

## **PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held at the United Reformed Church, 82 Lower Street, Pulborough, RH20 2DW on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6:00pm.**

**Councillors present:** Cllrs. Elizabeth Hunt (Chair) Andrew Perry (Vice Chair), Sharon Curd and Jeannie Esdaile

**Officers:** Beverly Jones (Deputy Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** None

The meeting commenced at 6:00pm

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The Chair welcomed all present.

### **R0050. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Clarke, Cllr Campbell (prior engagement)

### **R0051. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

### **R0052. Minutes of the previous Recreation and Open Spaces Committee Meeting**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 as true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chair signed them.

### **R0053. Public forum and questions**

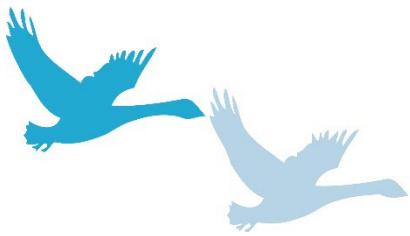
There were no members of the public present.

### **R0054. Damage to the Bund at the Recreation Ground**

Members received a report from our Neighbourhood Wardens read out by the Deputy Clerk.

The bund is now being checked weekly by our groundsman, he has reported that it requires more earth to repair it properly, we have some earth that has been donated which will be used to repair the bund in the coming week.

Members **NOTED** the report.



**R0055. St Mary's School Mini-Marathon/Fun Run**

Members considered a request from St Mary's School PTA to use the Recreation Field on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 for a sponsored mini marathon/fun run.

Members **RESOLVED** to allow St Mary's PTA to use the Recreation Field for this event providing the Clubs are not using the field on that date. The Deputy Clerk will contact Football & Cricket Clubs to make sure the Recreation Ground is not being used by them on that date.

**R0056. Purchase of a Chipper**

Members **NOTED** that a Chipper has been purchased for £499.14 plus VAT

**R0057. Bus Shelter Cleaning**

Members considered a quote for the cleaning of the Bus Shelters in and around the Village.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £290.00 to clean our ten Bus Shelters around the Village.

**R0058. Trees around the Village:**

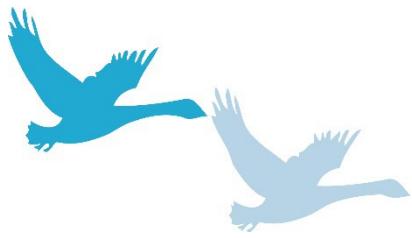
Members received a Report from Cllrs Curd, Esdaile and Perry on the outcome of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025.

Cllr Esdaile reported that she met with Cllrs Bailey, Perry, Marcuson, Curd, Andrew Bush (HDC) and Max Varney (Arborist). The group agreed to meet every two months.

We are currently awaiting confirmation of key information so that replacement tree planting can begin as soon as possible and no later than February 2026.

Max Varney and Andrew Bush are reviewing suitable tree species such as Hornbeam, Quince, and Honey Fungus resistant Oak and will provide formal recommendations in the coming weeks.

The Woodland Trust will be contacted for further guidance. Consideration will also be needed regarding the most appropriate planting locations once the trees are purchased. Because the Recreation Field is experiencing significant issues with Honey Fungus, an alternative site should be identified following expert advice. The group also learned that removing grass from around the base of young trees can help reduce the risk of Honey Fungus infection.



Members discussed putting a sign on the stump of the Collingwood Oak to advise that we will be replacing it in the coming months. The Deputy Clerk will arrange this and a face book post to ensure residents are aware that we will be replacing the tree, although this will not be at the same location.

The group will report back at the next meeting.

#### **R0059. Youth Activities:**

To consider using some funding set aside for Youth activities.

- Adding pickleball lines to the MUGA surface so we can accept the kind offer of nets, equipment and possibly coaching for children to start ASAP. The Deputy Clerk explained that this is not possible due to Tennis lines already cut into the MUGA. Cllr Hunt will investigate if we could use the Tennis court for Pickle Ball and report back to the next meeting.
- **Pay Fluid to run a series of river safety and kayaking programmes for children the coming summer.**

Commencing in January 2026 once a week; the sessions will be indoors to begin with teaching knot tying, river safety, environmental stewardship and wildlife respect of the animals in river and surrounding areas. Outdoor sessions will commence March or April when the tides are better and the evenings are warmer.

Funding will be sought for lifejackets and equipment. Members discussed procuring Pollution Monitoring Equipment; the Deputy Clerk will investigate prices for this.

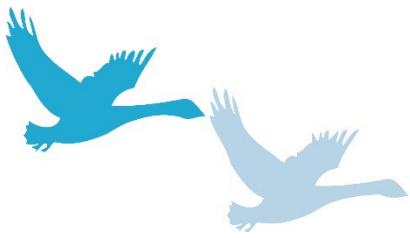
Members **RESOLVED** to support this project up to £5000

#### **R0060. Allotment Trees**

To consider the removal of the Trees over the sheds at New Place Allotments.

Members discussed felling the four large Leylandii trees that tower over the sheds at the allotments. Discussions have been had with allotment holders, and they want the trees removed there has been comments that due to the trees the plots situated south of the trees have restricted light causing poor growing conditions, they are also known to take a lot of moisture from the ground. Members discussed suggestions put forward of how we would use the space, could be more allotment plots, a row of fruit trees, a communal space for plot holders.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Deputy Clerk to obtain three quotes and bring them back to the next meeting. In the meantime, we can gather more views from other plot holders.



#### **R0061. Allotment Sheds**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk for a consideration on the future of the sheds. The Deputy Clerk explained that she had discussed the sheds situated under the Leylandii trees with the Clerk. The sheds are not in a very good state of repair and have sunk into the ground, a lot of them are empty and unusable.

Due to the significant cost of renewing the sheds it was suggested to Members that we gift the sheds to our plot holders.

Members discussed gifting the sheds to the plot holders and **RESOLVED** to commence the process, the Deputy Clerk will notify plot holders that they can remove their shed onto their plot if wanted.

#### **R0062. Masons Way Playpark**

Members received an update from the Neighbourhood Wardens.

##### **Removal of the multi-play unit; results from the notices placed in the play area to see how much it is used.**

A notice was placed on the gate of the play area asking for comments to gain ideas from the residents on what to replace the multi-play unit with now it has been removed; there have been no responses.

Our Neighbourhood Wardens have visited the Masons Way play area on multiple occasions during the past month to check on its use and activity.

No-one was seen, this included weekdays, after school, half-term and Saturdays at differing times.

The above report alludes to the area not being used by children an awful lot.

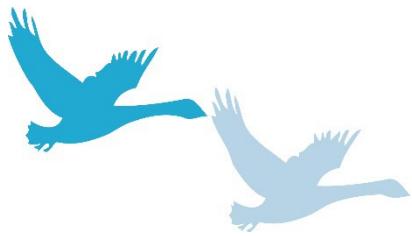
Members considered what we can do with the space left after the removal of the multi-play unit, possibly re-site the bench currently situated halfway up Church Hill.

Unfortunately, the bench on Church Hill is in rotten and beyond repair.

Members **RESOLVED** to complete a site visit to Masons Way in the coming week and report back at the next meeting.

Members to consider the purchase of a new bin.

Item deferred to next meeting.



**R0063. Wild Pulborough**

**To consider suggested projects:**

- Make the village car park the most beautiful in Sussex, it already has the views and the award-winning Memorial Gardens:
- Make the verges into wildflower meadows
- Remove the Leylandii, HDC has agreed and funds have been raised.
- Plant small native Sussex trees, preferably fruit trees although HDC will need to agree this.
- Replant the trough at the bottom of the steps which has been planted with wholly inappropriate shrubs and a tree.

Members discussed the above points; there are some funds available. It was discussed where Wild Pulborough would sit, it would sit on the green side of this committee. HDC has agreed that we can take the Leylandii down as long as we provide them with the plan that our contractor has provided, this will be sent to HDC, and costs will be looked at. We could also use the events that are being planned for next year to raise money for this project.

The trough has been planted with an unsuitable deep-rooted tree which will break the trough in time, it was suggested to take the trough at the bottom of the steps as part of the car park initiative.

**R0064. Payments - To approve the payments list for signing**

The payments were reviewed and signed.

**R0065. The meeting closed at 19:04**