

PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PILLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY
13th November 2024 at 7pm**



Present:

Pilling Parish Councillors;

*Neil Cookson, Chairman
Graham Curwen, Vice Chairman,
Elizabeth Cookson,
Judy Judkins
Steve Phillpotts,
John Savage,
Alf Whiteside,
Sarah Collinge
Dave Ponton
Paul McWhirter
Julia Brewer, Clerk to the Parish Council
Cllr Matthew Salter*

In attendance:

5518. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Wyre Cllr Adam Leigh.

5519 DECLARATION ON INTERESTS

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

5520. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2024 having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5521. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended to allow residents to speak.

Report from Wyre Councillor Adam Leigh

“The main update this month is with Create Homes and a copy of the letter that has been sent to residents along with a copy sent to all the parish councillors. The meeting with Create was productive, and we hope that working together for the good of the residents can provide the solution needed”.

Report from County Cllr Matthew Salter

- **Warm Spaces**

Cllr Salter informed the Council that there was funding available from Lancashire County Council under the ‘warm spaces’ initiative.

- **Highways**

Cllr Salter informed the meeting that Lancashire County Council Highways had indicated that there would only be money for emergency repairs to highways in the 2025-26 budget and that, despite protestations, it was unlikely that the road at Smallwood Hey would be included.

Concern was raised by the parish councillors that this was an outstanding issue that had gone on for several years, along with the requirement to keep the dykes clear. Cllr Salter urged the Parish Council to write to the Director of Highways directly and Cllr Rupert Swarbrick and Cllr S Turner respectively regarding this issue.

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

5522. CLERK'S REPORT

Further to the Clerk's Report that had been circulated, the Clerk informed the meeting that the defibrillator had now been received and was installed.

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was noted.

5523. PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

Following the meeting of the Finance Committee it had been agreed that the Reserves policy required reviewing and updating. Following JPAG guidelines the Reserves policy was updated to include running costs for 12 months.

Resolved: Councillors agreed to adopt the revised Reserves policy.

5524. GRANTS POLICY

Cllr J Judkins referred to the previous donations policy and proposed a revised policy for the award of small grants which would require organisations to prove a benefit to the community of Pilling and which would be monitored by the Finance Committee.

Resolved: To adopt the revised policy for the award of Grants.

5525. PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE ANOTHER SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

It was noted that there was currently only one SID in operation and it was proposed that another be purchased prior to Christmas and within this financial year, and a further two devices be purchased from Reserves in the 2025-26 financial year.

Resolved: To approve the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device at a cost of £2763.83 plus VAT, and to include for two further devices to be included in the 2025-26 financial budget.

5526. CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT SWITCH-ON

Cllr G Curwen reported on the arrangements for the Christmas Tree Light Switch-On.

Resolved: To note the arrangements for the Christmas Tree Light Switch-On on Monday 2nd December at 7.00pm.

5527. CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS: RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk reported that the Risk Assessment for the Christmas Tree Lights Switch-ON required reviewing.

Resolved: Cllr S Phillpotts and Cllr D Ponton agreed to review the current Risk Assessment.

5529. DRAFT PLANNING ENFORCEMENT POLICY CONSULTATION 2024

Following discussion of the inconsistencies within the planning process and previous correspondence regarding the number of retrospective planning applications, the Parish Council agreed to send a response to the above.

Resolved: Parish Clerk to formulate a response to the draft planning enforcement policy consultation.

5530. PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Autumn Newsletter for comment. Some minor amendments were noted.

Resolved: To approve the draft and agree to the publication of the Newsletter and circulation by the end of November.

5531: OPEN CONSULTATION: ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

Councillors noted the consultation exercise and considered if they wished to make a response.

Resolved: Parish Council declined to make a response to the consultation exercise.

5532: PROPOSAL TO CHANGE PARISH EMAIL ACCOUNTS TO GOV.UK

The Clerk drew attention to the recommendation from the JPAG that Parish Councils should adopt the gov. uk parish email address as this would provide increased security.

Councillors considered the proposal but felt that another email address for councillors would be confusing, but that the main parish account email should probably be a gov.uk address.

Resolved: Parish Clerk to investigate further regarding costs and implementation to change in current email address to gov.uk

5533: ORCHARD END COMMUNITY FUND

Attention was drawn to the potential for further grant funding from the Orchard End Community Fund.

Resolved: To explore the potential for obtaining a grant for the purchase of one of the agreed Speed Indicator Devices (SID).

5534: HEALTH & SAFETY REVIEW

Attention was drawn to the Healthy & Safety policies and current risk assessments which required reviewing and updating.

Resolved: Cllr S Phillpotts and Cllr D Ponton to conduct a review of the Health & Safety Risk Assessments.

5535: PURCHASE OF STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PARISH COUNCIL LENGTHSMAN

Following approval at the last meeting, a revised quote for 1 x 40 ft container had been received at a cost of £4000 plus VAT. After discussion it was suggested that it might be appropriate to review the location of the storage facility.

Resolved: To discuss the option to purchase 2 x 20 ft storage unit to be located at the Village Hall with the Parish Lengthsman.

5536. REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report from the planning committee on 6 November was noted.

Application Number: 24/00843/FUL

Proposal: 1.5 storey side extension, new front porch, loft conversion with front and rear dormers and associated external alterations

Location: Broadfleet Cottage Taylors Lane Pilling Preston Lancashire

The committee have no objections in principle to this proposal.

Application Number: 23/01042/FUL

Proposal: Proposed extension to existing agricultural building for the storage of machinery and feedstuffs

Location: New Hall Farm Lancaster Road Pilling Preston Lancashire

The committee requested clarification regarding this application with respect to the site location as per response from Paul Long, Wyre Council.

Application Number: 24/00899/FUL

Proposal: Proposed single storey side and rear garage with single storey front porch extension

Location: Laurel Cottage Taylors Lane Pilling Preston Lancashire

The committee have no objections in principle to this application.

Application Number: 24/00860/FUL

Proposal: Installation of ancillary solar array for existing lodge park

Location: Woodlands Country Park Skitham Lane Pilling Preston Lancashire

The committee have no objections in principle to this application.

Applications granted:

Proposed single storey side and rear extension

2 East View Lancaster Road Pilling Preston Lancashire PR3 6AH

Ref. No: 24/00693/FUL | Received: Mon 26 Aug 2024 | Validated: Mon 26 Aug 2024 | Status: Application Permitted

Retrospective application for siting of outbuilding for use as indoor seating and games room ancillary to the public house

Elletsons Arms Hotel Lancaster Road Pilling Preston Lancashire PR3 6AH

Ref. No: 24/00635/FUL | Received: Mon 05 Aug 2024 | Validated: Fri 23 Aug 2024 | Status: Application Permitted

Applications refused:

Permission in principle for one replacement dwellinghouse, annex and garage
New Hall Lancaster Road Pilling Preston Lancashire PR3 6SQ

Ref. No: 24/00657/PIP | Received: Fri 09 Aug 2024 | Validated: Thu 15 Aug 2024 | Status: Application Refused

Resolved: To receive the report from the Planning Committee and agree the decisions made regarding planning applications.

5537. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report from the Finance Committee held on 23 October 2024 was circulated.

It was noted that accounts had been scrutinised and receipts and payments in the cash books had been checked against the invoices and bank statements for July to September 2024 and that copies of the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring statements to 30 September 2024 had been approved.

Resolved: Report was received and recommendations accepted by Councillors.

Opening of CCLA Reserve account

Following a telephone discussion with Jamie Charteris from CCLA it transpired that the CCLA accounts were not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and it had therefore been agreed to refer the matter back to the Parish Council for consideration.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed that it was unwise to expose the Parish Council reserves to risk and therefore it was agreed not to open the CCLA accounts but to retain the existing building society account.

5538. BUDGET 2025-26

Following the meeting of the Finance Committee on 23 October, a draft budget had been circulated for consideration by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that, in light of the current economic situation, that the precept should not be increased and as such, any expenditure for capital equipment would be paid from Reserves.

Resolved: To approve the first draft of the budget for 2025-26 subject to final ratification in January 2025.

5538. FINANCE**Income:**

St. John's Church	£ 25.00	Grounds Maintenance
Pilling Village Hall	£ 340.00	Monthly Loan Repayment
Parish Councillors	£ 45.00	Donations to Trinity Hospice

Resolved: To approve the following Payments:

Payee		Reason
Mrs J Judkins	£ 100.00	Community Action
Royal British Legion	£ 100.00	Donation
Trinity Hospice	£ 100.00	Donation (£45.00 donated by councillors)
Unity Bank	£ 9.30	Monthly bank charges
LALC	£ 35.00	Training (Budgeting) – J Brewer
HMRC	£ 678.02	*PAYE/NIC Contributions – October
Myerscough College	£ 85.00	Pesticides Training – S Raby
Viking	£ 38.33	Stationery
Houghtons	£ 126.80	Diesel
Laburnum Nurseries	£ 68.25	Pilling in Bloom
DFX Systems	£ 45.00	Community Action

Village Hall	£ 35.00	Meeting Room (Community Action)
HCE	£ 244.80	Defibrillator Pads x 3
	£ 1730.50	

Standing Orders/Direct Debits

1. Staff costs for October*	£ 4222.63
2. Easy-Web-Sites	£ 30.36
3. Pilling Village Hall rental	£100.00
4. Towers and Gornall	£ 68.40
5. EE	£ 40.56

Bank Reconciliation to 31st October 2024

Unity Trust Bank £ 47,418.15

Furness Building Society £ 84,488.5

Resolved: Councillors accepted bank reconciliation and Budget Monitoring to 31st October 2024.

5539 VERBAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- **Chairman's Report**

Cllr N Cookson referred to the success of Pilling in achieving Gold in the Britain in Bloom awards together with the award for recognition in biodiversity and wish to formally record his thanks to the Parish Lengthsman, Sta Raby, and his helpers for all their hard work.

- **Pilling Community Action**

Cllr J Judkin informed the meeting that following the walks, a booklet was to be printed depicting the routes.

She also informed the council of plans to hold a 'drop-in' session on Digital Awareness on Thursday 5th December in order to establish what residents might require in terms of digital support.

- **Lancashire County Council Parish and Town Councils Conference**

Cllr J Judkins reported that she had attended this meeting and could provide feedback if anyone wished.

- **Joint Parishes Working Group**

Cllr J Judkins reported that she had attended the last meeting and that there had been discussions about establishing a 'whatsapp' group between the parish clerks for the sharing of information.

It was also noted that the group wanted to have their February meeting at the Village Hall on 3rd February 2025.

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

Cllr S Phillpotts and Cllr A Whiteside reported back from the meeting on 6th November which had been well attended and largely positive and that plans were now moving forward to discuss the next steps.

- **Create Homes**

Cllr Dave Ponton and Cllr S Phillpotts updated the council on progress from the meeting with Create Homes.

The letter from Create Homes had gone out regarding the plans for the land which had been originally proposed for affordable housing and Cllr D Ponton was currently collating responses for Create Homes to take back to Planning.

5540 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Chairman

Date