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PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday, 9th March 2026
7.15pm in Pauntley Village Hall, Brand Green.

Present: Cllrs Paul Eastabrook (in the Chair); N Fowke; A Robbins; P Kucharski; J Barratt.

In attendance: Rachel Freestone – Parish Clerk
Gill Moseley – County Councillor.

Public: 6

1. **To pay our respects to Captain Tony Spacey.** Cllr Eastabrook spoke of Captain Spacey. Parish Council members sent their condolences to his family.

2. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**
There was none.

3. **To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items.**
There was none.

4. **Open Session:**

The Chair invited Sarah Walker, the GRCC Housing Needs Enabler to speak to introduce the Housing Needs Survey.

There are two Enablers currently funded by DEFRA however, her position is funded by Local Authorities. Responsible for 6 housing providers including two Rivers. She supports small rural developments for local communities which are not Developer driven. Pauntley Parish is scheduled for a local housing need survey to assess housing needs, this will feed into the FoDDC Local Plan. The survey is posted to every house in the parish to ask housing situation and inhabitants future (up to 5 years) needs. They receive 20-30% back. They give people 8 weeks to return them and it takes a further 8 weeks to get them analysed. About 5 months before receive the results which provide data (including housing waiting lists) to see where the gaps are. The aim is to provide the right homes in the right place for the right reasons and people. Average wage in the FoDDC is £28k, developer driven large houses are not meeting all local need. Community lead houses with long leases are an option.

County Cllr Moseley asked if she was doing all the Housing Needs Assessments? Yes all the small rural parishes lying outside of the Local Plan. Options include Community Land Trusts (Longhope is the only one in the District) which sit in perpetuity as local homes for local people. Need S106 affordable housing alongside developer. They have introduced older person shared ownership from 55yrs old. Multi-generational housing. There are options to meet certain needs.

The survey will start in April 26/27. The Chair asked what they would need from us? She will advise when the survey is to be completed. **Action:** Clerk to invite her to the Annual Parish meeting. She was thanked for her time.

Sarah Walker left at 19.41.

5. **Minutes:**

a. Members considered the Minutes of the Parish Council ordinary meeting held on the 12th January 2026. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair.

6. **Parish Council Vacancies:**

a. Members NOTED the two vacancies available for co-option onto Pauntley Parish Council.

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7. Reports

- a. To receive a report from District Councillors Cllr Phillip Burford and Cllr Clayton Williams.- in their absence there was none.
- b. Members received a report from Gloucestershire County Councillor for Newent Gill Moseley. The GCC budget received from Central Govt. is £10 million short each year. They are looking at increases to parking charges in Cheltenham and Gloucester and other efficiency savings to meet the shortfall. County Cllrs are to have greater influence on Highways priorities in their area, they are looking at the whole of north FoD for items/places that may have been missed.
The Grassroots Community Fund previously known as Build back Better is available for grants of £250 to £5000. Applications on the GCC website is less than before (20k in total) and is focussing on Community health and wellbeing.

The Local Govt Reorganisation consultation is currently live with a choice of 3 types of unitary. The final decision will be made by Govt. There is a Future Gloucestershire website with full details. The unitary is not mayoral, we will we have a say in the next step with who join forces with for mayoral. Bristol will probably be the better fit. Long way to go before get to this stage.

20.03 County Cllr Moseley left the meeting

8. Website and Assertion 10:

- a. Members considered the Website Accessibility Statement. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Statement for 2026/27.
- b. Members NOTED that the Microsoft 365 Licence had been renewed with Blue Nandu, March 2027.
- c. Members NOTED that the Clerk/RFO is the Pauntley Parish Council Data Controller.

9. Assets:

- a. Members considered the management of the Defibrillators and thanked the resident who maintains the Pool Hill defib. There is a white wire hanging from the bottom of the defib. Cabinet. Cllr Kucharski has contacted Community Heartbeat for advice but they have not responded. A further member has checked the wire and it is not live. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Kucharski to contact the resident to offer support. Ex-Cllr Gray and his wife continue to monitor and complete the online checks for the defib at the Village Hall.
- b. Members considered the maintenance requirements for the telephone boxes, bus shelters and noticeboards. **Action:** Clerk to contact a charity re paint for the telephone box as both require painting and tidying. The Bus shelters are in good condition as are the Noticeboards. There are four noticeboards. **Action:** Clerk to check the asset register for School in Pool Hill, Village Hall, bus shelter at Compton green, and Ketford by the bridge. A member reported that the wall behind the telephone box at Brand Green is partially collapsed. **Action:** Clerk to find out who owns the wall, could be the County Council as per paperwork found.
- c. Members NOTED that the VETS scheme was raised at November meeting with the resolution to ask the public at The Annual Parish Meeting. Member opinion is that it is not beneficial.

10. Finance

- a. Members NOTED the January and February 2026 Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliation with a total balance of £5898.47. The reconciliation and bank statement were both duly signed as correct by Cllr Robbins, a non-bank signatory.
- b. Members considered the Reserves Statement against the Reserves policy. No further actions are required at this time.
- c. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoice for payment:
 - Clerk expenses- Microsoft Licence £55.82net/£66.91gross
- d. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the regular payments made between meetings:
 - Clerk Salary January £as per contract
 - Nest Clerks Pension £54.29
 - Lloyds Bank monthly service charge – Jan and Feb £8.50
- e. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the payments made between meetings:
 - Adrian Hope Tree Survey £100net/£120gross
 - Clerk Expenses – printer ink £23.12net/£27.83gross

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

- Village Hall Clerk support £760.76

g. **Members NOTED the virements:**

- Savings to Current 14.01.26 £1000.00

11. Planning:

- Members NOTED no applications for Determination by Forest of Dean District Council:
The Clerk informed that an application had been received that day, would it require an extra meeting? No, a decision can be made to be ratified.
- Members NOTED the Enforcement Appeal APP/P1615/C/25/3373377 – Herridges, no date set as yet for it to be considered.
- To note planning decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
 - P0630/25/Ful – Wayside Cottage, Brand Green. Construction of horse menage. Granted permission
- Members considered a parish council response to the FoDDC Local Plan Consultation. The Chair shared that there is a meeting scheduled at Redmarley next Monday 16th for the public. **It was RESOLVED:** the Chair to complete a draft response to be approved and sent by the Clerk.

12. Highways and Footpaths:

- Members NOTED the Footpath Closure temporary closure notice for Bridleway GPA1 at Ketford details due to unsafe adjoining trees.
- A report provided by the Footpaths Officer was read to members by the Chair. The Daffodil Walk brought forward to this Friday as the daffodils are already out. Thanks given to Mandy for her help with the footpaths.
- Members heard that Cllr Kucharski had received a request for a new grit bin near Welsh House Lane. Landowner has taken out an old hedge and replanted but with the canopy removed, the road is exposed. Is a very steep road, the road is wider now. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to contact GCC if can have one for free if not look at prices for a barrel.
- Highways matters arising: A member commented that Brand Green has been eroded by heavy vehicles, they were advised to put on Fix my Street.
A member added that there is a triangle of land in the middle of a highway which is being parked on. **It was RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact Highways for advice.

13. Training:

- To receive a report on any training undertake and consider any further training needs.
The GAPTC training diary had been sent out that day. Members to inform the Clerk of any requirements.

14. Events:

- Annual Parish Meeting, 27th April 2026. Start time of 6.30pm agreed. Councillor Kucharski agreed to purchase the refreshments within the £80 budget.

15. Correspondence

- FoDDC Climate Action – Cllrs Robbins and Eastabrook both scheduled to attend.
- Severn Rivers Trust – Promote at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

It was RESOLVED: Parish Council Annual Meeting at 6.30pm followed by the Village Hall AGM at 8pm.

17. Next meeting: Members NOTED the next meeting as the Parish Council Annual Meeting on Monday 18th May 2026 at 6.30pm.

Signed:.....*Paul Eastabrook* Date:.....18.05.2026

Chair

Meeting closed at 9.16pm.