

# PAULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.00pm held in the meeting room at the Village Hall, Paulton.

PRESENT Councillors Bancroft, Easter, Hardman, Harle, Lyons, McSherry  
(Chairman), Mitchard, Newton, Paul, Pitt and Price

IN ATTENDANCE Helen Jenkins (Clerk)

There were two members of the public in attendance and PCSO  
Paul Thatcher.

## Minutes

### 24-37- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Bridgeman and Johnson.

### 24-38- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

### 24-39- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) on the agenda under Paulton Parish Council's Code of Conduct (adopted on 30th November 2021) issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, SI No. 1464.

Cllrs Hardman, Lyons and Newton for the item on the Hub.

### 24-40 - INTRODUCTION FROM PAUL THATCHER PCSO

Paul Thatcher introduced himself to the Cllrs and gave an update from his monthly report on reported crime in the Parish.

### 24-41 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To receive and approve:-

That the minutes of the Paulton Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Resolved** to approve the Minutes with Cllr Pitt proposing and Cllr Newton seconding the Motion.

#### **24-42 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March, we had a small gathering at the Miners Recreation Ground, by the Oak Tree we planted in memory of Councillor Hugh Warren who died in February last year. We unveiled the commemorative plaque, and Hugh's family were able to test out the lovely bench they'd purchased. It is placed in a lovely spot to look over Paulton and, one day, when it is fully grown the Oak Tree will give some shelter. We were treated to refreshments at the Bowls Club, and they *had* been busy. What a feast, loads of yummy cakes. I resisted the many offers to take some home. What a lovely welcome they gave us. Thank you to all those involved.

As a Council, we have so many different things to deal with, some are easy, some are difficult. Some are pleasant and some are distressing. Whatever we have to do, we, as a body, try to do our very best for Paulton. We don't blab about all the good stuff we've accomplished on social media, maybe we should. In fact, Helen Jenkins, our Clerk, and I are getting further information as to what we can share on social media. So, things may change.

All too often, when just one disgruntled person places a negative post on Facebook, people, who don't know the full story, jump on the bandwagon and, it sparks disgusting, untrue and sometimes libelous comments. Councillors have feelings too, and these nasty posts can cause a great deal of anguish. They are not aimed at people paid for doing a job, but at those of us who give our time to the Council, and put in a great deal of work, for nothing! We have no hidden agendas. We do what we think best for Paulton and its residents.

Being a Councillor isn't a walk in the park, it can be tough. If someone joins the Council thinking they can influence decisions to do with their own, or their friends' businesses, they are wrong!

We, each of us, do this for no personal gain. We have a Code of Conduct that we must abide by.

All that said, we would welcome new Councillors, we have the vacancies! People with ideas on how to keep Paulton a great place to live would be warmly welcomed.

End of Report.

Cllr Paul joined the meeting.

#### **24-43 - CLERK'S REPORT**

To receive a verbal report from the Parish Clerk.

The Clerk reported that much of her time had been taken up with one issue but that she was catching up with the routine work.

#### **24-44– NEW COMMITTEE FOR THE BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (BSIP)**

Cllr Pitt reported that data from the recent survey had proved to be very useful in completing the application for funding.

**Resolved** that Cllrs Hardman, Johnson, Mitchard and Newton form the committee.

#### **24-45- PR AND MARKETING WORKING PARTY**

Standing orders were suspended so that Paul Thatcher could address the Council with his background and offer of help.

**Agreed** a Working Party of Cllrs Bancroft, Easter, Harle and McSherry.

**Resolved** that the update Social Media Policy which Cllr Bancroft had updated be adopted with Cllr McSherry proposing and Cllr Newton seconding the motion.

#### **24-46 – LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

Cllr Hardman gave details on the three proposed sites for Paulton. This had been discussed at the Planning & Highways meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, please refer to the minutes of that meeting for more details.

#### **24-47 – SMALL GRANT APPLICATION**

**Resolved** to award a grant to Victim Support.

#### **24-48 - FINANCES**

**Noted and agreed** the finance reports for month 11.

#### **24-49 – VIREMENT REQUEST FOR 2023/2024**

**Resolved** to action the virements suggested by the Clerk with Cllr Bancroft proposing and Cllr Easter seconding the motion.

#### **24-50 – ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

**Resolved** for the date of the Annual Assembly to be 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024, 6:00pm to 8:00pm with Cllr Newton proposing and Cllr Price seconding the motion.

#### **24-51 – SCHEDULE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024/2025**

**Resolved** to accept to amended Schedule of Meetings with Cllr McSherry proposing and Cllr Pitt seconding the motion.

#### **24-52 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted – to consider commercial matters.

#### **24-53 – WOODEN CLASSROOM LEASE**

**Resolved** to accept the revised annual rent figure proposed by the tenant, starting August 2024 with the Council reviewing this each year and the new lease to have the list of

responsibilities for repair/upkeep with Cllr McSherry proposing and Cllr Paul seconding the motion.

Cllr Mitchard left the meeting.

**24-54 – HUB CAFÉ**

Cllrs were given an update on the proposals for the staffing on the Café and the tender document. The final day for the current tenant had been confirmed by the Clerk with the tenant as 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 as notice has been given by the tenant.

**24-55 – SWIMMING POOL STAFF**

The Councillors were given an update on the staff issue. Further meetings will be arranged.

**24-56 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on **Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.00pm.**

**Meeting closed at 8:35pm**

Signed.....  
(Chairman)

Date.....

