



**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 29th June 2026 at 6:00pm.**

**Councillors present:** Cllrs. Elizabeth Hunt (Chair), Lauren Bailey, Sharon Curd, Jeannie Esdaile, Jon Campbell, and Paul Clarke.

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

**Members of the Public:** One

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm

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**The Chair welcomed all present.**

**R0090. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Perry (prior commitment)

**R0091. Declarations of Interest**

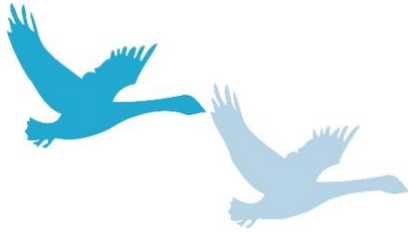
Cllr Curd Declared and Interest in R0092 and R00105 and Cllr Campbell R00105 and R00106.

**R0092. Minutes of the previous Recreation and Open Spaces Committee Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved & signed by the Chair.

**R0093. Public forum and questions**

One member of the public was present to speak on the proposed removal of the Lawson Cypress on behalf of residents in Aston Rise. It was reported that the residents of Aston Rise care passionately about the trees, they would like the Parish to re-consider removing the trees. There is an abundance of wildlife in them, the view for the residents is especially important for mental health and wellbeing.



#### **R0094. Allotment Trees**

Members considered a report from the Deputy Clerk which highlighted objections raised and those who recommend removal.

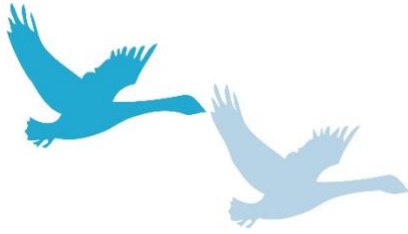
Seven representations were received from residents of Aston Rise who are concerned about the proposed removal of Lawson Cypress trees at New Place allotments. The key concerns were lack of communication, loss of wildlife habitat, impact on biodiversity, loss of privacy and outlook, possible increased noise from the railway and A29, and the effect on resident's amenity and wellbeing. Residents also question whether the trees are materially affecting allotment productivity and ask whether ecological or environmental advice has been obtained. Several residents request that the Council consider retaining some of the trees, particularly those closest to the garden boundaries, as a compromise.

Eight representations have been received from Allotment Holders. Responses from allotment holders were generally supportive of the proposal to remove the Lawson Cypress trees and create a small community area. Suggestions included replacement planting with smaller fruit trees, wildflowers, herbs, flowering shrubs, and biodiversity-friendly species, together with benches, covered seating, arches, a produce-sharing area, and possible new sheds. Respondents also suggested practical additions such as a composting toilet and, potentially, a beehive. Points for consideration include .

The Cyprus Lawson trees do dry out the ground and affect the soil in the plots just past the trees as reported by allotment holders who have trouble growing plants on the ave the two large trees nearest to Aston Rise and remove the rest. The disadvantage of cutting or removing the trees would affect wildlife especially bats who tend to follow tree and hedge lines this would disrupt their navigation. The trees do provide a windbreak for allotment holders, and the soil condition would not be improved just by removing the trees. It was suggested consideration needs to be given and the need to complete some research before a final decision is made.

It was proposed that the trees are left for a further year and revisit this proposal in a years' time after surveys have been completed. The member of the public in attendance at the meeting offered to take surveys of what birds and wildlife are in the trees for consideration when this agenda item is revisited in 2027. Sussex Wildlife Trust can also offer guidance over the coming year.

Members **RESOLVED** to re-visit this agenda item in 2027 after surveys have been completed.



#### **R0095. Club Reports**

There were no Club reports sent in.

#### **R0096. Wild Pulborough**

Cllr Hunt reported that all the gardens need more volunteers; there will be an article in the Pulborough Post to talk about the gardens which gives advice for rewilding if residents would like to get involved.

The '**Pulborough Post**' will be available in the coming weeks which is an online community news hub interactive publication. Visitors to the publication will be able to move through the pages with headers which are grouped into topics, which will take you through to articles written about the topics chosen. There will be an information centre and will advertise events which are taking place in the Village; <sup>2</sup> there will also be a letters page which will be put on their providing that the comments are courteous and polite. There will be no AI generated content it will need to be written, agreed and judged to be honest and accurate.

This publication is in its infancy and will be built on over the coming months.

Members **NOTED** the report

#### **R0097. Bus Shelter Cleaning**

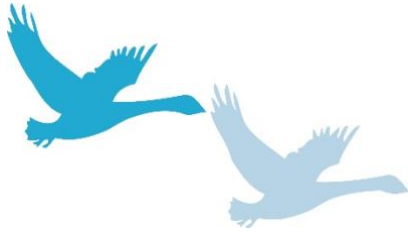
Members received a report to advise the six-monthly bus shelter cleaning was completed in May 2026; it has been reported that the Bus stops and road signs near Sainsbury's have suffered Graffiti which has been reported to HDC who will remove this over the next few weeks.

Members **NOTED** the report.

#### **R0098. Bowls Club:**

Members received an update from Cllr Hunt on the rubbish that has been building up at the rear of the Bowls Club.

Cllr Hunt reported that most of it bar some panels that have been left at the side have been cleared.



Members **NOTED** the report.

#### **R0099. Masons Way Surface Clean**

Members received a report from Deputy Clerk after being asked to investigate what would be used to treat the algae and moss from the surface of the playground.

After investigation it was found that MMC Pro is used which is a professional-grade, bleach-free biocide designed to kill moss, algae, mould, and lichen on exterior hard surfaces without requiring scrubbing or pressure washing. It penetrates the roots, breaks down biological growth, and helps provide residual protection against regrowth for up to 6–12 months.

Active Ingredients: 8.90% w/w (89 g/l) dodecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride. The active substance in MMC-PRO, helps to remove algae mould and other single celled organisms from hard surfaces, by disruption of the cell membrane.

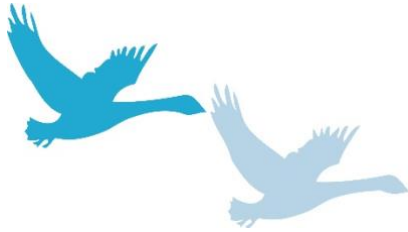
MMC Pro is a professional biocide for use on external hard surfaces. MMC Pro controls algae and mould on pavements, roofs, artificial sports pitches, walls, buildings, and artificial tennis courts. Fast acting – results from just 48 hours after application.

Members **NOTED** the report and **RESOLVED** to ask the Deputy Clerk to arrange cleaning for the surface to be cleaned for £460.00 plus VAT.

#### **R00100. Youth Activities**

Members received a report on the progress of the youth programme from Cllr Curd and Cllr Hunt.

Cllr Curd has spoken with Mackins today. The music program is going very well with musical instruments; a local resident has donated an electric guitar and one of the musicians who played in the showcase at the weekend has donated an acoustic guitar and the program currently has a person waiting to learn an acoustic guitar. A few weeks ago, the musicians did a live performance including some children from St Mary's school who have been taking singing lessons on the green in Worthing, which was very successful, they plan on doing more of these in the future; this is building confidence for the young people performing in front of an audience.



The river water safety can commence now the weather is better and the summer holidays are approaching, Fluid and Mackins will be approached over the next few weeks to get this program off the ground.

Member **RESOLVED** to pay up to £500 towards this program.

**R00101. Memorial Gardens and Community Allotment**

Members received a report from Cllr Curd on the Community Allotment.

The allotment is thriving, they already have an array of ripe tomatoes & strawberries, an abundance of herbs, courgettes, marrows, and rhubarb, lots of potatoes coming through and have already harvested onions and garlic which are drying in the shed; sweetcorn is being grown for the first time. Cllr Campbell offered a wheelbarrow as a replacement for our other one which was unfortunately stolen earlier in the year. The council thanked Cllr Campbell for his kind donation.

Members **NOTED** the report.

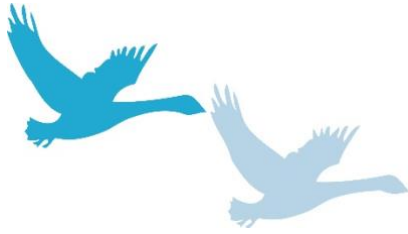
**R00102. MUGA**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk who has investigated installing a netted roof on the MUGA to try to stop the incursions into the MUGA.

A specialist supplier has reviewed the proposal and advised that the system would not be suitable for installation on the current fencing structure.

- the existing fencing height and structure is insufficient to safely support a tensioned roof netting system.
- there is a significant risk of the netting sagging which could increase opportunities for vandalism or unauthorised access, balls may collect in the centre of the net rather than roll away; and
- The supplier also raised safeguarding and health and safety concerns, noting that sagging netting may encourage climbing or attempts to retrieve balls, thereby creating a foreseeable risk of injury.
- the additional load placed on the existing fence uprights could result in excessive movement, bending, or structural damage.

The Deputy Clerk recommended that alternative solutions are considered, such as:



- increasing the height of the perimeter fencing to 4M.
- installing purpose-designed non-climb fencing designs suitable for a MUGA.
- obtaining a structural assessment before considering any roof netting system; or reviewing whether targeted fencing improvements would address the main problem areas.

Members discussed various options and fencing ideas.

Members **RESOLVED** to allow Officers to carry on investigating ideas which will be reported back at a future meeting.

**R00103. Summer Fun on the Recreation Ground**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk. Our neighbourhood wardens have been busy organising some events to take place during the summer holidays on the Recreation Ground for Children in the Village.

Horsham District Council – Sports Services will provide this.

The sessions would take place every Tuesday during August from 11am – 1pm

4<sup>th</sup> August – Dodgeball & Soft Archery

11<sup>th</sup> August – Cycling

18<sup>th</sup> August – Disc Golf & Ultimate Frisbee

25<sup>th</sup> August –Tug of War & Caterpillar Tracks

The cost would be £36.00 per activity approx. £288.00 (Ex VAT)

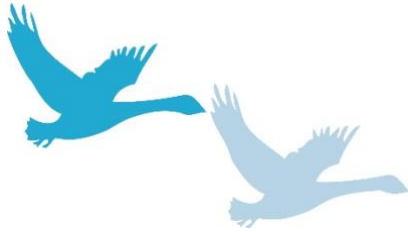
They have also organised a pop-up pump track for one Saturday closer to the summer holidays, HDC are providing the majority of the funding but the remaining fee of approximately £100 would need to come from the Parish.

Members **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the activities for the children for the cost outlined above.

**R00104. Allotment Handbook**

Members received a copy of the handbook and discussed options with no changes being brought forward.

Members **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the handbook for another year.



**R00105. Cricket on the Recreation Ground**

Members received a report from Cllr Curd on the current situation with Pulborough Cricket Club. The Chair and Secretary have stepped down however; the other committee members would like to take over. The Club have withdrawn from the league for the current year. Cllr Campbell will organise a meeting to discuss options. Members would like Cricket to continue in Pulborough in the future.

Members discussed allowing another group to use the Cricket Square however, it was noted that the wicket is not playable; it is being mowed by our grass cutting contractors but is not being cared for only mowed.

Adding to this, the screens, covers, and scoreboard belong to Pulborough Cricket Club.

Members **RESOLVED** to make further investigations before allowing another group to use the Wicket whilst meetings are continuing.

**R00106. Christmas fair**

Members discussed the possibility of holding a further Christmas Fair in December 2026. It was also put forward that we could hold the fair at St Mary's school, forming a working group was also discussed however, we already have an events working group which can explore options.

Members **RESOLVED** to allow the Events Working Group with five members who will discuss options with St Mary's School and report back to a future meeting.

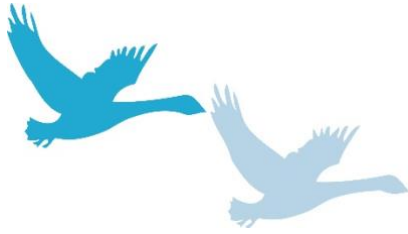
**R00107. Remembrance Parade**

Members discussed holding a Remembrance Day Parade which would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026. Members are keen for this to go ahead. Cllr Curd, Cllr Hunt & Cllr Bailey will take on this task as part of the events working group.

Members **NOTED** the above

**R00108. Playground Inspections**

Members considered a quote received for urgent works that need to be completed on the Cableway in Rectory Close playground.



Members **RESOLVED** to go ahead and get the work completed, the Deputy Clerk will organise this.

**R00109.       Masons Way Picnic Bench**

Members received three options for a picnic bench to be installed in Mason's Way playground.

Members **RESOLVED** to allow the Deputy Clerk to decide and purchase a composite Picnic Bench.

**R00110.       Payments**

Members **RESOLVED** to make the payments.

**The meeting closed at 20:02**