

Poulton and Pulford Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th February 2025 in Pulford Village Hall

Present : Cllr D Ewins (Chair), Cllr J Ewins, Cllr K Board, Cllr N Franklin, and Cllr M Fay

1. Apologies and Membership:

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

2. Declaration of Interest:

- 2.1. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests, to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in items on the agenda.

3. Suspension of Standing Orders:

- 3.1. A number of local residents were in attendance and several issues were raised
 - 3.1.1. The major discussion point was the issue of the felled woodland on the RHS of the B5445 Chester bound. It was explained that the landowner had been granted a Felling Licence by the Forestry Commission with conditions for restocking. There was concern that in the future there may be application for 'change of use'. Worries were also expressed about health and safety conditions and littering. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to CWAC raising these latter two concerns with appropriate authorities.
 - 3.1.2. The general state of pavements in the area were mentioned and the meeting was told that this was in hand following discussions with Stuart Bateman of CWAC Highways. Members of the public were encouraged to use the 'Report it' app on the CWAC website to report any ongoing concerns.
 - 3.1.3. Speeding, particularly on the 50mph stretch was a further expressed concern. The police were to be requested to check more regularly.

4. **Minutes of last meeting from 27/11/24:** These were approved as being a fair record and their acceptance was proposed by Cllr J Ewins and seconded by Cllr Franklin. The single matter arising was that we should remind the property developer in Castle Close that he should do a little more fence work where the trees were felled; a hole should be repaired with it being clear that the fence is the property of the park.

5. Progress Reports on Issues carried forward:

- 5.1. There is still no response from VAT authorities at HMRC following the posting by 'signed for' delivery on 15th November 2024. We understand from our VAT accountant that it can take a considerable time for a response to arrive.
- 5.2. The meeting noted the refund of VAT paid (for PC expenses excluding village hall expenditure) had been completed.
- 5.3. Hedges, pavements and roads:
 - 5.3.1. The damaged refuge at Cuckoo's Nest now complete.
 - 5.3.2. Burganey Court – the parish council has commissioned a local gardener to maintain the area around the Village Hall notice board and work has already begun.
 - 5.3.3. Pavements and walkways are still causing concern. The Clerk reported that following a meeting with Stuart Bateman it has been agreed that there would be a pavement improvement programme in Spring / early summer although owing to budget restraints it would be unlikely that this could include the length down towards Cuckoo's Nest. The meeting noted that there would be regular 'TEAMS' meetings with Stuart Bateman to discuss ongoing and new issues.

- 5.4. There was discussion over the issue of Grosvenor Pulford Hotel car parking. The Police are monitoring the situation on a regular basis.
 - 5.5. The antisocial behaviour in Pulford Court was considered to be dormant and the matter was closed.
 - 5.6. The damage to gravestone in St Mary's Churchyard was in the hands of the Church Authorities and there would be no further discussion.
 - 5.7. The rechargeable lights in the Spinney are reported to have ameliorated the issue of that dark corner of Pulford.
 - 5.8. The cleared area of woodland has been minuted earlier.
 - 5.9. Freedom Fibre have received a letter mentioning the fact that the land where they intend to site their distribution internet box belonged to Eaton Estates - they are investigating.
 - 5.10. The planning application at 10 Old Lane, the derelict bungalow, has been noted as an on-going situation and that the Parish Council would 'wait and see' the outcome from the Planning Committee at CWAC.
 - 5.11. Following advice from CWAC that mirrors were discouraged, the matter of the mirror at the bus shelter has been shelved.
- 6. Planning** - ref www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning for full details. Ongoing planning applications were discussed and developments noted. Councillors were pleased to note that the Solar Panel Application at Cuckoo's Nest had been firmly rejected. A vote of thanks was offered to Cllr Hynes for his significant and positive contribution to get the issue refused. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the progress of all other applications.
- 7. Finance, Governance and Accountability:**
- 7.1. Councillors noted that detailed information is placed on the Council Website (www.poultonandpulfordcouncil.co.uk) and was also circulated as a report prior to the meeting. An additional copy was available for inspection at the meeting.
 - 7.2. As already mentioned a successful VAT claim was made to HMRC to cover the period start of February 2024 to end of January 2025
 - 7.3. The Clerk/RFO updated the meeting on the budget progression over the year, outlining that we should have a surplus of over £5900 at the end of the financial year – slightly more than expected. As agreed at the time of the 2025/26 budget planning this would form the 'surplus reserve fund' going forward. Councillors were given details of transactions made since the last meeting (see appendix a), a budgetary 'snap shot' and a current banking statement.
 - 7.4. The Chairman updated the meeting on the VAT situation as it applied to the Village Hall – we await a response from HMRC.
 - 7.5. The precept request for the next financial year has been sent to CWAC and we have received acknowledgement for this.
- 8. Correspondence for information** – much has been dealt with elsewhere in these minutes.
- 8.1. Tony Moore sent a letter raising the issue of the restricted pavement access opposite DM Performance Cars on the B5445. This was raised in the meeting with Stuart Bateman of Highways and will be rectified in the Spring. A member of the public raised the problem of a precarious tree branch which could cause an issue if it fell. The clerk is to inform Stuart Bateman of this.
 - 8.2. Concern over potential business activity at the B5445 end of the Straight Mile (Woodfield Farm). The Clerk is to write to the planning department requesting further involvement in the situation.
 - 8.3. Road closures for forthcoming road races.
 - 8.3.1. The Clerk to write to Andrew Harrington (Pulford 10K) informing him that one of the residents on the Straight Mile needs to leave for a wedding at 10:30. Hopefully this should not pose a problem.
 - 8.3.2. It was noted that The Deva Triathlon Race does not require the closure of local roads as the cycling leg through Pulford is to be on open roads.

9. Clerk's Reports and Queries:

- 9.1. Police Report – Clerk to write to local police outlining the following concerns:
- 9.1.1. Speeding on 50mph section of B5445 - can this be monitored?
 - 9.1.2. Speeding at entrance and exit to Poulton – can this be monitored and possibility of moving 30mph restrictions signs to begin earlier.
- 9.2. VE Day Celebrations – it was decided to follow Government initiative and hold a celebratory party in the Village Hall on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May. Cllr J Ewins outlined that the Friends of the Park Committee agreed to organise this. It was agreed that the Parish Council would allocate up to £500 to cover costs. Details of our contribution to the VE Day celebrations to be forwarded to CWAC as requested

10. Councillors' Reports and Risk Assessment:

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

Location	Responsibility	Any problems / Risk
Village Hall	Cllr D Ewins	VAT reclaim as discussed
Church Bank	Cllr J Ewins	No issues
Community Park	Cllr J Ewins	There will be a working party to tidy up the Community Park on Saturday 8 th March at 10:00
Village Hall Defibrillator	Cllr D Ewins	All fine
Pulford Notice Board	Cllr Franklin	Getting old but still serviceable – will be restored by David Roberts in the Spring
Cuckoo's Nest Notice Board	Kate Fairhurst	Functional
Bus Shelters	Cllr Board	All fine
Poulton Defibrillator	Cllr Fay	All fine and regularly checked. Cllr Fay reported that Glenys Evans has been paying to have the glass in the telephone box cleaned. A request was made for her to pass these bills to the Clerk for reasonable reimbursement.

11. There were no future agenda items requested

12. Dates of next meetings:

- 7th May 2025 - Annual General Meeting

Appendix a – payments authorised and receipts – 29th May to date:

(Please see next page)

Payments and receipts authorised Nov 28th to Feb 26th

Scribe Go Cardless	scribe	02/12/2024	-14.40	1,337.81
VH Wifi Payment	Wifi Credit	02/12/2024	27.06	1,364.87
Scribe payment from VH (VAT ex)	Payment from VH	04/12/2024	12.00	1,376.87
Ashtree Grass cutting	Park Ground Maintenance	10/12/2024	-243.60	1,133.27
Bank Charges	Bank Charges	15/12/2024	-8.00	1,125.27
Security Lights Batteries, Ink, doc wallets	Miscellaneous	20/12/2024	-107.74	1,017.53
Bt at VH	Internet at VH	20/12/2024	-29.12	988.41
PG Expenses	Monthly expenses	30/12/2024	-25.00	963.41
Payment to Clerk	clerk's payment	30/12/2024	-65.70	897.71
HMRC Tax payment for PG	Clerk's PAYE	30/12/2024	-16.40	881.31
Scribe Go Cardless	scribe	02/01/2025	-14.40	866.91
VH Wifi Payment	Wifi Credit	02/01/2025	27.06	893.97
Scribe payment from VH (VAT ex)	Payment from VH	03/01/2025	12.00	905.97
Bank Charges	Bank Charges	14/01/2025	-8.00	897.97
Bt at VH	Internet at VH	16/01/2025	-29.12	868.85
PG Expenses	Monthly expenses	26/01/2025	-25.00	843.85
Payment to Clerk	clerk's payment	26/01/2025	-65.70	778.15
HMRC Tax payment for PG	Clerk's PAYE	26/01/2025	-16.40	761.75
Simply Green	Park Ground Maintenance	26/01/2025	-60.00	701.75
Scribe end of year health check	scribe	30/01/2025	-70.80	630.95
Scribe Go Cardless	scribe	03/02/2025	-14.40	616.55
Scribe payment from VH (VAT ex)	Payment from VH	03/02/2025	12.00	628.55
Village Hall Internet Payment	Wifi Credit	03/02/2025	27.06	655.61
VAT refund from HMRC	Vat refund	05/02/2025	1,061.22	1,716.83
Bank Charges	Bank Charges	14/02/2025	-8.00	1,708.83
Bt at VH	Internet at VH	17/02/2025	-29.12	1,679.71
Abbey Gate College Parking	Parking Fee	17/02/2025	50.00	1,729.71
Payment to Clerk	clerk's payment	25/02/2025	-65.70	1,664.01
PG Expenses	Monthly expenses	25/02/2025	-25.00	1,639.01
HMRC Tax payment for PG	Clerk's PAYE	25/02/2025	-16.40	1,622.61