

PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PILLING ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY
11th JUNE AT 7pm**



Present:

Pilling Parish Councillors;

Neil Cookson, Chairman

Graham Curwen, Vice Chairman,

Elizabeth Cookson,

Steve Phillpotts,

Alf Whiteside,

Paul McWhirter

Julia Brewer (Clerk)

In attendance

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

5642 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. J Savage, Cllr. S Collinge, Cllr D. Ponton, and Wyre Cllr. A Leigh.

5643 DECLARATION ON INTERESTS

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

5644 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2025 having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5645 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing orders were suspended to allow public to speak.

- **Lancashire County Council Councillor Matthew Salter**

Cllr Salter reported that he had been re-elected as the councillor for Wyre Rural Central and his new remit would be Education and Skills. He informed the meeting that as a result of the change in political landscape at Lancashire County Council to Reform, key issues such as Highways would now be given priority and Reform had already pledged extra money to this. As such it was hoped that Smallwood Hey would finally be included in the schedule for highways repairs.

The situation with regard to a dispute at the Golden Ball between Lancashire County Council Highways and the main contractor regarding the inclusion of a bus stop, which had currently stopped works was raised. Cllr Salter was requested to liaise with Wyre Cllr Adam Leigh regarding the situation.

Cllr Phillpotts reported that there was a specific issue with regard to Bradshaw Lane and Cllr Salter agreed to report this using the 'out of hours' service.

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

5646 CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was received.

5647 PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

The following policies were considered:

- **Standing Orders 2025 (updated)**

Resolved: Parish Council received and accepted the updated Standing Orders for 2025.

- **Working from Home Policy (New)**

The Parish Council reviewed the Home Working Policy and accompanying Home Working Risk Assessment.

Resolved: Parish Council received and accepted the Working from Home Policy and Home Working Risk Assessment.

5648 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

- i. **Internal Auditor's Report and Certificate for 2024/25**

The Internal Auditors report was reviewed and actions required in response from the Parish Council noted.

Resolved: Internal Audit Report and Certificate was accepted by the Parish Council.

- ii. **Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements (Section 1 and Section 2**

Resolved: The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements were received signed by the Chair of the Parish Council and the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer respectively.

- iii. **Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited AGAR**

It was noted that due to the Clerk's absence at the last Parish Council meeting due to incapacity, the AGAR documents had not been able to be signed off and therefore the original dates for publication of unaudited accounts had now passed.

As such the Clerk undertook to amend the dates to Tuesday 1 July – Monday 11 August and would update the notice to be displayed on 30 June 2025 respectively.

Resolved: Parish Council agreed to the revised publication dates.

5649 PLANS TO CONTINUE WITH DIGITAL DROP-IN SESSIONS

Councillors were requested to consider the continuation of the Digital Drop-Ins bearing in mind that they had been found to be very useful by both the councillors and members of the public.

Resolved: Parish Council agreed to fund the cost of extending the digital drop-ins which would continue to take place in the Village Hall and the Clerk would arrange and publicise dates of the sessions.

5650 REVIEW OF PPE/SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND GUIDELINES FOR WORKING IN EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS (PARISH LENGTHSMAN)

Councillors were requested to consider the supply of sunscreen for protection from the sun for the Parish Lengthsman whilst working outside during the summer. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should cover the cost of sunscreen as part of the requirements for Health & Safety/provision of PPE.

Resolved: Parish Council to cover the cost of providing sun screen protection for the Parish Lengthsman.

5651 REVIEW OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Councillors were requested to consider raising the prices of the grounds maintenance contracts in line with the 24/25 pay award of 2.5%. After discussion it was agreed to raise the prices of commercial contracts, however it was agreed not to raise the process of the contracts with the churches.

Resolved: To increase the prices of the commercial contracts with Lancashire County Council and Lune Valley Rural Housing by 2.5%.

5652 APPLICATION FOR DONATION/GRANT FROM 1ST PILLING SCOUTS GROUP FOR £500 TOWARDS PURCHASE OF NEW TENTS AND WATER CONTAINERS

Councillors were requested to consider an application for a donation/grant of £500 to the 1st Pilling Scouts Group for the purchase of 4 new 4-man tents and 2 wheeled water containers.

Resolved: Parish Councillors agreed to the request for a donation of £500 to the 1st Pilling Scouts Group.

5653 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Applications for Consultation

Application Number: 25/00446/FUL

Proposal: Two storey rear extension including demolition of existing single storey and lean to roof

Location: Old Burns House Lancaster Road Pilling Preston Lancashire

Resolved: Parish Council had no objections to this proposal.

Application Number: 25/00448/FUL

Proposal: Extension to existing silage clamp (part retrospective)

Location: Springfield Farm Wheel Lane Pilling Preston Lancashire

Resolved: Parish Council had no objections to this proposal.

Application Number: 24/00838/FUL

Proposal: Proposed agricultural workers dwelling including single garage

Location: Land At Foxfield Nurseries Ox Close Lane Off School Lane Pilling

Resolved: Parish Council had no objections to this proposal.

5654 FINANCE

Income:

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

Councillors approved the following **Payments:**

Payee		Reason
HMRC	£ 784.57	PAYE/ NI
Julia Brewer	£ 84.99	Microsoft Subscription
C&C Supplies	£ 11.58	Tarmacadam
Houghtons	£ 451.56	Diesel/Petrol/Pilling in Bloom
Giftcard	£ 42.95	Book Tokens (Newsletter Competition)
DFX Systems	£ 60.00	IT Services (Community Action)
Colin Cross Printers	£ 429.00	Printing Newsletter
Information Commissioner's Office	£ 52.00	Data Protection Registration
Gillian Benson	£ 130.60	Locum Services
Laburnum Nurseries	£ 507.48	Bedding Plants (Pilling in Bloom)
	£2554.73	

Standing Orders/Direct Debits

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Staff costs for May* | £ 4585.84 |
| 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 |

**inclusive of PAYE/NIC contributions.*

Bank Reconciliation to 31st May 2025

See information.

Unity Trust Bank £ 298.03

Furness Building Society £ 87,188.72

Redwood Business Savings £ 75,387.93

Resolved: Councillors accepted bank reconciliation and budget monitoring to 31ST May 2025.

5655 VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had nothing in particular to report.

- **VE Day Celebrations**

It was agreed that following the success of this year's event, another event should be held next year.

- **Pilling in Bloom**

Cllr Phillpotts reported that, although the village was not entering the 'In Bloom' competition this year, both he and the lengthsman had been doing the planting to make the village look nice.

- **Pilling Village Hall**

Cllr McWhirter reported that the Village Hall Committee were looking into fundraising in order to extend the Village Hall to include for a front porch and additional storage facilities.

- **Pilling Community Action**

As per previous agenda item, digital drop-ins to continue for the foreseeable future.

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

Cllr Phillpotts and Cllr Whiteside reported that they had met with Winster Farmers who were in a similar position but further down the line, who had agreed to supply them with information.

They were also awaiting the results of water samples taken which would hopefully prove there was pollution and therefore environmental damage which would strengthen the case to get something done about the flood gates.

- **Create Homes/St Williams Gate**

Cllr D Ponton was on holiday so nothing to report.

- **Neighbourhood Plan**

It was generally agreed that there was some confusion about what was being proposed by Cllr Collinge for the Neighbourhood Plan and the survey to residents regarding the spending of Reserves.

It was agreed that this needed to be discussed with Cllr Collinge at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Chairman

Date