

PAULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 7.00pm held in the meeting room at the Village Hall,
Paulton.

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

IN ATTENDANCE Helen Jenkins (Clerk)
No members of the public in attendance.

Minutes

25-15- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note any apologies for absence.

Apologies received for Cllrs Bridgeman and Pitt

25-16- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

25-17- 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 Norman declared for items relating to Books & Cooks.

25-18 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 17th December 2024 and 21st January 2025, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 17th December 2024 and 21st January 2025.

25-19 - CHAIR'S REPORT

January was a relatively quiet month from my point of view.

As you know, the additional work involved in running Books & Cooks, and all the associated staffing issues resulted in extra hours being paid for or TOIL being taken by our office staff and Clerk. The extra work also meant that the Clerk has been unable to complete her own work on time. So when one member of the café staff left she was replaced by an experienced Manager. The Manager has only been doing the job for a month, but already has taken on the bulk of the work that was being done by the Council staff. Yes, the Manager is paid more than the person who left, but they are already making very positive changes in the café with

plans to boost sales. The Hub Working Group are still on hand to help in café issues, leaving our Clerk with only staffing emergencies to deal with.

If you haven't been down for something to eat or drink. Please go and support our café.

The Communications Group is working on the Spring edition of the Paulton Magazine. Thanks to Janner Breeze Crow for collating all the articles and adverts.

We've two vacancies for Councillors.

I would like to repeat what I said in last month's reported...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. Let's support each other to get things done for this village.

25-20 - CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that the Manager for the Café had been appointed and early indications were that she had settled in very quickly and had lots of plans for changes and improvements. There had been an issue with a few customers which is being monitored by the Clerk.

25-21 - FINANCES

To note and receive the following finances for the period of January 2025.

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

A Councillor raised a query regarding a quote he had obtained for the electrical work for the Christmas event saying that his quote was for half of what was paid. The Clerk has checked the quote supplied by the Councillor and found that it was only for power to the Christmas tree and central lamp (which was not authorised by full Council). The work required and undertaken was far more than this being setting up a power supply to the Christmas tree, two of the food stalls, the bar in the basketball court, the skate rink and snow globe in the tennis court and nine stalls along the pathway by the tennis court and the dismantling the electrics after the event. All the work was carried out over the two days of the event with an electrician on site during the event in case anything were to go wrong.

25-22 – PARKS S106 CONTRIBUTION

The Parks & Amenities Committee proposed that the funds be used:

£10,000 for a Forest School, school garden project.

£ 6,275.30 for a community orchard to be planted in a designated area of the Miners Welfare

Recreational ground.

Resolved to seek approval from B&NES for the proposals.

25-23 – SWIMMING POOL

Noted the reports.

25-24 – YOUTH CONNECT

Noted the report.

25-25 – EVENTS COMMITTEES

Noted that Cllr Harle has joined the Events Committee.

25-26 – STAFFING COMMITTEES

Resolved that Cllr Johnson has joined the Staffing Committee.

25-27 - MAJOR TRANSPORT SCHEME ACROSS B&NES LAUNCHES CONSULTATION

Agreed for the Clerk to submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

25-28 - CONSULTATION ON DRAFT CO-LIVING POSITION STATEMENT

Agreed that the consultation was not appropriate for a rural area such as Paulton.

25-29 - CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA 2024

The Clerk reported that, with the work carried out by Councillors in securing sponsorship and with the income from the stalls, the additional costs for the event were covered. The Clerk thanks the Councillors who secured the sponsorship. The event for 2025 will be a one-day event with times to be agreed after consulting with stall holders.

25-30 - CEMETERY LODGE

It was **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £110,000 over the borrowing term of 10 years for the refurbishment of the Cemetery Lodge, Bath Road, Paulton. The annual loan repayments will come to around £14,300. The Parish Council in not intending to increase the Precept to cover the loan repayments.

25-31 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Meeting closed at 8:25pm

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Date.....