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PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
as Sole Trustees of Pauntley Village Hall (Charity Number 301598)
Held on Monday 9th March, 6.30pm in Pauntley Village Hall

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

In attendance: Rachel Freestone - Clerk

Public: 4

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence:

There was none.

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 commented that the amount of litter around the lanes has increased. Refuse vans are so full (they do not slide down the doors between houses) that when they knock the branches it is falling out. Also an increase in Fast food packaging and cans. A member of the public offered to collect litter if they had a grabber, the Chair offered to lend one. **Action:** Clerk to inform FoDDC re refuse lorries dropping litter.

Cllr Fowke mentioned a leaking drain which smells at Ketford with neither Severn Trent or Highways taking responsibility. Member of the Public added that didn't think the pump station is working well.

Action: position of the drain to be sent to the Clerk to forward to County Cllr Moseley.

4. Minutes: Members considered the minutes from the Trustees 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.

5. Village Hall Committee Report:

a. Members considered the Village Hall Report previously circulated. Cllr Kucharski presented the report. The website is now live; Pauntley.org.uk. There are 4 people with access to the website including the Clerk. The windows have now been replaced; 3 in the hall and 2 in the kitchen.

In wet conditions cars are getting stuck in the car park. There is hardcore under the mud and they have approached a local resident to investigate.

A member asked that if changing electricity provider is there a possibility for a car charging point at the VH. The committee will look for grants.

Cllr Kucharski added that the recently replaced sealed unit in the storeroom had blown. The electrical company which installed it had been contacted.

18.55 – member of the public arrived.

6. Village Hall Maintenance:

a. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the decision to replace 5 windows in the VH at a cost of £490.

b. To receive an update on any other maintenance requirements. Addressed in Committee Report.

7. Village Hall Grounds Maintenance:

a. To receive a report on the grounds. Addressed in Committee Report.

8. Finance

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements from 1st January to 28th February 2026 with a total balance of £22559.94.

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The Clerk added that the Lloyds Savings account is now closed and the forms to close the current account are ready for signature.

A member asked if there was an update on the Huntley Film Festival final figures? A final receipt expected by the end of March. Hope to have at least covered costs.

- b. Members considered the draft budget for 2026/27 previously circulated. Cllr Barratt commented on key items. Will be moving £5k into a Refurbishment Reserve. Had a lot of donations this year which the VH are dependant on to make a profit, they are extremely thankful. Big thank you to all who help big and small. Donations have not been factored into the budget and are still meeting expected costs. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the budget for 2026/27.
- c. Members NOTED the opening of the Co-op Charity Account and receipt of the paperwork to close the Lloyds account.
- d. Members NOTED that the Co-op bank payment authorisation is one to set up and one to authorise with online access to the clerk/RFO and Cllrs Eastabrook, Kucharski and Barratt.
- e. Members NOTED that the Direct Debits to EDF and Waterplus have been amended to the new account number.
- f. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the decision to hold a Petty Cash account with a balance of £200 kindly donated to the VH. Cllr Barratt that it already proved useful with all receipts retained.
- g. Members heard that the move from EDF to Octopus Energy is needed as soon as possible in order to get a smart meter. **Action:** Clerk and Andrew Stewart.
- h. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Cllr expenses – seat covers and key safe | £63.97 |
| • Cllr expenses – Sum Up machine | £79net/£94.80gross |
| • Committee Member Expenses Blue Ray Player | £62.49net/£74.99gross |
| • Filmbank Media | £89.00net/£106.80gross |

The Clerk asked if the invoice for the replacement windows received that day for £490 could be included?

It was RESOLVED: to approve this invoice.

- i. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following payments made between meetings:
- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Dene Magna – Fire Extinguisher checks | £164.55net/£197.46gross |
| • BJ Cowles – 5yr check and PAT test and external light | £430net/£516 gross |
| • Burns Night expenses | £82.26 |
| • Clerk expenses – TV licence | £174.50 |
| • Cllr Expenses – seat covers | £21.99 |
| • Film Bank | £87net/£104.40gross |
| • Huntley – Film Festival | £52.61 |
- j. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the regular payments made between meetings:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| • EDF – January and February DD | £143.26 |
| • WaterPlus – January and February DD | £152.83 |
| • Lloyds Service Charge January and February DD | £5.58 |
- k. **Members NOTED income received:**
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| • Hall Hire | £163.00 |
| • Donation | £502.00 |
| • Deposits Coffee Morning | £140.00 |
| • Skittles | £36.59 |
| • Film Night | £271.64 |
| • Fundraising | £621.93 |
| • Credit Interest | £20.76 |
- l. **Members NOTED virements between accounts:**
- | | |
|--|-------|
| • Savings to current 17.02.26 | £2000 |
| • Lloyds current to Co-op current 17.02.26 | £1000 |

9. Website:

- a. Members NOTED the new Village Hall website now live. Thanks given to everyone involved in the set up.

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10. Meeting Dates:

- a. Members NOTED the Annual Parish meeting on 27th April 2026. **Action:** Clerk to invite Neighbourhood Watch team and County Cllr Gill Moseley to talk about Community 20, the Unitary and Devolution.
Meeting time amended to 6.30pm.

11. Correspondence:

There is none

- 12. Next meeting: Members NOTED the Parish Council Trustees AGM to be held on May 18th 2026, 8pm to allow for the parish council to have their meeting first.**

Signed:..... Date:.....

Chair

Meeting closed at 19.12

DRAFT