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PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 14th April
7.30pm in Pauntley Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Paul Eastabrook (in the Chair); M Hargreaves; P Kucharski; C Philipps; J Barratt; N Fowke

In attendance: Rachel Freestone – Clerk
Clayton Williams – District Councillor
Gill Moseley – County Councillor

Public: 16
3 representatives of Hills Ford Rally

Item 3 c It was agreed that the Hills Ford Rally item be brought to the first item.

Cllr Eastabrook welcomed the representatives from Hills Ford Rally and invited them to report on the event scheduled for the 13th and 14th September:

Members heard that the Rally has been running since 2019. It is a popular event for the 150 competitors that participate and most of the public. They try to accommodate any special requirements. The Rally is in the area for 1 day. Roads are closed from 6am until late evening but access will be allowed during part of this. The competitors race at 1 minute intervals within the stages. A safety convoy precedes them and if the route is deemed not safe it does not run. A sweeper car then travels through then a road opening car. The map sent out previously is not the stage and a copy of the updated route was provided.

Cllr Eastabrook asked what is the provision for emergency services and tractors? Hills Ford have their own paramedics and there is allowance for emergency access.

Hills Ford apply to their sports governing body and then to the two County Councils affected for a consultation, where parish councils can comment.

Member of the public – what are the average speeds? It is 75 miles per hour.

Member of the public, this is not safe with stopping distances. The speeds are not feasible in the area they wish to race in. Roads are also full of pot holes.

A heated conversation ensued with the Chair calling order.

Hills Ford informed that in attendance to listen to any grievances.

Member of the public expressed alarm having watched films of the rally, the crashes that occur on the bends and safety. Highlighted the issues local residents will have.

A member asked whether the organisation is a profit making organisation? It is not for profit.

What is the safety record? There have been no fatalities on a closed road event.

A member of the public asked if they request not to have this rally would it be stopped? They would appreciate the parish council not accepting the rally, they do not want the rally in the area.

Hills Ford replied that any parish council response would be considered.

Member of the public – the lanes are very narrow and therefore difficult for emergency services to access if an accident. Hills Ford responded that the safety car travels through and an ambulance would also be able to get through.

A member asked how they felt their marshalls have behaved in the past and how well the event has been managed? Personal experiences are leading residents anguish ahead of the event, road closures have impacted businesses and residents. Feedback from public attending is that it has not been good enough in this area historically. Hills Ford responded that an outside agency are hired to man the road closure points.

19.45 District Councillor Philip Burford arrived.

A member of the public commented that he felt that safety is addressed well by Hills Ford and his community look forward to the event.

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Member of the public – how many spectators and how is this managed? Hills Ford responded that the parish can request a designated spectator areas and they would work to accommodate them, there are designated areas along the route. If they know beforehand of any events where access is required, they can accommodate this.

Hills Ford Rally asked that the parish council take into consideration the views of all ahead of a comment.

20.05 A short break was held.

20.14 The meeting re-commenced

All members of the public left.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hampton.

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

There were none.

Cllr Eastabrook paid tribute to Anne Rawson who passed away last week. She had been a Pauntley Parish Council Councillor and advocate/dedicated volunteer for the Village Hall. There will be a celebration of her life next week held at the Village Hall. Special thanks given to her for all her work, help and friendship.

3. Open Session:

a. To receive a report from District Councillors Philip Burford and Clayton Williams:

District Cllr Williams informed members that the District Council is quiet due to the Unitary work. There is lots of speculation and he is waiting for the facts.

District Cllr Burford declined to report due to the County Council elections being held on 1st May.

b. To receive a report from Gloucestershire County Councillor for Newent Gill Moseley:

County Cllr Moseley advised of the restrictive period due to the elections. County Council meetings will commence after the 1st May. She informed members that there will soon be a new service, the 'Robin Bus' which will operate as a responsive, bookable bus service in rural areas. It is due to start soon. Can alight at existing bus stops and it will have room for one wheelchair. The timetable is run by demand. The election on 1st May is for a 2 year term of office, there will likely be a further election in 2027. How the County Council will unify with the 6 district councils is yet to be decided, proposals are to be submitted to government in November.

A member asked about the debris on the roads that was discussed at the last meeting? County Cllr Moseley asked that she be contacted and would try to help.

d. To receive representations from the Public:

There was no further comments.

4. Minutes:

a. Members considered the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th February 2025.

It was RESOLVED: to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The Chair duly signed them.

5. Assets:

a. Members considered the updated Asset Register to 31.03.2025 with the defibrillator cabinet added and the marquee removed. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Asset register as a correct record.

b. Members NOTED that a gazebo has been purchased by the Village Hall Committee following the parish council's receipt of £587 from the Insurance Claim. **It was RESOLVED:** defer to the next meeting to consider a donation to the Sole Trustee from the insurance claim.

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6. Finance:

- a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statement Balances to March 31st 2025. Cllr Philipps as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the bank statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a correct record.
- b. Members NOTED the End of Year Bank Reconciliation and Budget from 1st April 24 to 31st March 2025.
- c. Members NOTED the Budget versus Actuals Full Year to 31st March 2025. The Clerk commented that Payroll costs are over budget due to the change of provider and their payment terms. Income from the VAT refund and the insurance claim have boosted income.
- d. Members NOTED the addition of the monthly DD Lloyds Bank Service Charge of £4.25 to the schedule of regular payments.
- e. Members considered moving from Lloyds Bank with the addition of a savings account. **It was RESOLVED:** Defer to the next meeting for the Finance Working Group to discuss.
- f. Members considered the annual subscription to GAPTC for their services 2025/26. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve for 2025/26.
- g. Members NOTED the VAT return for 2024/25 and approve submission to HMRC. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve submission of the VAT claim to HMRC.
- h. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
 - Quoakle website hosting 14.03.25-13.03.26 £165.75net/£198.90gross
 - GAPTC Annual Subscription £90.87
 - Clerk Expenses Printer Ink and Chair £51.41 net/£61.69grossThe Clerk requested that additional expenses for flowers for £47.50 be added at this time. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the payment to the Clerk. A Community Heartbeat invoice had been received that day. **It was RESOLVED:** defer to the May meeting pending consideration to the VETS scheme.
- i. It was NOTED that there were no payments to ratify between meetings.
- j. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following regular payments made between meetings:
 - Clerk salary February/March As per contract
 - Lloyds Bank Monthly Service Charge DD £4.25
- k. Members NOTED the income received:
 - Donation to Village Hall Cooker from Unite £250
 - Zurich Insurance – Marquee Claim £587.49
- l. Members NOTED the following Virements:
 - Trf to Village Hall Treasurers Unite Donation £250Thanks given to Nick for arranging this donation.

7. Planning

- a. Members NOTED that there were no Planning Applications for Determination by Forest of Dean District Council.
- b. Members NOTED that no Planning Responses were Submitted between Meetings Under Devolved Powers.
- c. Members NOTED the following Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
 - P0179/25/AG whether prior approval required for steel agricultural building The Paddocks, Welsh House Lane. NOT REQUIRED
- d. Members NOTED that no further information had been received regarding the progress or updates of the enforcement action relating to Herridges Orchard.
- e. Members NOTED that Planning Enforcement had provided a case number and the parish council are awaiting further comment relating to the Castle Tump Mobile Structures.

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8. Biodiversity:

- a. Members NOTED that there are no actions arising from the Biodiversity Action Plan at this time.

9. Highways and Footpaths:

- a. To receive a report from the Footpaths Officer. In her absence there was none.
- b. Members NOTED the 2 week road closure at Ketford from 19th May to 30th May due to emergency electrical works.
- c. There was no other Highways matters arising.

10. Training:

- a. No training had been undertaken since the last meeting. Cllr Barratt commented that she was unable to book training due to unsuitable dates and will complete when an appropriate session is available.

11. Correspondence:

- a. Members NOTED the County Council elections on the 1st May and the requirement for photo ID.

- 12. Next Meeting:** Members NOTED that the Annual Parish meeting is on 28th April at 6pm and the Parish Council Annual Meeting on the 12th May at 7.30pm.
Agenda items to include the Severn Trent pumping station problems.

County Cllr Moseley informed members that the Oxenhall Parish Meeting may be able to help provide a Hills Rally survey of public opinion. She added that the event disproportionately affects certain people and the effect on animals was not discussed. A contact at GCC was provided to the Clerk to find information on the consultation periods.

District Cllr Williams added that Hills Ford is a well run event.

13. Confidential Item:

Removed for public

Signed ...*Paul Eastabrook*..... Date...12.05.25.....

Chair

The meeting closed at 21.30