

PAULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.00pm held in the meeting room at the Village Hall, Paulton.

PRESENT Councillors, Breeze-Crow, Ford, Hardman, Harle, Johnson, Lyons, McSherry (Chairman), Newton, Norman, Pitt and Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE Helen Jenkins (Clerk)
Two members of the public in attendance.

Minutes

25-01- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note any apologies for absence.

Apologies received for Cllrs Bridgeman, Junisa, Mitchard and Paul

25-02- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

25-03- 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.

Cllr Pitt and Norman declared for items in the Budget.

25-04 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 17th December 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Deferred to the next Parish Council meetings.

25-05 - CHAIR'S REPORT

First, I'd like to thank Rob Norman for Chairing the November meeting in my absence, and, if it's not too late, I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. Here's hoping 2025 will be a good year for PPC and for Paulton.

We did manage to get the Winter edition of the magazine out before Christmas, so thanks to the Communications Group for that. Despite 3,000 copies being delivered around the village, we only had a handful of people responding to the Christmas Extravaganza feedback request. Is that because people don't read the magazine?

Well, here we are in 2025, and it feels that after slowing everything down for the Christmas break, we're having to hit the ground running to catch up with all the things that the Council has to do. The next magazine, the café, events for this year and loads more.

Cyril Mitchard and I visited each of the Christmas Extravaganza sponsors to thank them face-to-face for their support and to give them a personalised thank you card and a copy of the magazine. They all seemed to be very pleased.

Sadly, we've had some vandalism again in the Memorial Park. The little picket fence that surrounded the Christmas Tree was broken in many places, and the Fairy Lights were cut. Thanks to Janner Breeze-Crow for mending the fence, which has now been taken away by our Groundsman for safekeeping. Just this week, there has been glass broken in the Children's Play area, and worse, it was strewn over the Play Equipment. There was also graffiti sprayed on the gate and wall at the top of the park. Pictures of the culprits and the damage they caused were posted on social media. A couple of kind people took it upon themselves to clear up what they could. So, we do thank them for that.

Looking forward, we, as a Council, have so many areas that we look after. What do we, as Individual Councillors representing the residents of Paulton, hear or see that is needed in the village? Do they talk to us? If they do, what are they saying, please share anything you think we should be talking about with our Clerk. Perhaps it's something we can change or improve? Important issues can be put on the relevant meeting's agendas. Yes, our various Committees and Working Groups meet to discuss matters brought to their attention, and decisions on what to do next are made. There is no point in discussing and agreeing things at the meetings if it all ends there! We all know that some things do take a lot of time, but we really do need to keep the momentum up to get the things completed.

We've a lot of unused talent on the Council. It's a brand-new year, so let's support each other to get things done for this village.

25-06 - CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that the internal audit had taken place in December and that the finances were all up to date to the end of 2024 on the finance system.

25-07 - FINANCES

To note and receive the following finances for the period of December 2024.

- Receipts and Payments
- Income and Expenditure showing % against budget for the period of December 2024.

Agreed that Cllr Pitt would go through the bank reconciliations with the Clerk ready for signing off.

25-08 – PARKS S106 CONTRIBUTION

Deferred to the Parks & Amenities Committee meeting while queries concerning the use of the funds are raised with B&NES. To go back to the full Council for final approval.

25-09 – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Resolved that the request should be made via the grant funding applications for 2025/26.

25-10 – PLANNING & HIGHWAYS AND PARKS & AMENITIES COMMITTEES

Noted that Cllr Ford has joined both Committees.

25-11 – BUDGET SETTING FOR 2025/2026

Resolved to raise the precept request by 8.35% which would be an increase in the Band D Levy of £12.00 on 2024/2025.

25-12 – APPOINTMENT OF A MANAGER FOR THE CAFE

Noted.

25-13 - CEMETERY LODGE

Deferred while Clerk confirms with ALCA details of the application process for a PWLB loan.

25-14 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on **Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 7.00pm.**

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Date.....