

Poulton and Pulford Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Peter Gosmore, 5 Castle Hill, Pulford, Chester

Tel: 07711808082 email: clerk@poultonandpulford-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting (following AGM) held on 27th May 2026 In Pulford Village Hall.

1. Apologies:

1.1. To receive apologies:

None received – all members present.

2. Declaration of Interest:

2.1. Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

Nil

2.2. To declare any personal interest in items on the agenda and their nature:

Cllr Fair declared an interest in planning application 26/01509/106 as it relates to Chapel House Farm.

2.3. To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature (Councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items)

As above.

3. Suspension of Standing Orders:

There was criticism of the number of depressions on the newly restored section of the B5445 – Clerk has already raised this with Stuart Bateman our Highways Officer and has reported it using the 'reportit' system to CWAC.

Continuing concern about the state of the hedge on the corner of Dodleston Lane and B5445.

Member of the public (and councillors) were particularly concerned about the way that the Woodfield Fram site on Straight Mile has not been effectively dealt with by CWAC. The clerk was instructed to write to The CWAC Chief Executive and Aphra Brandreth our MP.

Finally concern about other hedges and pavement intrusion namely two doors from Village Hall down (Wrexham Bound) on B 5445 and still on the B5445, the second property up from the Castle Hill junction with B5445 – Chester bound. The Clerk was instructed to write to both addresses.

4. Approval of Minutes of meeting of 25/02/2026:

The minutes were accepted and signed.

5. Progress Reports on Issues carried forward:

5.1. Hedges, pavements and roads:

Still general dissatisfaction – Clerk instructed to write to Stuart Bateman outlining concerns (yet again) and include a request for a TEAMS meeting before the next Parish Council meeting in August.

5.2. Grosvenor Pulford Hotel car parking:

Still ongoing concerns and it was decided to accept the Police suggestion of two large "A-frame" stands (with Cheshire Police and Parish Council logos) to be placed appropriately near the junctions of Wrexham Road with both Castle Hill and Dodleston Lane (the two places where visibility can be seriously affected when cars park illegally within 10m of a road junction. The cost of these will be £25 each+ VAT. Police agree to monitor the situation, and fixed penalty notices will be issued for violations. The Grosvenor Pulford Hotel are to be made aware of this plan and they should be

encouraged to ask guests to park courteously. Further, it seems that the Reception Staff at the hotel may have been giving permission for Coach Drivers to park on the parish council owned Church Bank and the surface cannot regularly cope with these large vehicles. The relevant staff should be instructed that they do not have this right of authorisation.

5.3. Update on activity on Woodfield Farm, Straight Mile:

Although a Planning Enforcement Officer, Michelle Hewitt, has been assigned to this issue significant concern was raised about the lack of any apparent progress. The Clerk to write to Chief Executive of CWAC expressing our disappointment and concern.

5.4. Gov.uk email addresses – update on usage:

Parish Councillors were encouraged to fully adopt gov.uk email addresses. The Clerk agreed to recirculate the details and guidance literature and also offered to help anyone experiencing difficulties with this.

6. Planning - ref www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning for full details. Ongoing planning applications 2025/6. Check on the CWAC planning portals for recent approvals. Current applications (correct as at 1/5/26) are listed below

REFERENCE	Date received	Address & Description	Outcome
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
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 Farmhouse, 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	Approved 20/3/26
26/00300/LBC	29/1/26	The Old School House, Straight Mile Internal alterations and installation of new windows and solar panels to outbuildings	Approved 8/5/26
26/00781/FUL	10/3/26	26 Belgrave Garden Mews, Pulford Installation of electrically operated insulated sectional door to garage.	Approved 7/5/26
26/01342/FUL	14/05/26	Installation of roof light to existing roof, and erection of pergola. . The Gables, Green Fram, Straight Mile, Poulton.	Awaiting Decision
26/01342/FUL	14/5/26	The Gables, Green Farm, Straight Mile, Poulton Installation of roof light and erection of pergola	Awaiting decision
26/01549/106	15/5/26	Chapel House Farm, The Green, Poulton Request for deed of discharge of previous section 106 agreement from 10/04 (ref 03/01989/FUL)	Awaiting decision

7. Finance, Governance and Accountability:

Detailed information is available on the Council Website (www.poultonandpulfordcouncil-pc.gov.uk)

7.1. Update on the budget progression over the year 2026/7. The Clerk reported that all was on track as expected and that Councillors were fully updated in the regular weekly bulletin.

8. Neighbourhood Planning:

The Chair outlined the requirements, need and contents of a Neighbourhood Plan – the feeling of the meeting was to seek further information, seek examples and consider. Cllr Hynes agreed to look further and report back. The Chair to send Cllr Hynes the NALC document entitled “*The Good Councillors Guide to Neighbourhood Planning*” which contains a couple of case studies from town and parish councils that have produced such plans. The subjective feeling of the meeting was not to become involved. Dodleston Parish Council had been making contact with a view to possibly work together with us.

9. Correspondence for information.

9.1. **Eaton Estate Forestry** – The Chair reported on a meeting with Greg Vickers the Head of Forestry for the Grosvenor Estate. The Estate already have a license for tree thinning within Pulford Wood and due to ash tree dieback requirements they have applied for a further license to remove declining/dead Ash trees from the woodland. This would involve approximately 3 hectares of the 20 hectare site. These areas to be replanted with oak, lime, cherry alder and some conifer.

They also plan to do some pruning and tree removal on Old Lane.

It was assumed by the meeting that Grosvenor Estates would act in a professional way.

9.2. Archdeacon of Chester – potential closure St Mary’s Church, Pulford:

Continuing concern about the impact of closure and potential use of the building going forward. Worries about maintenance of the graveyard where things have already significantly slipped (there has been a letter of complaint). Traditionally, the Parish Council has donated £200/£300 to the Church to assist with ground maintenance but wish to have some awareness of future plans before any more money given. Thus far, communication has been poor. The Clerk to write to the Archdeacon again outlining the tone of the meeting and Peter Hynes agreed to write to Anabel Farbon requesting assistance from Grosvenor Estate.

9.3. **Invitation to West Cheshire Town and Parish Council Conference.** The Chairman and Clerk are to attend on Wednesday 17th June 2026.

9.4. **Pulford Court:** The situation seems calmer

9.5. **Hedge cutting in the Park:** The hedge is due to be cut this year and Clerk to ask Ashtree to complete the work at the appropriate time.

9.6. **Damaged seat near to the Post Box in Old Lane.** Richard Moulton (DM Performance Cars) had a video clearly showing a car driving into the seat causing the damage. The Clerk is to request permission to send the video to the Police – perhaps they will be able to extract a registration number, and we will be able to take things further. Cllr Fair agreed to oversee repair work with Richard Moulton. It was also noted that Callum West had kindly offered to carry out the repairs.

10. Clerk’s Reports and Queries:

10.1. Meetings with Police have been arranged in Village Hall on Saturday June 20th at 1pm and Saturday July 25th at 2pm. It was suggested that any relevant complainants should be directed to these community policing meetings.

- 10.2. TEAMS meeting with Stuart Bateman from CWAC Highways – already discussed
 10.3. The damaged bench has already been covered
 10.4. No-parking “A frame” boards – already discussed.

11. Councillors’ Reports and Risk Assessment:

Risk assessment problem reports (see table below):

Location	Responsibility	Confirm date checked Any problems
Village Hall	Cllr D Ewins	Internal swing doors replaced – much improved.
Church Bank	Cllr D Ewins	Bus parking issues discussed
Community Park	Cllr J Ewins	Picnic in the Park – Sunday August 30th
Village Hall Defibrillator	Cllr D Ewins	Request for defibrillator classes – the Chairman suggested autumn 2026 to be organised
Poulton Defibrillator	Margaret Fay	ditto
Pulford Notice Board	Cllr Franklin	
Cuckoo’s Nest Notice Board	Kate Fairhurst	
Bus Shelters	Cllr Board	

12. Future agenda items requested:

Issue was raised by Cllr Murray in support of a member of the public to look at ways of perhaps developing the idea of growing organic food – fruit and vegetables.

13. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 21:00