

PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PILLING ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY
21st May 2025 at 7pm**



Present:

Pilling Parish Councillors;

*Neil Cookson, Chairman
Graham Curwen, Vice Chairman,
Elizabeth Cookson,
Judy Judkins
Steve Phillpotts,
Alf Whiteside,
Dave Ponton
Paul McWhirter
Sarah Collinge
John Savage
Gillian Benson, Locum Clerk
PCSO Bethany Kirkpatrick
PCSO Hannah
Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh*

5621 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were accepted for the office of Pilling Parish Council Chairman.

Resolved: Cllr. N. Cookson was elected as Chairman of Pilling Parish Council for one year.

Under the Local Government Act 1972 (83(4)) the Chairman signed the Declaration of Office.

5622. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations were accepted for the office of Pilling Parish Council Vice-Chairman.

Resolved: Cllr. G. Curwen was elected as joint Vice-Chairman of Pilling Parish Council for one year.

Cllr. Curwen added to consider succession planning and bring another Councillor forward to takeover next year.

5623 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received for tonight's meeting.

5624 DECLARATION ON INTERESTS

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

5525 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2025 having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5626 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing orders were suspended to allow public to speak.

PCSO Bethany Kirkpatrick

- **Parking at Carr Close**

The item 5636 was brought forward to discuss. Action is needed for driver safety on Smallwood Hey with the on-road parking at Carr Close on this difficult bend. It was noted there are sufficient off-road parking on site. There was a reluctance to double yellow lines rather to approach the problems from an educational aspect. *Resolved: To raise the problems with Regenda.*

- **Anti-Social Behaviour around Stakepool area.**

Councillors raised behaviour of youths riding electric bikes and scooters often in the centre of the road or speeding, 40mph, along footways too. Many also use the Village Hall field and have been seen on Fluke Hall Lane.

Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh

- **Conversion of Golden Ball**

The Councillor updated those present on conversion of the Golden Ball, which involves both Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council. County conditioned relocating the bus stop to include raising the kerb, but they are changing the criteria and work has stalled. The lamp post is also to be moved to improve the spacing on the forecourt. It was suggested to ask St. John's School's head teacher.

- **Local Government Reform**

Considering the upcoming unitary, Wyre Council will continue as is until 2028..

- **NPPL and National Plan**

A change in designation of land and will see 'Green Belt' land become 'Grey Belt' land. Making land between villages easier to build on. Originally introduced to prevent urban sprawl..

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

5627 RESIGNATION OF CLLR JUDY JUDKINS

Councillors noted the resignation Mrs Judy Judkins and will leave vacancies on Pilling Community Action and Pilling Bloom. Councillors thanked Judy for her diligent work in the village and are sad to see her go and she will be greatly missed.

5628 DATES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillors noted the schedule of Pilling Parish Council, meeting dates to be held at Pilling Village Hall, Taylors Lane, at 7.00pm, unless an agreed change is made.

Resolved: Councillors noted the dates of future meetings.

5629 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES**a. Finance Committee**

Cllr. Mrs. E. Cookson, Cllr. S. Phillpotts, Cllr. J. Savage and Cllr. A. Whiteside.

b. Planning Committee

Cllr. Mrs. E. Cookson, Cllr. J. Savage, Cllr. A. Whiteside.

Resolved: Councillors wish to consider all planning applications by the full council during the monthly meeting.

c. Personnel Committee

Cllr. Mrs. E. Cookson, Cllr. P McWhirter, Cllr. A. Whiteside, Vacancy

d. Pilling in Bloom Committee

Cllr. S. Phillpotts Noted that there will be no entry to North West in Bloom this year.

e. Signatories on Bank Mandates

Cllr. N. Cookson, Cllr. G. Curwen, Cllr S Phillpotts. Online access by Cllr. N. Cookson, Cllr S Phillpotts and Cllr D Ponton.

f. Signatories on Reserve Accounts

Furness Building Society : Julia Brewer (Clerk) and Cllr. G. Curwen
Redwood Business Savings Account: Cllr N Cookson and Cllr D Ponton

g. Over 60's Afternoon Tea

Cllr. Mrs. E. Cookson.

h. Tree Warden

Cllr. P. McWhirter

i. Representative on the Pilling Community Hall Committee

Cllr. G. Curwen and Cllr. P. McWhirter.

j. Representatives on the Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Cllr. N. Cookson and Cllr. S. Phillpotts.

k. Representatives on the Flood Management Meetings

Cllr. S. Phillpotts and Cllr. A. Whiteside.

5630 CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was received.

5631 PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

Resolved: Deferred until June 2025

5632 INTERNAL AUDIT 2024 - 2025

Including internal auditor's report, which has been circulated. Report from the last internal audit and subsequent response to the points raised for the information of the Parish Councillors.

Resolved: Deferred until June 2025

5633 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

Resolved: Deferred until June 2025

5634 PURCHASE OF XERO ACCOUNTS PACKAGE

Councillors approved the purchase of Xero accounts package as agreed by the Finance Committee on 16th May 2025.

Resolved: Xero Accounts package was accepted for use.

5635 PILLING COFFEE FEAST: SPONSORSHIP

Councillors considered options for sponsorship of the Pilling Coffee Feast.

Resolved: Donations requests should be made through the Parish Council donations form.

5636 PARKING AT CARR CLOSE

Resolved: PCSO Bethany Kirkpatrick raised this under public participation.

5637 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER: SUMMER COMMUNITY FUND

Councillors considered funding applications under the Summer Community Fund.

Resolved: Councillors were unable to name village projects requiring this funding.

5638 LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS 2025 CONFERENCE

Councillors considered attending the conference on 7th June at the Delta Marriott Hotel.

Resolved: Parish Council representatives are unable to attend this year.

5639 PLANNING APPLICATION**Planning Applications for Consultation**

Application Number: 25/00425/FUL

Proposal: Proposed change of use of land to extension of domestic curtilage, use of existing stables as domestic storage and erection of replacement stable building (part retrospective)

Location: Ashley House Farm Smallwood Hey Road Pilling Preston

Resolved: Councillors objected to this application. Stables are outside the curtilage as a separate entity to the residential house. The stables were built without planning permission or neighbourhood notification. There is also a caravan with an underground septic tank on the same lane. Is the Environment Agency aware of the tank?

5640 FINANCE**Income:**

Precept 2025/26	£80,000.00	
St. John's Church	£ 25.00	Grounds Maintenance
Pilling Village Hall	£ 340.00	Monthly Loan Repayment
Glenfield Caravans	£ 250.00	Donation

Councillors approved the following **Payments:**

Payee		Reason
HMRC	£ 784.17	PAYE/ NI
Julia Brewer	£ 9.00	Expenses
Lancashire Association of Local Councils/NALC	£ 445.42	Membership Subscriptions
Houghtons	£ 165.26	Diesel/Petrol

Pilling Village Hall	£ 35.00	Room booking (Community Action)
Pilling Village Hall	£ 35.00	Room Booking (5/06/2025)
DFX Systems	£ 60.00	IT Services (Community Action)
Alison May	£ 250.00	Internal Audit Fee
Stocksigns Ltd	£ 2,925.42	Speed Indicator Device (SPID)
Makro	£ 103.29	Catering – VE Day
Neil Cookson	£ 15.00	Eggs – VE Day
C&C Supplies	£ 124.85	Safety Equipment/PPE
Cornthwaite (Farm Machinery) Ltd	£ 10.40	Mower Parts
Rob Mason (chq no 300248)	£ 75.00	Entertainment (VE Day)
Alan Cookson (chq no 300249)	£ 50.00	Entertainment (VE Day)
Zurich Insurance	£ 1,719.39	Insurance Renewal
	£ 6,807.20	

Standing Orders/Direct Debits

1. Staff costs for April*	£ 4,584.84
2. Easy-Web-Sites	£ 66.00
3. Pilling Village Hall rental	£100.00
4. Towers and Gornall	£ 68.40
5. EE	£ 40.56

**inclusive of PAYE/NIC contributions.*

Transfers:

£20,000 from Redwood Business Savings to Unity Trust Current Account.

Bank Reconciliation to 30th April 2025

See information.

Unity Trust Bank £ 9,375.19

Furness Building Society £ 84,488.51

Redwood Business Savings £ 75,000.00

Resolved: Councillors accepted bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 30th April 2025.

5641 VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

• Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on an excellent occasion at Blackburn Cathedral to mark VE Day which he had attended along with Cllr. E Cookson. He also updated the Council that the Clerk was off sick following her recent knee replacement and would be working from home until fully recovered and able to drive.

Rob Clewes, Wyre Council, senior planning officer, met with the Chairman, Cllr. E. Cookson and Cllr A. Whiteside to discuss planning procedures and what restrictions Wyre must adhere to, often creating frustration as though their hands are tied by national policy. The new regime in Wyre Council planning has an increased budget to tightening and carry out more enforcements. Another officer was appointed. The Chairman commented on Wyre's reassuring support. Planning information to be circulated.

- **VE Day Celebrations**

Cllr E Cookson thanked the Parish Council for flowers received on the day plus all the village helpers, Jackie, Gillian, Katrina, Val, Judith and Pauline, who assisted the Councillors in preparing and serving the afternoon tea. To Stan for setting out the tables and the wonderful entertainers. Everyone worked as a tight cohesive team. There have been numerous lovely comments from those attending. Cllr. E. Cookson handed over £96.40 collected for the raffle.

She added that there were some queries about who pays for the Afternoon Tea, money is sourced from local grant funders and no cost to the Parish Council.

- **Pilling in Bloom**

Cllr Judkins reported that this year Pilling will not be entering North West in Bloom, but the village tubs have been planted.

- **Pilling Village Hall**

Cllr McWhirter reported the new playground equipment on the field was opened on 3rd May. The committee is looking to install storage to hold the power generated by the solar panels. They are still waiting for the feed-in tariff to be paid.

- **Pilling Community Action**

A drop-in scam aware event on 5th June run by Age UK in the Village Hall and open to all.

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

Cllr Whiteside reported on yesterday's meeting with Louisa from Wyre River's Trust , who is working with Wyre Council. The Chairman and Cllr. S. Phillpotts also attended. She seemed very open to ideas suggested including a wind turbine on the outfall to raise the Broadfleet over the embankment. Salt water backing up the Broadfleet was reported to Rob Ide, Environment Agency, but no replies to date. However, Louisa informed the councillors Lune River Trust has tested the water .

- **Create Homes/St Williams Gate**

Cllr D. Ponton has written again to Create Homes to request the road is surfaced. Wyre Council is looking at classing the affordable homes, not yet built, as first-time buyer homes, but there is no time frame. Cllr. D. Ponton is confused why Create Homes is sending residents to ask him queries!

- **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. S. Collinge is composing a village survey asking residents what their priorities are for the parish. Access could be by QR code, a link, or Facebook plus hard copies available at the Village Hall, open for two months. The councillor is looking at the proposed routes for data protection. She will work with the clerk on formatting Cllr. S. Collinge was asked if this was preliminary to a full Neighbourhood Plan for Pilling? The Chairman offered to introduce it to any local group meetings.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Chairman

Date