

**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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 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, (unwell) Cllr Campbell (prior engagement), Cllr Bailey (prior engagement), and Cllr Martin (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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 as true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chair signed them.

**R0053. Public forum and questions**

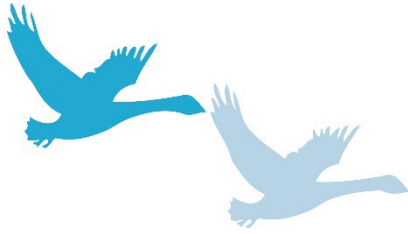
There were two members of the public present.

One member of the public proposed that the Parish Council supports a secure dog walking area, maybe in Cousins Way field. This would provide a safe environment for dogs to exercise.

Members **NOTED** the proposal.

**R0054. Club Reports**

Members received a report and request from a member of the Pulborough Cricket Club.



It was reported that as the Cricket Club is approaching the beginning of the season and, they are finding it increasingly difficult to get funding because they do not have their own premises.

They have three proposals the first proposal is to erect a timber structure called a Passmore on the original site removed in 1985; this is where the Basketball hoop was at the edge of the pavilion carpark.

The second would be for the Parish Council to advocate for the Cricket Club to use the West Glebe field for which was the original home for Cricket in Pulborough since 1799. The third proposal is that if the Cricket Club could secure grants, they could take over the site of the MUGA.

Members **NOTED** the proposals.

#### **R0055. Village Markets**

Members considered whether to continue to have a presence at the Village Markets. Members discussed this in detail – one member reported that they have attended two Markets recently and has tried to engage with parishioners very little response,

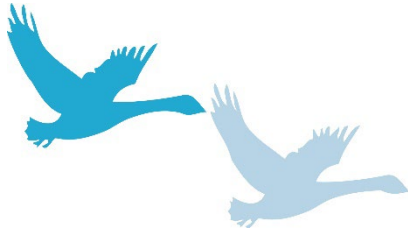
**Another member has had a different experience and suggested that we should carry on until we move into our new offices and can commence surgeries.**

Our Neighbourhood Wardens are happy to be present at the Markets in the future and report back any comments or issues that arise so we can deal with them.

When we move into our new offices the plan there will be to have an area for surgeries, we could hold one to one or group type surgeries hosted by one or more parish Councillors depending on what topics parishioners wish to discuss; we can reach people more effectively and in a more targeted way.

It was brought up that we have were working on a Communications Strategy so we can look at the best way to communicate with our parishioners. This will be factored in when we employ our member of staff so we can go forward with this. The vacancy has been advertised, and the closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to keep the parish meetings for now until we have our new offices



**R0056. Bus Shelter Cleaning**

Members **NOTED** that all ten bus shelters were cleaned at the end of November 2025 for £290 (ex-Vat) as agreed in the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2026. The Deputy Clerk reported that they will be cleaned again around the end of April 2026.

**R0057. Allotment Trees**

Members considered two quotes for the removal of the Lawson Cyprus trees over the sheds at New Place Allotments. The quotes are considerably different in price for the same work.

Members discussed this and asked the Deputy Clerk to find out why they are so different we will approach one of the contractors and will get additional information this item deferred until we can gather more information. The Deputy Clerk will look to create a survey for allotment holders regarding the removal of the Lawson Cyprus trees and gathering ideas of what we could do with the space after the trees have been removed.

**R0058. Trees around the Village:**

Members received a Report from Cllrs Esdaile and consider a quote for the replanting of new trees to replace the Collingwood Oak.

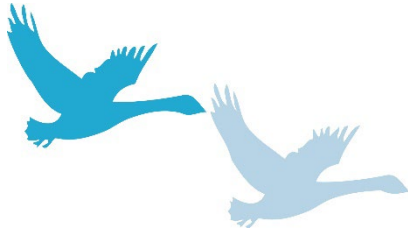
Members **RESOLVED** to accept this quote and arrange for Max to contact Cllr Esdaile regarding the placement of the new trees. We have agreed on the types of trees which are resistant to Honey Fungus; A Ginko, a Lime and a Hornbeam which was agreed at a previous meeting. They will be 3.5 meters in height, and we will need to make sure that they are watered during the summer.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quote and the Deputy Clerk will contact our contractor to arrange a meeting within the next two weeks.

**R0059. Youth Activities, MUGA Maintenance, Pickle Ball and Fluid and River Water Monitoring.**

Members considered a quote to supply water monitoring equipment which will monitor the water and send readings through to us on the quality of the water in the River Arun to support the series of river safety and kayaking programmes for children. Members discussed the River Water Monitoring, this is in the very early stages, and we are awaiting contact from Southern Water who work with Western Sussex River Trust based in Fittleworth. Members decided to defer this item to the next meeting. We could get other organisations to be involved when we get more information.

Members **NOTED** that Fluid will not be able to commence sessions until the flooding subsides, hopefully sessions can commence in the Spring.



Pickleball will not be able to be played in the MUGA.

MUGA Maintenance, Members received a verbal report from the Deputy Clerk who advised that we currently have four maintenance visits per year to service the surface of the MUGA; a quote has been received to cut the maintenance visits to twice per year @ £550.00 per visit which will be £1100.00 (ex VAT) which will be a reduction of £900 from 2025.

Member **RESOLVED** to accept the new schedule and quote.

**R0060. Masons Way Playpark**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk on the results of the recent survey conducted by our Neighbourhood Wardens we had two residents' comments who would like the equipment to be replaced as they take grandchildren to the park. Members also received a report from the Councillors after a site visit to Masons Way where it was being considered how this space could be used; residents of Mason's Way with young children said they would like to have a basketball hoop erected.

Members **RESOLVED** to replace the equipment with a basketball hoop and picnic table for the play area; the Deputy Clerk will research options and come back to the next meeting with the results.

**R0061. Masons Way Playpark – Bin.**

Item deferred from previous meeting.

Members discussed the options and **RESOLVED** to allow the deputy clerk to decide on which bin and procure it for Masons way playpark.

**R0062. Rectory Close Gym Equipment**

Members considered a quote for repair of Robina Gym Equipment in the Recreation Ground identified in a recent inspection.

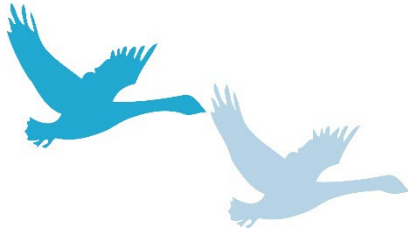
Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quote.

**R0063. Nutbourne Common Management Plan**

Members considered re-adopting an updated Nutbourne Management Plan

Members considered this and would like comments from our Nutbourne Cllr's before we accept the management plan. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

The Deputy Clerk will contact Cllrs in Nutbourne to peruse the document to see if anything needs to be added.



**R0064. Collingwood Oak**

Members considered erecting a permanent sign/plaque next to the stump of the Collingwood Oak. It was advertised well when we took the tree down and we communicated that we are replacing the oak with new trees.

Members **RESOLVED** to leave the stump as it is.

**R0065. Wild Pulborough**

Members considered encouraging owners and managers of green spaces to observe no mow May, plant bulbs, and encourage wildflowers.

Members discussed the options and **RESOLVED** that owners and managers of green spaces will be asked to adhere no mow May and plant wildflowers. This will be communicated by using the Pulborough Post and the Sussex Local.

To ask the Bowls Club to remove the earth and rubbish behind the clubhouse and to reinstate the drainage ditch that has been filled in which is causing puddling in Old Rectory Lane.

Members **RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting with the Bowls Club to ask for the rubbish behind their building to be cleared and to re-instate the drainage ditch at the back of the building and will be reported back at the next meeting.

**R0066. Grounds Maintenance**

For the consideration of the ongoing management of our green spaces.

Members need to have a schedule of works required before this can be done, the Chair allowed the member of the Cricket Club to speak, they would like to offer to contribute towards the cost of keeping the upkeep of the Cricket Square.

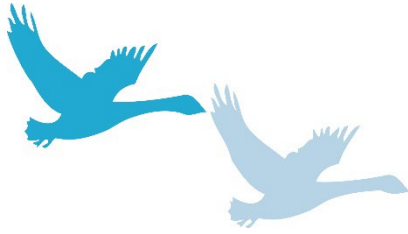
This will be discussed in the staffing committee, and we will take the offer from the Cricket Club to the meeting.

**R0067. Half-Term Skate Event**

To Ratify the skate event being held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Clerk for organising this popular event.

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the Skat event running on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.



**R0068. Memorial Gardens and Community Allotment.**

To consider splitting the £250 Budget set aside for the Memorial Gardens, all the Community Gardens are coming together as one and as such should include the Community Allotment.

Members **RESOLVED** to split the budget for the Memorial Garden with the Community Allotment and change the budget line to Community Gardens.

**R0069. Memorial Gardens request for a Bench.**

To consider a request for the placement of a Memorial Bench for Ray Qusted in the Memorial Gardens.

The Plaque that was on the bench that rotted away for Lance Corporal James Brynin who lost his life serving in **Afganistan** will be placed on the book stand in the Memorial Gardens.

Members **RESOLVED** to allow a bench to be erected in the Memorial Garden with a plaque for Ray Qusted.

**R0070. The meeting closed at 19:06**