

**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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6:30pm.**

**Councillors present:** Cllrs. Elizabeth Hunt (Chair) Andrew Perry (Vice Chair), Lauren Bailey, Sharon Curd, Jeannie Esdaile, Paul Clarke, and Sandra Martin

**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.

**R0070. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Campbell (prior commitment)

**R0071. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

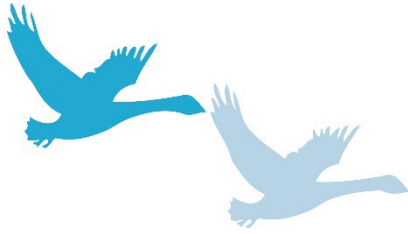
**R0072. Minutes of the previous Recreation and Open Spaces Committee Meeting**

Proposed amendments to the minutes were submitted by Cllr Hunt. Considering these amendments, the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

**R0073. Public forum and questions**

There was one member of the public present.

It was asked is there a MUGA maintenance plan in place and the timescales of fixing the MUGA floodlights. It was explained that the current lights use a lot of electricity and are on for lengthy periods as they are manually turned on and off. The Parish Council is currently looking at replacing all the floodlights in time with LED lights which will work with the smart gate, quotes are being obtained however, these things take time. It was also explained that the smart gate has been damaged where the hinge has been stepped on by individuals who climb over the fence.



It was also asked if anything further had happened regarding the suggestion of closing in the MUGA received at the previous meeting, it was advised that this is not something that is being investigated or planned.

**R0074. Club Reports**

There were no club reports.

**R0075. Bowls Club**

Members received an update from Cllr Hunt on the rubbish behind the Bowls Club reported at the last meeting.

Cllr Hunt reported that the previous rubbish has been burned not cleared, this has been replaced now with more rubbish. The Bowls Club has reported that they clear the rubbish twice a year. It was discussed that as this is not an appropriate place to store rubbish.

**R0076. Wild Pulborough**

Members received an update on 'No Mow May.' A resident has been given the opportunity to make a wildflower garden on a green near Downlands. The resident will be talking to the managers of the green to promote 'No Mow May.'

Saxon Weald will be approached, and the Deputy Clerk will forward the email address to Cllr Hunt.

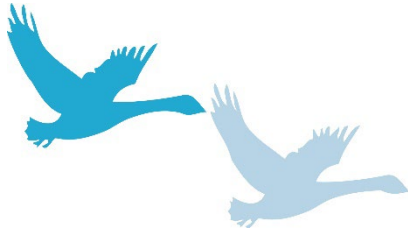
Members received a recommendation from Cllr Hunt that the Wild Pulborough money held by The Pulborough Exchange will be transferred to the Parish Council to be allocated to a dedicated Wild Pulborough EMR. These funds would be used for any activity the ROS deems appropriate for creating a greener, wilder, more sustainable village such as planting bulbs, seeds, and contractor payments.

Members **RESOLVED** to transfer the money to EMR for creating a green initiative across the village.

**R0077. Bus Shelter Cleaning**

Members considered a quote for the six-monthly cleaning of the ten bus shelters around the village.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £290.00 and asked the Deputy Clerk to arrange the cleaning which will take place during May.



**R0078. Allotment Trees:**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk on the difference in the quotes for the removal of the trees over the sheds at New Place Allotments this coming summer. The larger of the quotes would be for the work being completed by hand and the smaller of the quotes would be for the removal of the trees by machine.

Members noted the difference. A survey is currently being conducted with all allotment holders to ask for their opinion on the tree removal and what they would like to have them replaced by. This will be reported back at the next meeting.

**R0079. Replanting of Trees to replace the Collingwood Oak**

Members received a report from Cllr Esdaile on the replanting of three trees to replace the Collingwood Oak and hear details of a watering rota for them.

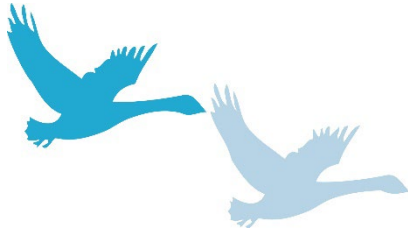
The three trees have been planted on the recreation field today; they have black pipes next to them to aid with the watering. A rota has been drawn up for the watering of the trees whilst they get established. The school has also been contacted to see if the children can get involved in the watering as they will be growing up with the trees.

A Ginko, a Lime and a Hornbeam have been planted to replace the Collingwood Oak.

Cllr Esdaile is looking at the possibility of getting the children involved with counting the rings of the Collingwood Oak, however this still needs to be organised with the school.

**R0080. Youth Activities**

Members received a report on the progress of the youth programme activities and considered funding a youth tennis programme.



Mackin's has now been able to employ Fluid to start running the water safety programme, which will commence in the summer. This is an exciting development. Planning permission is still being sought for the Pergola outside, and the equipment will be kept in their boathouse which is adjacent to the back doors. Children will be able to get changed inside and store their belongings safely. A Classroom is also available which will be used for briefings before the children go out on the river.

Alongside water safety, the programme will also include environmental information so they will learn about the cycle of the river through the year and the ecology of it including pollution. Unfortunately, the water testing equipment which we were looking at was too expensive due to an additional monthly monitoring charge.

The Bowls Club as expressed an interest in hosting a junior programme. information on this will be reported back when available.

A tennis coach has been recommended by Cllr Hunt who is getting a quote from them and will report back at the next meeting.

#### **R0081. Masons Way Playpark – Basketball Hoop**

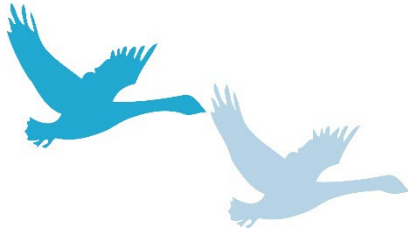
Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk that due to area constraints it will not be possible to install a basketball hoop in Masons Way Playpark.

A suggestion was put forward for maybe investing in a large game for the area. However, it was decided that it would not be suitable.

It was also suggested that we put in a table tennis table in the area.

Two picnic tables were suggested. However, we need to get further prices on these to include a fixing kit.

Members **NOTED** the report and **RESOLVED** that the Deputy Clerk will investigate costs of the picnic tables with the fixing kit and a table tennis table and bring the costings back to the next meeting.



**R0082. Masons Way Playpark – Moss Cleaning**

To consider two quotes for the cleaning of the moss on the ground at Masons Way.

We have received two quotes. One quote would be using a treatment and the other would be for just jet washing.

Members **NOTED** the quotes and asked the Deputy Clerk to find out what the surface would be treated with, which will be brought back to the next meeting.

**R0083. Masons Way Playpark – Bin**

Members received a report that a new bin has been purchased and installed in the Playpark.

Members **NOTED** the report.

**R0084. Nutbourne Management Plan**

Members received an updated management plan for Nutbourne which has been completed by Cllr Marcuson.

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the new management plan. The Deputy Clerk will publish on the website.

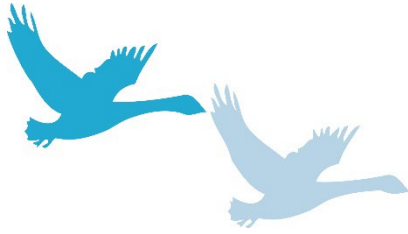
**R0085. Memorial Gardens and Community Allotments**

Members received reports from Cllr Curd and Cllr Hunt on the progress of the Community Allotment and the Gardens around the village.

- **Community Allotment:**

Cllr Curd reported that it is a busy time at the allotment with the new growing season commencing. Potatoes, onions, garlic, and herbs have been planted and there is an abundance of Rhubarb. A grapevine has been uncovered at the side of the plot, and the apple tree has now been removed as it had rotted out at the root.

New compost has been purchased from Lakers Builders Merchants who want to support the allotment. Lakers will be delivering it on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 and will have a good look around to see where they can help.



- **Community Gardens:**

Cllr Hunt reported that there will be a growing competition at the Harvest Fair on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026, and St, Mary's School is encouraging children to get involved by providing growing space for cultivation. The Memorial Gardens are looking to install a tasteful hazel arch with a climbing plant at the entrance.

The space for a new bench has been measured up, and a five-foot Accoya bench has been ordered, as chosen by Kerry Coughtrey.

**R0086. Recreation Ground Emergency Bollards**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk to confirm the emergency bollards removed when an ambulance attended an injured footballer on the recreation ground have now been replaced.

New collapsable bollards have been purchased and installed with FB14 padlocks which are accessible to the emergency services.

Members made a proposal to replace the remaining three bollards with the same collapsable type.

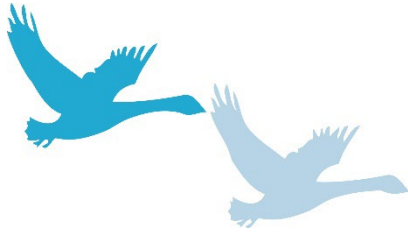
The Deputy Clerk also confirmed that the Robina Gym Equipment is being repaired on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026. The annual inspection will be completed by the end of the month.

A bolt which has fallen out of the child's swing in Rectory Close playground reported this week, will be repaired at the same time as the gym equipment.

Members **NOTED** the report and **RESOLVED** for the Deputy Clerk to purchase another three bollards and arrange for them to be installed.

**R0087. MUGA.**

Members considered re-surfacing the ground underneath the basketball hoop attached to the MUGA. It was discussed that if the surface underneath was replaced, would it be an idea to have a permeable surface, so it does not run off into puddles on the recreation field? The Deputy Clerk will investigate surfaces for this.



We are still looking into the floodlighting working with the Smart Gate lock.

Members considered closing in the fencing on the MUGA by way of covering the roof with chain-link fencing or adding height to the front/rear & side fencing to try to stop the constant incursions into it.

It was pointed out that if we had a flat chain link roof the rubbish would build up on it, it was then suggested that it should be replaced with a sloping roof to alleviate this; just higher sides may not work.

The other problem with extending the height of the netting is that the current netting is tensioned and may not be able to be raised without renewing the whole netting.

The cricket nets do not reach over the carpet and this needs to be extended to protect the carpet.

The discussion was then around installing CCTV cameras. A local resident could be approached to get advice in the first instance.

Members **RESOLVED** to ask the Deputy Clerk to investigate putting a chain link fence on the MUGA and the possibility of a sloping roof. To find out costs to extend the cricket nets, and to contact the local contractor and investigate the possibility of CCTV.

**R0088. Fun Fair Request – Cousins Way Field**

Members considered a request to hold a Fun Fair on Cousins Way from 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Members **RESOLVED** to decline this request due to the lack of time we have to organise Cousins Way field and alert nearby neighbours

**R0089. Payments – to approve payments for signing.**

There were no payments for signing at this meeting.

**The meeting closed at 19:58**