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**PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on  
**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July**  
**7.30pm in Pauntley Village Hall, Brand Green**

**Present:** Cllrs P Eastabrook (in the Chair); N Fowke; M Hampton; P Kucharski; J Barratt

**In attendance:** Rachel Freestone – Clerk

**Public:** 3

**1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received and accepted from County Cllr Moseley and District Cllr Williams. Cllr Burford had informed that he will be late.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items.**

There were none.

**3. Minutes:**

- a. Members considered the Minutes of the Parish Council Annual meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair.
- b. Members considered the Minutes of the Parish Council Extra Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair.

**4. Parish Council Vacancies.**

- a. Members NOTED the letters of resignation received from Cllrs Philipps and Hargreaves. They were thanked for all their hard work over a number of years.
- b. Members NOTED that the FoDDC did not receive any requests for a bi-election therefore Pauntley Parish Council are in a position to co-opt into both positions. There have been no enquiries to date.  
19.57 District Cllr P Burford arrived.  
District Cllr Burford commented on the benefits and personal rewards of being a Parish Councillor.

**5. Open Session**

There was none.

**6. Reports**

- a. Members received a report from District Councillors Cllr Phillip Burford:  
The Annual Full Council meeting was held in May. No rules were changed. A motion was passed that District Cllrs are allowed to speak on planning applications from within their Wards but not to vote. With regards to the Local Government Organisation, it has been confirmed that currently, parish councils can not be made to join together or be disbanded. With regards to the FoDDC Local Plan, the version that was consulted on included 6000 new homes, 4000 with known locations and 2000 to find locations for. New targets mean they have to find an additional 6600 houses on top of the original 6000. Eco Villages and Garden Towns are favoured by the Green Party. Inevitable that there will be some new settlements as a result of the targets, sites at Churcham and Glynchbrook are favoured. The planning period is 2026 – 2041. *A member asked District Cllr Burford if he knew whether a planning application would be needed for a shipping container toilet facility at the Village Hall?* Possible that the land it sits on needs to have a change of use but need to check with FoDDC.
  - b. To receive a report from Gloucestershire County Councillor for Newent Gill Moseley:  
In her absence she had sent a brief report to the Clerk to mention the Robin Bus Service and the GCC led Local Government Reorganisation Engagement Exercise.
- 7. To appoint 2 further members to serve on the Village Hall Committee. It was RESOLVED:** that there will be two members serving on the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Jo Barratt to become the second member.

**8. Assets:**

- a. Members NOTED the replacement batteries obtained from Community Heartbeat for the defib at the Village Hall.

**9. Finance**

- a. Members NOTED the May and June 2025 Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliation with a total balance of £9703.28

- b. Members NOTED the Budget versus Actuals report to June 2025. *A member asked why budgeted expenditure is more than income?* The Clerk responded that Earmarked Reserves for asset replacement were increased. The deficit is to be taken from the previous years cfwd as not able to increase the precept by the amount required. *A member asked whether felt the VETS scheme is value for money?* **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Hampton to look at the VETS scheme, current parishioners on it and bring to next meeting.

- c. **It was RESOLVED: To approve the following invoices for payment:**

- PATA Payroll £118.32Gross
- GAPTC Internal Audit £210.00 Gross
- GAPTC Training Being a Better Councillor part 1 £45.00 Gross
- GAPTC Training Being a Better Councillor part 2 £45.00 Gross

- d. **It was RESOLVED: To ratify the regular payments made between meetings:**

- Clerk Salary £ as per contract
- Nest Clerks Pension £52.59
- Lloyds Bank monthly service charge – May, June, July £12.75

- e. **It was RESOLVED: To ratify the following payments made between meetings:**

- Clerks expenses printer ink £24.71
- To PVH Vat refund £1883.45

- f. **Members NOTED the income received:**

- VAT refund £2250.96

- g. **Members NOTED the following virement:**

- 13.05.25 To savings £5000

**10. Planning:**

- a. Members NOTED the consultation (likely 31<sup>st</sup> July week to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September – option to extend to the 30<sup>th</sup> September) for the FoDDC Local Plan 2021-2043 with options to deliver the additional housing requirements. District Cllr Burford explained that the consultation will request for opinion on new settlements. **It was RESOLVED:** the Planning Working Group to look at the papers and report to members.
- b. Members NOTED that there were no applications for Determination by Forest of Dean District Council.
- c. Members NOTED that there was no planning responses submitted between meetings under devolved powers.
- d. Members NOTED the following planning decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
- P0179/25/AG The Paddocks, Welsh House Lane whether prior approval is required. Not Required.
  - P0506/25/FUL Pauntley Court, Conversion to create a Wellness Centre – Granted Permission
  - P0507/25/LBC Pauntley Court, Listed Building consent – Granted Permission

A member asked if there had been any response from Planning Enforcement with regards to the two enquiries?

**It was RESOLVED:** The Clerk to contact Enforcement regarding progress on the allocation of a case for Paunt House and any progress on Herridges. District Cllr Burford asked to be copied in.

**11. Highways and Footpaths:**

- a. Members received a report from the Footpaths Officer. She has walked a number of local footpaths with Will Saunder (GCC) recently. Waterlogged areas and access issues had been pinpointed. There is the potential for a small bridge and a kissing gate to replace a stile on one footpath and a boardwalk was suggested for another, although this would be costly at approx. £10,000. A dangerously steep footpath has also been considered and they are looking at options for this. *A member of the public added that a lot of the*

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*walks have not been reinstated.* He has sent messages via the website, the Clerk confirmed that not received any. **It was RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact the website provider.

- b. Members NOTED that the Chair had sent a response to the Community 20's and Safer Roads initiative with an expression of interest.
- c. Members NOTED that the Hills Ford Rally has been cancelled for 2025. *A member asked what the likelihood is of them coming to this area again.* Likely it will occur in 2026, not sure where.
- d. To consider any other Highways matters arising. There were none.

**12. Biodiversity:**

- a. Members NOTED the Ash Die Back email (previously circulated). **It was RESOLVED:** There are no areas where planting is required.

**13. Training:**

- a. To receive a report on any training undertaken. Cllr Barratt has attended part one and is waiting for dates that fit with her diary for part 2.

**14. Correspondence**

- Members NOTED the changes to Newent Leisure Centre public access opening times to 3.30pm-9.30pm from 1<sup>st</sup> September with some concern. It is thought that this will discourage attendance.

**15. To consider items for the next meeting – no discussion.**

Marquee insurance funds to VH, VETS scheme.

**16. Next Meeting: Members NOTED the date of the next ordinary meeting as the 8th September 2025 at 7.30pm.**

Signature.....*Paul Eastabrook* ..... Date.....08.09.2025.....

Chair

**Meeting Closed at 9.20pm**