

# Poulton and Pulford Parish Council

Clerk to Council: Peter Gosmore, 5 Castle Hill, Pulford, Chester CH4 9EY - Telephone 07711808082

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Pulford Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr Ewins (chair), Cllr Murray, Cllr Board, Cllr Fair, Cllr Evans, Cllr Franklin

## Agenda:

### 1. Apologies:

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Douglas, Fay and Hynes

### 2. Declaration of Interest:

- 2.1. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests and Cllr Fair recognised the need to provide an update for the website.
- 2.2. No personal interest in items on the agenda and their nature was declared.
- 2.3. There were no prejudicial interests declared in items on the agenda.

### 3. Suspension of Standing Orders:

- 3.1. From 7pm electors were invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman, before the start of the Parish Council meeting at 7:30pm. There were four members of the public present and comments were made about the speeding situation along the B5445 through the 30mph limited zone. Several possibilities to ameliorate the situation were discussed – speed bumps, road lettering, speed radar and ‘drive carefully through Pulford’ signs. It was accepted that any progress would be slow and potentially difficult but that effort should be kept up.  
The poor state of the pavements was also discussed together with details of ongoing planned actions (listed below under appropriate agenda items).

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were accepted as being an accurate record and the Chairman signed the file copy.

### 5. Progress Reports on Issues carried forward:

- 5.1. Hedges, pavements and roads,-
  - 5.1.1. The Corner of Dodleston Lane and B5445. In the absence of action from Mr Homer, CWAC will cut the hedge and tackle the pavement encroachment adjacent to the hedge and on the opposite side of Wrexham Road between the Church and the Brook.
  - 5.1.2. Old Lane / Spinney leaves on path and lack of street lighting. The battery lights have had their power packs replaced and are now working properly. Street lamps were discussed, but the cost at £10,000 for three was beyond our budget. StreetCare plan to clear the path and gutter as part of their street cleansing programme.
  - 5.1.3. Ongoing regular Teams meeting between Stuart Bateman and Chairman on state of local pathways and vegetation ingress – Councillors had received a report on this. The fact that a streetlight near the bus stop had failed was noted – hopefully it will soon be mended. Recent large pothole in Dodleston Lane also reported to Highways.
  - 5.1.4. The idea was floated that ‘Jon the Gardener’ who has kept the garden areas tidy around the Village Hall could do some pavement clearing – it was agreed that the clerk would write to Stuart Bateman to get guidance on this.

- 5.2. On the subject of Grosvenor Pulford car parking – this is still a persistent issue and it seemed from the Police that there is a feeling on the part of the hotel that the Parish Council

- is against the development of their additional parking space. The Clerk is to write to the hotel reiterating and reinforcing our support for their plans. Our local PC (Sarai Kilshaw) is actively involved in attempting to tackle the issue of pavement parking outside the hotel.
- 5.3. Pulford Court issues were the subject of considerable discussion with ongoing input from Environmental Health, Cheshire Fire Brigade and Social Services. The clerk is to write to a recent complainant asking them to raise any new sighting of vermin and fire concerns with the appropriate agencies.
- 5.4. There seems stalemate on activity at Woodfield Farm Straight Mile – The chairman has written to our MP again asking her to help to get CWAC proactive.
- 5.5. Gov.uk email addresses and Website changes (incl. contact details) will be distributed to Councillors and support can be given to any member who is having difficulty. Our new website is active and the address is [www.poultonandpulford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.poultonandpulford-pc.gov.uk)

## 6. **Planning - Ongoing planning applications 2025/26 (correct on 4/2/26)**

REFERENCE	Date received	Address & Description	Outcome
24/02915/FUL	27/9/24	Moorfield Farm, Dodleston Lane, Pulford Conversion of stable block & outbuildings to 2 dwellings. Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of single storey garage	Application withdrawn
25/00128/FUL	17/1/25	Oldfields Farm, Cuckoo's Nest Demolition of slurry towers and erection of a replacement agricultural milking parlour and dairy building	Approved 5/12/25
24/03015/FUL	8/10/24 (validated 8/5/25)	Grosvenor Pulford Hotel Construction of overflow carpark to provide an additional 63 parking spaces	Awaiting decision <sup>1</sup>
25/02745/FUL	22/8/25	10, Old Lane, Pulford Obscured glazed windows to the side elevations and alterations of the roof design at the rear to the ground floor rear and side extensions (Modifications to the proposals forming part of lawful development certificate 24/03543/LDC)	Approved 13/11/25
25/03445/CAT	31/10/25	Willow Cabin, The Green, Poulton Tree work including crown clean, crown lift, crown balance, felling and replanting	Agreed 15/12/25
25/03526/CAT	11/11/25	Helyg, Park Lane, Cuckoo's Nest Fell conifer in garden and replace with suitable alternative	Agreed 19/12/25
25/03552/FUL	7/11/25	Grosvenor Pulford Hotel Single storey extension to swimming pool area	Awaiting decision

25/03829/LDC	8/12/25	Brookside Farm House, Old Lane, Pulford Use of former agricultural land as garden extending the domestic curtilage associated to the farmhouse	Awaiting decision
26/00286/TPO	3/2/26	Open space in front of 4-11 Castle Close, Pulford Reduction in height of Apple and Birch trees to clear overhead telephone wires	Awaiting decision

1. Environment Agency to confirm adequacy of proposed Flood Risk Assessment and whether the proposed mitigation in the form of a Flood Response Plan is acceptable. Still awaiting submission and approval of a Surface Water Drainage scheme.

#### **7. Finance, Governance and Accountability:**

- 7.1. The Clerk has recently completed an HMRC VAT Claim (February 2025 to end of January 2026). Hopefully this will be paid quite soon.
- 7.2. The clerk updated the meeting on the budget progression over the year 2025/6 and all is satisfactory and we should have a surplus of close to £7000 at the end of the financial year.
- 7.3. Precept for year 2026/7 was discussed and it was agreed that we should keep a healthy surplus in line with ChALC suggestions.
- 7.4. Update to local Financial Regulations. Following previous discussions details of the recommended Surplus Reserve Fund to be added to the updated Financial Regulations to be circulated prior to the May AGM.
- 7.5. There is a deadline of 2032 to spend the CIL money left over following the Community Park pathway artwork. An idea of outdoor table tennis tables was discussed but there was little support as it was felt to be too expensive and unlikely to be used appropriately.

#### **8. Correspondence for information**

- 8.1. Letter from Debbie Davey – state of footpaths in Cuckoo’s Nest area – this was discussed in the early open part of the meeting. It seems that there might be some glimmer of hope but pressure needs to be kept up.
- 8.2. Pulford 10k – Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 – the clerk is to write to the organisers to check on exact road closure timing before posting details.
- 8.3. No local road closures for upcoming Deva Triathlon (Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>).
- 8.4. Correspondence on Old Lane street lighting and pathway was covered earlier in the meeting.
- 8.5. Further letter re Pulford Court issues has already been discussed.
- 8.6. Email from resident suggesting that Parish Council meetings are held 6 times per year – that is every two months rather than the current level of four. It was agreed that four meetings a year is sufficient particularly as Councillors receive weekly bulletins which keep issues well up to date.

#### **9. Clerk’s Reports and Queries:**

- 9.1. Police Report, Survey and regular Surgery plans were discussed, and it was agreed that a recent Police Report will be displayed on Notice Board. Future Surgeries are arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> April both from 9-10am in the Village Hall.
- 9.2. The Clerk briefly outlined the outcome from Scribe ‘End of Year’ health check but as this only arrived today was as yet unsure of full details – however, all seems broadly ok
- 9.3. The 2025 Christmas Tree Lighting event was well supported and enjoyable.

## 10. Councillors' Reports and Risk Assessment:

10.1. Risk assessment problem reports (see table below):

Location	Responsibility	Issues
Village Hall	Cllr D Ewins	Swing doors will shortly be replaced by a conventionally opening door.
Church Bank	Cllr D Ewins	Two rotten posts – it was agreed Clerk to ask David Roberts for advice.
Community Park	J Ewins	
Village Hall Defibrillator	Cllr D Ewins	Regularly re-registered on National Defibrillator Network.
Pulford Notice Board	Cllr Franklin	
Cuckoo's Nest Notice Board	Kate Fairhurst	
Bus Shelters	Cllr Board	
Poulton Defibrillator	Cllr Fay	Regularly re-registered on National Defibrillator Network. Batteries changed – we have a spare set in hand. Local interest raised in a further resuscitation course at the Village Hall to be followed up.

11. **Future agenda items requested** – it was suggested that the Clerk should write to the Diocese raising concern about regarding the lack of shared information and local consultation about the future of St Mary's Church and that the Church should be the subject of agenda listing at the next meeting

## 12. Dates of next meetings:

- 27th May 2026 - Annual General Meeting