

Ref. No: 25/00128/FUL Proposed garage with first floor bedroom, following the demolition of existing garage

The Windmill Taylors Lane Pilling Preston Lancashire PR3 6AB

Status: Application Permitted

Ref. No: 21/00713/DIS Approval of details reserved by conditions 3

(Drainage) on planning permission 21/00713/FUL

Garden Centre Plants Ltd Lancaster Road Pilling Preston Lancashire

Status: Accepted

5703 FINANCE

Income:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|------------------------|
| St. John's Church | £ 25.00 | Grounds Maintenance |
| Pilling Village Hall | £ 340.00 | Monthly Loan Repayment |

Payments

| Payment Type | Inv No | Date | Payee | Amount £ | Reason |
|--------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| BACS | | August 2025 | HMRC | 1082.47 | PAYE/ NI |
| BACS | 00001572 | 31/08/2025 | Houghtons | 81.67 | Diesel/Petrol |
| CP | | 28/08/2025 | Pilling Village Hall | 35.00 | Room Booking (Community Action) |
| DD | | 31/08/2025 | Unity Trust | 8.70 | Bank Charges |
| BACS | | 28/08/2025 | Salaries* | 4518.18 | Payroll |
| BACS | | 21/08/2025 | G Benson | 4.19 | Backpay re Pay Award |
| DD | | 01/08/2025 | Easy Websites | 67.32 | Website/Admin |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| SO | | 01/08/2025 | PVH | 100.00 | Rental |
| SO | | 01/08/2025 | Towers & Gornall | 68.40 | Payroll Admin |
| DD | 2374083072 | 02/08/2025 | EE | 42.94 | Mobile Phones |
| CP | 25339920 | 28/08/2025 | Xero | 1.92 | Accounts system |
| BACS | | 31/08/2025 | J Brewer | 5.50 | Expenses |
| BACS | IN13806771 | 27/08/2025 | NPower | 13.49 | Electricity (Xmas Tree) |
| BACS | 3930 | 16/08/2025 | DFX Systems | 70.00 | Community Action |
| BACS | 269247 | 21/08/2025 | Cornthwaite Group | 40.92 | Parish Maintenance |
| CP | 6251251 | 27/08/2025 | Viking Direct | 256.80 | Replacement pedestal for office |
| BACS | 180168 | 04/08/2025 | Cornthwaites Farm Machinery | 149.99 | Parish Maintenance |
| BACS | 236672 | 10/09/2025 | C&C Supplies | 495.60 | Parish Maintenance |
| Bank Transfers | | | | | |
| BACS | 27/08/2025 | | Unity Trust Bank | 10,000.00 | Transfer from Redwood Business Savings A/c |

**inclusive of pensions contributions and backpay re pay award.*

Resolved: Councillors noted the income and approved the payments and transfer of monies.

Bank Reconciliation to 31st August 2025

See information.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Unity Trust Bank | £ 9,246.81 |
| Redwood Business Savings | £81,967.03 |
| Hinckley & Rugby Building Society | £60,000.00 |

Resolved: Councillors accepted bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 31st August 2025.

5704 VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

• Chairman's Report

Cllr N Cookson drew attendance to recent correspondence from Lancashire County Council regarding the public views on LGR and urged everyone to complete the recent survey regarding their views on the proposed changes to a unitary authority.

He also drew attention to recent correspondence regarding the planned offshore windfarm and indicated that he was attending a public meeting regarding this at Hambleton Village Hall.

• Pilling Village Hall

Cllr McWhirter reported that the Village Hall Committee were now looking at options for fundraising to finance proposed development of the Village Hall.

Cllr McWhirter also reported that the PCSO's would be holding a surgery within the Village Hall on one of the café days on a monthly basis in future.

- **Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

It was noted that the Parish Clerk would be attending the next meeting on behalf of the Council.

- **Pilling Community Action**

Proposals for NHS Health checks were being explored by Parish Clerk along with Defibrillator training.

- **Our Future Coast Working Group/Flooding Issues**

Cllr Whiteside reported that the 'flood gates' were going ahead and that a visit to Winster was planned.

- **Create Homes/St Williams Gate**

Cllr Ponton reported that he was still waiting to hear from Planning.

5705 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04pm.

Chairman

Date