

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 26th November 2025 at Pulford Village Hall.

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

Three members of the public attended the meeting together with PC Ellie Barnett and PC Sarai Kilshaw

1. Apologies:

- 1.1. Receipt of apologies – none noted.

2. Declaration of Interest:

- 2.1. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests
- 2.2. To declare any personal interest in items on the agenda and their nature
- 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)

3. Suspension of Standing Orders:

Concerns were voiced about alleged aspects of anti-social and potentially dangerous behaviour in Pulford Court including a conceivable repeat fire risk and a possible rat infestation.

Concerns of items being left on the road had improved recently, possibly following requested intervention from the Highways Department.

The Chairman reported that he had contacted the Community Access Team for Adult Social Care, the Cheshire Fire Service and Environmental Health regarding these matters.

The police officers present stated that any public order issues should be reported immediately by calling 101 or, if dangerous, 999. The police went on to discuss their willingness to support local 'surgeries' and to provide information sheets for local notice boards.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting from 13/8/25 were approved and signed – proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Franklin.

5. Progress Reports on Issues carried forward:

- 5.1. Free Range Egg Production Unit – Following the granting of planning permission by CWAC earlier this year work appears to have started on the access road. It was said that smell detection equipment has been installed by some residents who live nearby.

- 5.2. Ongoing woodland work on B5445 – a Farndon resident had written several emails of complaint over the felled woodland claiming that rules had been broken as the land in question is in a conservation area. The Chairman took the issues up with Ruth Tothill (Senior Tree Officer CWAC) who confirmed that there had been regulation compliance throughout.

- 5.3. Activity at Woodfield Farm Straight Mile – still an ongoing issue with Planning Enforcement – in the absence of progress by CWAC, the Chairman wrote to Aphra Brandreth MP and almost immediately, there was action and a case worker has been assigned. Cllr Douglas was concerned that the whole issue was nearing the 10-year rule as activity was first noted in 2019. It was felt important that residents keep a diary of movement and changes.

- 5.4. Gov.uk email addresses and Website Changes – this has been applied for, payment made and we await next steps.
- 5.5. Community Park Trees – following a complaint of trees in the Community Park blocking sunlight an offending tree was cut down and removed and seemingly all is OK now.
- 5.6. Grosvenor Pulford Hotel heat pump noise complaint – no development on this.
- 5.7. Pavements and Hedge Maintenance. There has been limited pavement refurbishment in the Cuckoo's Nest area. The Chairman reported that Stuart Bateman of CWAC Highways had said the long-awaited walkway restoration work from the Church to the Welsh border and on the opposite side of the road around the junction of Dodleston Lane and the B5445 was due to be completed in this financial year (following the cutting of the hedge belonging to Mr Homer). Funding will come from Active Travel budget.

6. **Planning** - ref www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning for full details. Ongoing planning applications 2025/6 were discussed. There were few issues for discussion save for the Grosvenor Pulford Hotel's wish to provide extra car parking space to alleviate the problem of cars parking on the pavements and often illegal parking within 10m of a road junction.

CWAC Planning have requested further details on the flood risk assessment and surface water drainage scheme for the site.

7. Finance, Governance and Accountability:

- 7.1. Detailed information is placed on the Parish Council Website (www.poultonandpulfordcouncil.co.uk) and had been circulated as a report prior to the meeting.
- 7.2. Update on the budget progression over the year 2025/6. The Clerk reported that he sends a full monthly report to Councillors, so all is well updated.
- 7.3. Update on the VAT situation as it applies to the Village Hall – nothing noted – issue should soon be closed.
- 7.4. Draft Budget for 2026/27 had been forwarded to Councillors for approval and it was accepted and agreed that there should be a 5% increase to the precept. It was noted that the planned reserve fund (of approximately 50% of the total budget) was in line with CWAC recommendations.
Cllr Fair recommended we clearly documented what this reserve fund could be used for and it was decided to add appropriate wording to the recently updated Financial Regulations. Section 106 monies were discussed and these have to be used for new projects on the Community Park. There is £1906 remaining and there is a 10 year window of opportunity for the money to be spent. It was suggested that an outdoor table tennis table might be a good idea, Cllr Fay agreed to look into this.

8. Correspondence for information

- 8.1. Complaints about road disruption at 2 Pulford Court had already been discussed and minuted at the start of the meeting
- 8.2. Ongoing woodland work on the B5445 – already discussed and minuted earlier in the meeting.
- 8.3. Correspondence on Woodfield farm Straight Mile - already been discussed and minuted earlier in the meeting.
- 8.4. Damaged 30mph sign on LHS of B5445 Wrexham Bound – this has been repaired following the recent TEAMS meeting with Stuart Bateman.
- 8.5. Safety Report on Community Park – little of note here, the safety report was received on 13th October 2025 and there were just a few very minor recommendations which have been rectified. We were advised however that there was algae / moss growth on several of the wooden items which will need removing and re-staining for longevity.

9. Clerk's Reports and Other Issues:

- 9.1. Parish Christmas tree lighting – this will take place on Sunday November 30th from 5-6pm with music from the Pulford Handbell Ringers. Hot drinks, mince pies and bacon butties will be provided. All are warmly invited.
- 9.2. Pulford Court issues – already discussed and minuted.
- 9.3. Thank David Roberts for hanging baskets and noticeboard repair. David was warmly thanked for his efforts and a letter has been sent.
- 9.4. Residents in Poulton had requested a new dog waste bin at the top end of The Green. Unfortunately, CWAC rejected this declaring funding issues. Residents were advised to use the Report It app to highlight subsequent issues.

10. Councillors' Reports and Risk Assessment:

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

Location	Responsibility	Any Issues
Village Hall	Cllr D Ewins	Only issue is that 'Jon the Gardener' has been asked to regularly tidy the weeds in the VH Car park
Church Bank	Cllr D Ewins	The issue of Grosvenor Pulford Hotel coaches trying to park without permission was discussed. The Hotel have been advised and accepted they do not have permission.
Community Park	J Ewins	Safety Report already discussed
Village Hall Defibrillator	Cllr Ewins	Re-registered every 90 days on the National Defibrillator Network
Pulford Notice Board	Cllr Franklin	Recently repaired and painted
Cuckoo's Nest Notice Board	Kate Fairhurst	
Bus Shelters	Cllr Board	
Poulton Defibrillator	Margaret Fay	Re-registered every 90 days on the National Defibrillator Network

11. Future agenda items requested - nil

12. Dates of next meetings:

- 25th February 2026 - Budget confirmation
27th May 2026 - AGM