

PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PILLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY
9th JULY AT 7pm**



Present:

Pilling Parish Councillors;

Neil Cookson, Chairman

Graham Curwen, Vice Chairman,

Elizabeth Cookson,

Steve Phillpotts,

Alf Whiteside,

Paul McWhirter

Dave Ponton

John Savage

Julia Brewer (Clerk)

In attendance

Lisa Stanger

*Lancashire County Council Councillor M Salter (for
part of meeting)*

5656 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Wyre Cllr. A Leigh.

5657 DECLARATION ON INTERESTS

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

5658 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

*Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2025 having been
circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.*

5659 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing orders were suspended to allow public to speak.

Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh

*Cllr Leigh had sent his apologies to the meeting but submitted a written report as
follows:*

- **Planning enforcement**

*I have written to Marianne Hesketh who is the corporate director of
communities which covers planning to express my frustration with
enforcement and the seemingly lack of urgency in responding to enquiries
and there being little deterrent for people that openly flout the rules. One case
has been going on for nearly two years.*

- **Postal votes**

Following a change to the law, the maximum length of time a voter can hold a postal vote is now three years.

Postal voters can still register to vote by post for a particular poll or for a shorter period of time, but they can no longer hold a postal vote for longer than three years.

Electors who applied for a postal vote before 31 October 2023 will need to re-apply for their postal vote. This change has identified approximately 18,700 postal voters in Wyre who will have to apply again if they want their postal vote to remain in place beyond 31 January 2026.

- **Lancashire County Council Councillor Matthew Salter**

County Councillor Salter gave an update on issues from Lancashire County Council.

- **Highways**

Cllr Salter reported that improvements within Highways were being driven through by Reform who were looking at better ways of doing things.

Cllr Neil Cookson reported that Lancashire County Council had done a good job on the repairs to Bradshaw Road but reiterated that this road was not designed for heavy goods vehicles going to and from the proposed quarry.

- **Local Government Reform**

Cllr Salter reported that the current proposals for reform would likely include for 3 or 4 unitary councils with Wyre being included with Fylde, Blackpool and Lancaster. The final proposals to be submitted to government by November.

- **Championship Grants Scheme**

Cllr Salter reported that funds were available for Parish Councils from the Parish Council Champion, Cllr James Tomlinson.

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

5660 CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was received.

5661 PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

The following policies were considered:

- **Financial Regulations**

Resolved: Parish Council received and accepted the updated Financial Regulations for 2025.

- **Sickness Absence Policy**

Resolved: Parish Council received and accepted the updated Sickness Absence Policy as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

5662 VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

- **Co-option to the Council: Lisa Stanger**

It was noted that Lisa Stanger had made an application to be on the Parish Council and had been invited to the meeting as an observer.

Resolved: The Parish Council recommended that Lisa Stanger be invited to a formal interview with the Personnel Committee.

- **Resignation of Cllr S Collinge**

It was noted that Cllr S Collinge had resigned from the Parish Council.

Resolved: Clerk to notify Wyre Council and Cllr N Cookson to write to Cllr Collinge expressing thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

5663 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Following recommendations from the Personnel Committee the following items were agreed.

- **Vacancy: Personnel Committee**

Resolved: Cllr S Phillpotts to be appointed to the Personnel Committee.

- **Award of Increment due to Parish Clerk wef 01/04/2025**

Resolved: To approve the award of one increment to the Parish Council wef 01/04/2025.

- **Parish Clerk: Commencement of CILCA qualification**

Resolved: To agree to the Clerk's request to defer application for the CILCA qualification for a further 6 months.

5664 CASH FLOW AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY: CHANGE OF PROPOSAL TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT WITH HINCKLEY & RUGBY BUILDING SOCIETY

Following confirmation that the minimum investment amount with the Unity Trust Fixed Term account would be £85K which would mean the total amount invested in the Unity Trust Bank would be above the FSCS limit, the Parish Council considered the revised proposal to open an account with Hinckley & Rugby Building Society paying 3.15% and to approve the proposed transfers.

Resolved: To approve the proposal to open a savings account with the Hinckley & Rugby Building Society and subsequent transfer of funds.

5664 REQUEST FROM PILLING BRASS BAND FOR GRANT/DONATION

The Parish Council had received a request from Pilling Brass Band for a grant/donation towards the cost of the band taking part in a National Competition in Cheltenham in September representing the North West.

Resolved: Although the Parish Council acknowledged the success of the Band, it was felt that following the previous donation of £800 to the band for new instruments, the Parish Council were unable to support this request at this time.

5665 ALLOWING EASY WEBSITES TO POST LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL NOTICES DIRECT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

A proposal had been made by James Reilly from Easy Websites for them to facilitate the posting of Lancashire County Council notices direct to Parish Council websites.

Resolved: The Parish Council did not support this proposal and preferred to retain control of posting of notices to the Parish Council website.

5666 PILLING COMMUNITY ACTION WEBSITE

Following the resignation of Cllr Judkins, it was questioned as to who would take responsibility for the Community Action website.

Resolved: It was agreed to leave this decision in abeyance for the time being pending the appointment of new councillors to the Parish Council.

5667 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications Refused:

Ref. No: 25/00092/FUL: Erection of stable block providing four stables, tack and feed store, riding menage and concrete yard, for private equestrian use.

Rushside Stables Lancaster Road Pilling Lancashire PR3 6SR

Resolved: Parish Council noted the outcome of the planning application.

5668 FINANCE

Income:

St. John's Church	£ 25.00	Grounds Maintenance
Pilling Village Hall	£ 340.00	Monthly Loan Repayment
Furness Building Society	£87,962.67	Transfer on closure of A/C
Cash Deposit	£ 81.40	Raffle Ticket Sales (VE Day)
HMRC	£ 3,838.04	VAT Return

*Resolved: Councillors resolved to make the following **Payments:***

Payee		Reason
HMRC	£ 817.17	PAYE/ NI
Julia Brewer	£ 24.57	Taxi/Batteries/Postage
Stan Raby	£ 26.94	Sun Screen/Insect Repellant
Houghtons	£ 99.02	Diesel/Petrol/Pilling in Bloom
Richardsons of Bell Farm	£ 300.40	Catering – VE Day
Pilling Village Hall	£ 35.00	Room Booking (Community Action)
Morley's Group Ltd	£ 150.00	Storage Rental costs
Unity Trust	£ 10.05	Bank Charges
	£ 1463.15	

Standing Orders/Direct Debits

1. Staff costs for June*	£ 4749.04
2. Easy-Web-Sites	£ 72.60
3. Pilling Village Hall rental	£100.00
4. Towers and Gornall	£ 68.40
5. EE	£ 42.94
6. Xero (Monthly subscription)	£ 1.92
7.	

**inclusive of payment to G Benson and PAYE/NIC contributions*

Bank Reconciliation to 30th June 2025

See information.

Unity Trust Bank £ 104,436.47

Furness Building Society £ 0.00

Redwood Business Savings £ 55,611.98

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

5669 VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that the Parish Lengthsman was currently off sick with a chest infection.

He also suggested that the Clerk look into getting some poppies for displaying around the village for Remembrance Sunday.

- **Over 60's Afternoon Tea**

Cllr E Cookson reported that she was looking for ideas for an event in 2026.

- **Pilling in Bloom**

Cllr Phillpotts reported that he would be working with the Parish Lengthsman to plan for next year's event early in 2026.

- **Pilling Village Hall**

Cllr McWhirter reported that the Vintage Weekend had been a success despite the disappointing weather. Cllr Neil Cookson congratulated him on a well run event and added that it was a a good advert for Pilling.

- **Pilling Community Action**

Following previous discussions regarding the website, suggestions for future community events were discussed such as training in the use of defibrillators and offering free health checks.

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

Cllr Phillpotts and Cllr Whiteside reported things were moving forward and Cllr Whiteside was convening a further meeting next week with farmers regarding progress.

- **Create Homes/St Williams Gate**

Cllr D Ponton had written to Create Homes again raising the outstanding issues and highlighting that on the Create Homes website it stated that the site is completed. A response from Helen Hall, PA, received in the absence of Mr Mathison and Mr Prew, had been received confirming that the landscaping issues were being dealt with.

Cllr Ponton confirmed that some residents who had been on the estate for 5 years were now leaving and were having to have separate legal documents drawn up by solicitors in order to complete sales. He confirmed that he would continue to chase Create Homes.

5670 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Section 106 Money**

Cllrs requested to know what is happening with Section 106 money.

- **Amenities Area**

Cllr E Cookson requested to know if the Amenities Area had been cleaned up.

- **A588 Dyke**

Cllr Curwen requested that the dyke and flooding issues be raised again with Cllr M Salter, Lancashire County Council.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Chairman

Date