

# **MINUTES OF PILLING'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

*Present:*                    *Councillors; J. Savage, Chairman,*  
                                      *Mrs. E. Cookson,*  
                                      *N. Cookson,*  
                                      *G. Curwen,*  
                                      *P. M<sup>c</sup>Whirter,*  
                                      *S. Phillpotts,*  
                                      *A. Whiteside*  
                                      *Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Parish Council*  
                                      *Three residents*

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were sent from Wyre Councillor Holden

## **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022, having been circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

*Resolved; The Chairman signed the minutes.*

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

*Resolved: No matters were raised from the minutes.*

## **4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

In Pilling, it is possible to stand at various locations and view the multi-faceted aspects of life, from farming, to business, to tourism and all this within a living community.

However, for this to be long lasting, the infrastructure has to be maintained. Living as we do close to the sea; water is a continuing issue. It is a cause for concern that the Environment Agency has limited the scope of work that they carry out in Pilling, due to financial constraints. Sterling work by landowners and our lengthsman Stan have somewhat lessened the impact of floods. The drainage project mentioned last year is yet to progress from the initial meeting.

In a rural location, links to the wider community are vital and recent legislation has seen the introduction of lower speed limits and constant monitoring of speeds on the A588. Whether this will have the required effect on safety remains to be seen. The surface of many roads continues to be a major problem; we have requested an onsite meeting with county officials to demonstrate the deterioration of the surface on Smallwood Hey.

Local councils such as Pilling provide a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavour to solve them at a local level. This only succeeds if parish, borough and county work together effectively. The Lancashire County Council Parish Charter was intended to provide closer working between county and parish but as, yet we await evidence that it is of benefit.

While we support appropriate new buildings in the village, we do consider the impact of any major developments on the wider community and having made comments we are still waiting for a decision on the proposed scheme for the Golden Ball site. The parish council also monitors and consults with other bodies when problems occur on local developments.

But, while the infrastructure is important, it is the people who make Pilling what it is. As a community we came together last June to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. A few months later we marked her passing and the accession of King Charles III. The year also saw the passing of two of our parish councillors, Eddie Moorat and John Barton. Both served the council and the wider community tirelessly and will be remembered with appreciation.

The presentation of Pilling has been enhanced by the work of Stan and his helpers and it is pleasing to record the successes in both North West in Bloom and the Best Kept Village Competition. Improvements in the Sensory Garden have also added to the look of Pilling.

Pilling Village Hall goes from strength to strength and has been host to an increasing variety of activities during the year including several organised by Pilling Community Action. It is pleasing to note the efforts of individuals within the community to enhance the village and I would wish to mention the library that has been started outside The Ship.

As a parish council, our aims are to represent the local community, to deliver services to meet local needs and to strive to improve the quality of life in the parish; in all this I am aided by my fellow councillors, our clerk Gillian and our lengthsman Stan, and to them I express my thanks.

John Savage  
Chairman, Pilling Parish Council.  
*Resolved: The report was accepted.*

## **5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER** **Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Carried forward:		Year end:
Nat West:	£12,642.93	£ 0.00
Unity Trust Bank	£ 0.00	£ 9,672.57
Furness Building Society:	<u>£44,233.73</u>	<u>£65,596.86</u>
	£56,876.66	£75,269.43

### **Income:**

As the nation lives through the impact of a cost of living following the Covid pandemic, Pilling residents are no different. The Government gave permission to principal authorities to increase their precepts, allowing both Lancashire County Council and Wyre Council increases of over 6%. Pilling Parish Council did not wish to add further financial impact on their residents resulting in an increase of 0.2%, 17pence on their council tax bills.

The Parish Council invests in Furness Building Society resulting in £544 in interest, £77 last year. A change in bank was necessary as the previous bank started charging. The Village Hall, as a direct result of their many successful events and continuous support of Pilling residents, have begun to repay the Parish Council loan.

Pilling in Bloom, who use the Parish Council's financial facilities, raised an extraordinary amount in sponsorship, thanks wholly to the tireless efforts of Stan Raby. These include both local and surrounding businesses, Wyre Council and local residents. The Parish Council is rightly proud of his diligence when, with his team, planted up the village and extended areas of floral displays. This resulted in a RHS North West in Bloom Gold Award and Highly commended in Best Kept Village Competition.

The Parish Council's ground maintenance contracts include St. John's Church and Pilling Chapel graveyards, Lancashire County Council grass verges, and Lune Valley Housing. Moons Trust grants supporting Pilling in Bloom and Coronation Afternoon Tea

### **Expenditure:**

Staff costs increased slightly, but Lancashire County Pension failed to claim March's payment, and this will be made in April. Lancashire County Council has failed to pay the Amenity Grass Cutting Contract, Parish Lengthsman Scheme payment and Environment Scheme payment due to their internal financial systems. It is hoped this will be paid shortly. Pilling in Bloom has bought some containers installed near the station.

There have been marginal increases in insurance, audit and subscription costs. The Pilling Newsletter was only produced once this year. The Queen's Jubilee Trees were planted on the Village Hall field with Platinum Jubilee picnic bench and table, but village organisations are still to pay for their trees. The Parish Council purchased litter bins for Back Sands and Lancaster Road.

Several gates were erected on footpaths to help those with less mobility use our many routes in Pilling. Another defibrillator is now at the Reading Rooms with public access, making 10 in Pilling. All defibrillators are registered on The Circuit a county wide directory run by the British Heart Foundation. North West Ambulance also access and feed into the directory.

Pilling Community Action were granted £9,300 last year and have spent £2,500 against this providing training in creative sessions, including bird boxes, which were erected recently in the village.

Gillian Benson,  
Responsible Financial Officer, Pilling Parish Council  
*Resolved: The report was accepted.*

## **6. REPORTS**

### **Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

Cllr. N. Cookson reported on visits from Police Chief Superintendent of Wyre. Karen Edwards and Planning Department at Wyre Council.

### **Pilling Village Hall**

Cllr. P. McWhirter reported on the success of the hall with regular events both organised by both the committee and many private hirings, with a rise in weekend bookings. All of which will help in a contribution to the Parish Council loan. The committee is looking to provide a Multi-Use Games Area and teen shelter. Several sizes are being considered; matched to the amount of funding possible. To provide an accessible roundabout will cost about £32K.

### **Pilling in Bloom Annual Report 2022**

Britain in Bloom is a year-round competition organised by the Royal Horticultural Society. Pilling competes on a regional level with Wyre Borough Council.

We have had another great year in Pilling, maintaining some of the more successful aspects of last year's planting and introducing some new ideas. Stan our lengthsman has worked very hard and continues to build good relationships with people in the village. This means that we have received generous donations, grants and help in planting, watering and tidying.

### Highlights of 2022

- Fabulous new bug hotel and bench on School Lane
- Spring and Summer bulb planting in shady areas.
- New signage, new bench, and herb plants in the Sensory Garden
- 3 fruit trees relocated.
- Advice received from Lancashire Wildlife Trust.
- Grass verges managed differently; small patches are not mown until May; these areas have been seeded with red clover to help increase biodiversity.
- Leaf debris and grasses have been left in place to support early pollinators.
- We have used a more varied selection of plants this year avoiding hybrids, if possible.
- Two weeping willows planted near to the windmill.
- More native wildflowers have been planted.
- Pilling pickers continue to help to keep the village litter free.

We were delighted to receive another Gold Award from Wyre Borough Council; their very positive comments were encouraging. We also gained recognition from the Best kept Village judges and praise for our Sensory Garden from John Lamb of Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Report by Cllr. Mrs. J. Judkins

### Pilling Community Action

The project is going well. We have had 10 events including in 2022:

- 2x community days for children
- 1 x upcycling workshop
- 2 x Christmas crafts
- 3 x repurposing textiles for Macramé
- Workshop - Constructing a Nesting box and bird watch.

These have all been free events and this has encouraged people to 'have a go' at something new.

All the feedback from participants has been very positive and we have plans for another project that will be accessible and interesting to the whole village.

The Facebook page for this group '[pilling community action](#)' has been very useful for advertising events and other items of local interest.

Report by Cllr. Mrs. J. Judkins

### 8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised by residents.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15p.m.*

Date .....

Chairman .....

***The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on  
Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024.***