

# PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PILLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7pm



*Present:*

*Pilling Parish Councillors;*

*Neil Cookson, Chairman  
Graham Curwen, Vice Chairman,  
Steve Phillpotts,  
Alf Whiteside,  
Liz Kiersey  
Elizabeth Cookson  
Dave Ponton  
John Savage  
Julia Brewer (Clerk)*

### **5776 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Apologies were received from Cllr Paul MWhirter, Cllr Lisa Stanger, and Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh.*

### **5777 DECLARATION ON INTERESTS**

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

### **5778 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

*Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 having been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.*

### **5779 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Standing orders were suspended to allow public to speak.

#### **Stile, Backsands Lane**

Representation was made from members of the public regarding the removal of the stile. However it was pointed out by the Parish Council that they had recently found out that the land belonged to the farmer and not to the Environment Agency as originally thought.

#### **Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh**

Although Wyre Cllr Leigh was not present he had submitted a written report as follows:

- **Rushside stables** - planning permission approved. I spoke against the application last week at committee, but the application was unanimously granted by committee on the recommendation of the officers.

- **Crossings Cottage** - another visit will be undertaken by planning re the additional works that have taken place.
- There will also be a meeting at the council between officers and portfolio holders on 19<sup>th</sup> February regarding the changes made to comments from objectors/supporters not being shown on the planning portal.

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

## **5780 CLERK'S REPORT**

*Resolved: The Clerk's Report was received.*

## **5781 PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES**

No policies were presented at the meeting.

## **5782 PAYROLL ARRANGEMENTS**

Further to the previous meeting, the Clerk had undertaken to obtain some information from other councils regarding the service provided by Morecambe Town Council which had been favourable, and had undertaken a cost analysis of savings that could be made compared with the current provider.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to the recommendation that the Council should move their payroll service to Morecambe Town Council with effect from the beginning of the new financial year.*

## **5783 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr E Cookson updated the Parish Council with a verbal report from the Personnel Committee regarding the arrangements for cover for the Parish Lengthsman during his period of sickness absence.

*Resolved: The report was received by the Parish Council.*

## **5784 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr J Savage reported on the last meeting of the Finance Committee and the current budget spend to date. He also highlighted the change in the ERS Pension payments which was a separate agenda item.

*Resolved: The report was received by the Parish Council.*

## **5785 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Clerk informed the Council that, due to the Easter weekend falling early in April, it was not possible to get the financial year end report ready for the Parish Meeting, as well as getting the agenda out for the scheduled date of the Parish Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

*Resolved: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Savage to agree alternative date for the Annual Parish meeting.*

The Clerk also requested the Parish Council to approve the placement of a Notice of Meeting in the Focus Magazine (Green Book) at a cost of £72.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to the placement of a notice in the Focus Magazine regarding the Annual Parish Meeting.*

#### **5786 NEWSLETTER: SCHOOLS COMPETITION**

Following the success of the schools competition to design the front cover of the Parish Newsletter last year, the council was requested whether they wished to run the competition again this year.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to run the schools competition to design the cover of the Newsletter again this year, the focus of which would be NW in Bloom.*

#### **5787 PENSIONS RE-EVALUATION: EMPLOYERS CONTRIBUTION**

The Clerk reported that further to the estimate previously reported, the final Pensions Report indicated that the Employers Contribution could be reduced to as low as 1.4%. However it was noted that this could then mean that, at after 3 years after the next revaluation, the amount could shoot up again.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to keep the Employers Contribution at 13.4% as budgeted.*

#### **5788 PROPOSAL TO GET DRAINS 'JETTED' AT THE MILL**

Cllr Whiteside informed the meeting that he had discussed getting the drains jetted with Lancashire County Council Cllr Salter, however he had been informed that it could take up to 2 months before this could be done and Cllr Salter had queries whether the Parish Council would fund the work.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to fund work first instance due to the nature of the flooding but would attempt to seek reimbursement from Lancashire County Council as this was a Highways issue.*

#### **5789 PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN ANOTHER DEFIBRILLATOR AND SITE AT SCRONKEY**

Cllr Whiteside put a proposal forward to purchase a further defibrillator to be sited at Scronkey which was the only area without adequate access to defibrillator. The cost of which would be approx. £995 plus VAT.

*Resolved: The Parish Council felt this was a good idea and agreed to purchase a defibrillator to be sited at Scronkey.*

#### **5790 PILLING BLOOM**

Cllr Kiersey informed the Parish Council of her proposals regarding entry into North West in Bloom competition and the creation of a 'sustainable' garden consisting of fruit trees etc. She has arranged a meeting with the representative from NW in Bloom and would be able to provide a more detailed proposal once this had taken place.

*Resolved: The Parish Council welcomed the proposal and agreed in principle to the proposal to enter into the North West in Bloom competition pending further information from Cllr Kiersey.*

### **5791 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR): CONSULTATIONS FROM LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND WYRE COUNCIL**

Emails had been received from both Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council regarding the LGR which had been circulated to parish councillors. However it was noted that, due to the nature of the consultation, time should be taken in reviewing the information before completing the consultation.

*Resolved: Parish Councillors to review the information prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council so that a composite response could be submitted at the meeting.*

### **5792 LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT: LAKES AUDITING SERVICE**

The Clerk had circulated the Letter of Engagement from the proposed internal auditor, Lakes Auditing Services, for agreement by the Parish Council.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to the Letter of Engagement from Lakes Auditing Service.*

### **5792 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Application Number:** 26/00028/COUQ

**Proposal:** Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural unit into a dwelling.

**Location:** Bluebell Barn Moss House Lane Pilling Lancashire PR3 6BX

*Resolved: The Council have no objections to the planning application.*

#### **Planning Appeal**

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE LCC/2023/0030 - PROPOSED EXTRACTION OF SAND AND GRAVEL WITH BACKFILLING USING INERT WASTE MATERIALS ON LAND OFF BOURBLES LANE, PREESALL.

*Resolved: The Council reiterated their objections to the above planning application and confirmed that these had not altered.*

### **5793 FINANCE**

#### **Income:**

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

Payment Type	Inv No	Date	Payee	Amount £	Reason
BACS		January 2026	HMRC	843.83	PAYE/ NI
BACS	202600000123	31/01/2026	Houghtons	95.00	Diesel
DD		31/12/2025	Unity Trust	8.40	Bank charges

BACS		28/01/2026	Salaries*	4788.40	Payroll/Pensions
DD			Easy Websites	72.60	Website/Admin
SO			PVH	100.00	Rental
DD	V02435413198	02/02/2026	EE	42.94	Mobile Phones
BACS	3238	22/01/2026	P G Whiteside	182.40	Parish Maintenance
BACS	3225	26/12/2025	P G Whiteside	201.60	Hedge cutting
BACS	1000307095	21/01/2026	Imperative Training (defibshop[])	1194.00	Defibrillator
BACS	4023	28/01/2026	DFX Systems	90.00	Community Action
BACS	247210	19/01/2026	Coars Ltd	48.60	Parish Maintenance
DD			Lloyds Bank/Unity Trust	3.00	Credit card charges
BACS	SI930962	06/02/2026	Glasdon UK Ltd	77.18	Parish Maintenance
BACS	85	Jan 2026	Stakepool Stores	470.00	Christmas Trees
<i>*Including Pensions payment of £1152.01</i>					

*Resolved: The Parish Council received details of the income and agreed payment of the invoices.*

### **Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026** **See information.**

Unity Trust Bank	£9,292.03
Redwood Business Savings	£52,050.45
Hinckley & Rugby Building Society	£60,000.00

*Resolved: Councillors accepted bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.*

### **5794 VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- Chairman's Report**  
 Cllr Neil Cookson reported that arrangements had been made for himself, Cllr Phillpotts and Cllr Whiteside to cover duties of the lengthsman pending appointment of a temporary lengthsman for 1 day a week.
- Over 60's Afternoon Tea**  
 Cllr Elizabeth Cookson reported that arrangements had now been made for Alan Barnes to play at the event, and that discussions were taking place to get the schools to sing at the event. It was also agreed that the event should be called the 'Pilling Parish Over 60's Lunch.
- Pilling Village Hall**  
 Cllr Curwen reported that work was ongoing with plans for extension of the Village Hall, and that the Hall was now receiving plenty of bookings.
- Community Action**  
 The Clerk reported that despite the last digital drop-in session being held on the same day as the Meet and Eat, take-up had again been poor.

It was therefore agreed not to continue with the sessions.

- **Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils**  
The Clerk reported that there was nothing significant to report back from the meeting.
- **Our Future Coast Working Group/Flooding Issues**  
Cllr Whiteside circulated a copy of the first Newsletter from the Group and reminded the council of the meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Create Homes/St Williamsgate**  
Cllr Ponton reported that he was still awaiting a response to his email followed by letter to Wyre and that he had been informed that the would receive a response from Steve Smith.

**5795 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Lancashire County Council Highways**  
The issue with regard to lack of progress and outstanding requests to Lancashire County Council Highways, such as the Footpath on Garstang Road, junction at the former Golden Ball site/Fluke Hall Lane and the condition of the road at Smallwood Hey was raised.

It was acknowledged that, despite a letter being sent to Cllr M Salter requesting his attendance at the meeting to report back, no response had been received and it was agreed that further action should be taken.

It was also suggested that Highways be a standing item on the agenda in future.

- **Planning Application: St James Farm**  
Representation had been received from a member of the public about the issues around the planning application at St James Farm.

The Parish Council noted the concerns and the Clerk confirmed that she had sent the email requesting retraction of the objections to the application in error.

*There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm.*

Chairman .....

Date .....