

18/25-26

PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday, 8th September 2025
7.30pm in Pauntley Village Hall, Brand Green

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

In attendance: Philip Burford – District Councillor
Gill Moseley – County Councillor

Public: 5

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Kucharski and from the Clerk due to ill health. Cllr Barratt agreed to take minutes of the meeting in her absence.

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

There was none.

3. Open Session

A member of the public raised the issue of the speed limit through the village. Cllr Eastabrook outlined the work completed to date towards '20's Plenty' and dialogue with PCSO Croft. A member of the public commented on the lack of progress. Cllr Eastabrook informed of the latest communication from GCC and their aims for the next few years. District Cllr Burford added that electric bikes are not allowed on the Highways when not pedalled, the police are looking for those riding the bikes illegally.

It was confirmed that the new opening hours at Newent leisure Centre apply both to the school holidays and term time.

4. Minutes:

- a. Members considered the Minutes of the Parish Council ordinary meeting held on the 14th July 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair.

5. Parish Council Vacancies:

- a. Members considered the application received for consideration onto Pauntley Parish Council. Members voted by a show of hands. **It was RESOLVED:** Andrew Robbins to be co-opted onto the council.
- b. To receive the signed Declaration of Interest Form: Cllr Andrew Robbins was welcomed by all and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.
- c. Cllr Robbins was reminded to submit the Register of Interests Form to the Forest of Dean District Council within 28 days.
- d. To declare any interests with regards to this Agenda: There was none.

6. Reports

- a. Members received a report from District Councillors Cllr Phillip Burford. The Local Government process is rolling on smoothly. The Local Plan was considered at the extra meeting on the 28th August, with nothing further to report.
- b. Members received a report from Gloucestershire County Councillor for Newent Gill Moseley. She commented on a Council meeting report named Vision 2050 which feeds into the local government reorganisation. The report focussed on Cheltenham centric with little focus on the FoD. Far more investment in industry/business is needed in the FoD. It does consider a new Severn crossing and light rail line into the FoD, a second airport at Kemble. The object of the report is to throw items up for discussion. A 'mend and repair' café runs monthly in Newent. This is different to the 'men's shed' which has been making items for the council.

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From October 2025, running for an 18 month period, there will be a pot of money for Community Grassroots Funding available for eligible community projects.

7. Pauntley Parish Council Policies and Procedures:

- a. Financial Controls and Risk Assessment – Defer to the next meeting.
- b. Risk Schedule – Defer to the next meeting.

8. Assets:

- a. To consider the VETS scheme and an update of information for Community Heartbeat. **It was RESOLVED:** defer to the next meeting.
- b. Members considered an Annual Tree Survey at Compton Green and the Village Hall due in November. There has been recent work at the trees at the Village Hall and there are no areas of concern.

9. Finance

- a. Members NOTED the July and August 2025 Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliation with a total balance of £8540.15. Members NOTED a mistake on the Assets earmarked reserve of £20 with the Clerk to correct this.
- b. Members NOTED the receipt of £27.84 refund from the Insurance policy for 2025/26 (total cost £202.71) due to removal of the marquee.
- c. It was NOTED that there are no invoices for payment.
- d. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following regular payments made between meetings:

• Clerk Salary	£as per contract
• Nest Clerks Pension	£52.59
• Lloyds Bank monthly service charge – August	£4.25
- e. Members NOTED that there were no payments made between meetings.
- f. **Members NOTED income received:**

• Insurance Part refund	£27.84
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- g. **Members NOTED that there were no virements.**
- h. **Clerks Salary:**
 - Members considered the approved NJC scale inflationary uplift for 2025/26 applicable from 1st April 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the uplift.

10. Planning:

- a. Members NOTED the extension received to the 30th September for the Parish Council response to the FoDDC Local Plan 2021-2043 options to deliver the additional housing requirements consultation.
- b. Members considered the Parish Councils response to the FoDDC Local Plan consultation written on their behalf by Cllr Eastabrook. He added that no consideration had been given to brown field sites and there is a lack of clarity on potential sites for new development. **It was RESOLVED:** to submit the consultation response on behalf of the parish council.
- c. Members NOTED no applications for Determination by Forest of Dean District Council:
- d. Members NOTED no planning responses submitted between meetings under devolved powers.
- e. Members NOTED the planning decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
 - P0572/25/PQ3PA Barn at Sandy Ridge Farm Prior Approval Not Required.
- f. Members NOTED that an Enforcement Notice has been issued at Herridges Orchards, Pool Hill EN/0016/25 with the comment that it may take some time.
- g. Members NOTED the response from the Planning Enforcement Officer re. EN/0051/25 Paunt House and consider actions. FoD Development management have confirmed that the shipping containers are outside the area of work. It was considered that the rationale for not having obtained planning permission was disappointing. A number of complaints have been received by the parish council. **It was RESOLVED:** to notify the Development Management that disagree with proposed treatment of the infringement.

11. Highways and Footpaths:

- a. Members NOTED the confirmation that Paul Chapman has agreed to continue as Snow Warden for 2025/26. County Cllr Moseley informed that the first fill is completed automatically but will need to audit as subsequent refills may need to be requested. She will find the grit bin locations for reference.

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- b. Cllr Hampton reported on the Dick Whittington Footpath. She has worked with Will Saunder at GCC to develop a Dick Whittington footpath from Pauntley VH carpark to Mercers Hall in London. They are seeking support from Mercers Hall to project manage the initiative. It is a 165 mile walk which last took place 35-40 years ago. A member of the public commented that they may have photographs. Members agreed that this is a lovely initiative.
- c. The Footpaths Officer reported that at the bottom of the Pool Hill footpath that leads to the Ponds through Worms Meadow is often flooded. It is the ideal area for a boardwalk and she is following up funding for this.
- d. To consider any other Highways matters arising. There was none.

12. Training:

- a. Cllr Eastabrook reported that he had attended Dementia Awareness training which considered colours, vision and different types. He is awaiting a Community Dementia Board Game for use at the Village Hall.

13. Correspondence

- Thermal Camera loan program ran by the Forest of Dean. There was no interest in this program.
- Councillor Access to GAPTC website. Members were reminded to inform the Clerk if they want access.
- Cllr Eastabrook reported on GCC Sustainability Transport and Road Safety. Traffic Regulation Orders can take 2-3 years. There is a new initiative from the new administration to introduce these. Will depend on resources but have proved to make the roads safer.

14. To consider items for the next meeting – no discussion.

Draft Budget. Apologies received from Cllr Barratt ahead of this meeting.

15. Members NOTED the date of the next ordinary meeting on the 10th November 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed... *Paul Eastabrook* Date.....10.11.2025.....

Chair

The meeting closed at 8.40pm