

# PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES OF PILLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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  
Paul McWhirter  
Julia Brewer (Clerk)*

### **5796 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Apologies were received from Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh.*

### **5797 DECLARATION ON INTERESTS**

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

### **5798 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

*Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 having been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.*

### **5799 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

### **5791 CLERK'S REPORT**

- Annual Parish Meeting: Date now confirmed as Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
- Payroll: Towers & Gornall had been served notice regarding Payroll,
- Newsletter: Items to be with the Clerk by no later than Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

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

### **5792 PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES**

- **Publication Scheme & Schedule of Charges 2026**

The Clerk had circulated a revised copy of the Publication Scheme and Schedule of Charges for review and agreement by the Council.

*Resolved: The revised policy and schedule of charges were approved by the Parish Council.*

### **5793 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Clerk had circulated a draft of the finalised agenda for approval for publication in the April edition of the Focus magazine at an approximate cost of £72.00.

*Resolved: The Parish Council approved the draft agenda for publication and advertisement in the Focus magazine.*

### **5794 PARISH LENGTHSMAN: CARRY FORWARD OF ANNUAL LEAVE**

Cllr E Cookson informed the meeting that the Parish Lengthsman was unable to take his outstanding leave due to sickness absence and had therefore requested to carry it forward.

*Resolved: The carry forward of 5 days annual leave in respect of the Parish Lengthsman was approved.*

### **5795 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN: 13 – 19 MARCH 2026**

Councillors discussed whether to initiate a 'litter pick' on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March as part of the Great British Spring Clean Campaign for 2026 and to try to encourage as many volunteers to take part as possible. It was also agreed that refreshments paid for by the Parish Council could be provided to those taking part in the form of tea and biscuits at the Village Hall.

*Resolved: Councillors agreed to co-ordinate a 'litter pick' to take place from the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and to the provision of refreshments to those taking part.*

### **5796 RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Following advice received from Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Cllr Neil Cookson put forward a proposal that the council meetings be recorded in future in case there were any issues regarding what had been said at the meeting and what was recorded in the minutes. However, he highlighted that this would need to be agreed by all council members.

One member of the Council did not agree with the proposal and therefore the proposal was not passed.

*Resolved: The proposal to record future meetings of the Parish Council was not passed.*

### **5797 PRIMARY SCHOOLS COMPETITION: NEWSLETTER/NW IN BLOOM**

Following the last meeting Cllr Kiersey requested the council to approve the award of £10 to the winners in each of the 4 categories, totalling an amount of £40.00.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed the request to award £10 to each of the winners in the Schools Competitions.*

## 5798 NW IN BLOOM

- **Siting of an Information Board at the Sensory Garden**

Following a previous recommendation, Cllr Kiersey proposed that an Information Board be set up at the Sensory Garden and that DR Joinery had agreed to make the Information Board at no cost. It was also suggested to look into making the Information Board accessible for those who were visually impaired using either braille or a QR code.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to the proposal for an Information Board and Cllr J Savage agreed to look into incorporating the use of braille/QR code to make this accessible to the visually impaired.*

- **Replacement of worn wooden planter with a rockery at Bradshaw Lane corner**

Cllr Kiersey put forward a proposal for the formation of a rockery to replace the wooden planter at the corner of Bradshaw Lane at a cost of £148.00.

*Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to the replacement of the wooden planter with a rockery and to fund the proposal.*

- **Proposal for Rainwater Harvesting initiatives**

Cllr Kiersey informed the meeting that she had obtained £10K under the proposal for Rainwater Harvesting Initiatives and how this could be used to support the maintenance of planting schemes within the Village.

*Resolved: The Parish Council accepted the proposal.*

## 5799 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR): CONSULTATION

Further to the last meeting, the Council completed the online consultation exercise with their views on the preferred option under the Local Government Review.

*Resolved: Parish Councillors completed the online consultation exercise.*

## 5792 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Application Number:** 26/00182/FUL

**Proposal:** Proposed Agricultural workers dwelling and integral garage.

**Location:** Foxfield Nurseries School Lane Pilling Preston Lancashire

*Resolved: The Parish Council have no objections to this application.*

**Application Number:** 26/00112/FUL

**Proposal:** Proposed erection of bungalow following demolition of existing two storey dwelling.

**Location:** Bonds Farm Morley Lane Pilling Preston Lancashire

*Resolved: The Parish Council have no objections to this proposal.*

**5793 FINANCE****Income:**

St. John's Church	£ 25.00	Grounds Maintenance
Pilling Village Hall	£ 340.00	Monthly Loan Repayment
Pilling Methodist Chapel	£ 300.00	Grounds maintenance

**Expenditure:**

Payment Type	Inv No	Date	Payee	Amount £	Reason
BACS			HMRC	844.03	PAYE/ NI
DD		28/02/2026	Unity Trust	9.85	Bank charges
BACS		28/01/2026	Salaries*	4788.40	Payroll/Pensions
DD			Easy Websites	72.60	Website/Admin
SO			PVH	100.00	Rental
DD	VO2445416824	02/03/2026	EE	42.94	Mobile Phones
BACS	1000313853	04/03/2026	Imperative Training (Defibrillator Shop)	1860.00	Defibrillator & Case for Scronkey
BACS	CILCA 262701	06/03/2026	LALC	450.00	CILCA Training
BACS	Expenses	16/02/2026	J Brewer	3.90	Batteries
<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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026****See information.**

Unity Trust Bank	£12,207.76
Redwood Business Savings	£42,170.43
Hinckley & Rugby Building Society	£60,000.00

*Resolved: Councillors accepted bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026.*

**5794 VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- Chairman's Report**

Cllr Cookson reported that he had agreed to renovating the bench at junction of Wheel Lane with Fluke Hall Lane and that he would obtain some costings for this and report back.

He had also represented the Parish Council at the opening of the Nursery at which Cat Smith, MP, had been present.

With regard to Planning he referred to the recent application for James Farm which had been passed despite the recommendation from the Planning Officer that it be refused, and informed the meeting that Out Rawcliffe Parish Council had also reported problems with Planning Enforcement resulting in then making a formal complaint.

- **Over 60’s Afternoon Tea**  
Information to be included in the Newsletter.
- **Pilling Village Hall**  
Cllr McWhirter reported that the Village Hall had now agreed a proposal for extension to the Village Hall and were in the process of obtaining costings.
- **Community Action**  
In abeyance.
- **Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils**  
Next meeting not until April.
- **Our Future Coast Working Group/Flooding Issues**  
Cllr Whiteside reported that the approximately 40 people had attended the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February and that he had been in touch with Rob Hyde to request a meeting regarding resuming the replacement of the flood gates which had been abandoned before Christmas.
- **Create Homes/St Williamsgate**  
Cllr Ponton reported that he had written a lengthy letter to Cat Smith, MP, and was awaiting a response.

**5795 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Lancashire County Council Highways**  
Cllr Curwen reported that he had spoken to both Wyre Cllr Adam Leigh and Lancashire County Council Cllr Matthew Salter regarding non attendance at the Parish Council meetings and their requirement to attend to discuss highways issues. In particular the situation at the Golden Ball, the dyke on the A588, the state of the road at Smallwood Hey, and the surface of the A588 between Taylors Lane and Field House Lane.

As it had been reported that most complaints about the road at Smallwood Hey came from individuals using the bus it was suggested that the Clerk write to Stagecoach to obtain their views regarding the state of the road.

- **Request from Wyre Council re Section 106 Funding**  
A request had been received from Wyre Council regarding Section 106 funding which was completed by the Parish Council.

*There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.13pm.*

Chairman .....

Date .....