

Minutes of Pulham St Mary Annual Parish Meeting Held at the Pennoyer Centre on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7.00pm

1: Welcome Cllr Scanlan Chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone who attended the meeting.

Present: Cllr Scanlan, Cllr McDaniel, Cllr Hudson who attended as District Councillor, Cllr Hilton and Cllr Burrige arrived during the meeting. The Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public were also in attendance.

Apologies: received from Cllr Freeman, Cllr Boardman, Cllr Yaxley, Cllr Andersson Hewitt and County Cllr Wilby. District Cllr Thompson provided apologies and a report that was received by the Clerk following the meeting. Written reports were provided by the County Cllr Wilby and District Cllr Delme.

2: Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting of 11th March 2025 – The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and displayed on the parish website. No comments had been received; the minutes were signed by Cllr Scanlan as a correct record.

3: Matters arising from the minutes: There were no matters arising.

4: Parish Council Chairman's Report:

There have been positives and negatives over the last year: -

- Incidents of ASB, with the table at the play park being damaged and glass frequently requiring clearing. The bench has now been replaced and thanks to the help of volunteers the play area is regularly checked and maintained.
- Response on potholes reported to NCC are not always addressed promptly.
- There has been a lack of presence in the village by the police. It has been noted that following the damage to the front glass at the post office a couple of months ago, the police have still not attended. Cllr Hudson will attend the next Neighbourhood police meeting in Harleston on the 15/4/26.
- Council were happy to welcome Cllr Hilton following Paul Langshaw's resignation when he left the village.
- Two new bus shelters have now been installed, and an updated SAM is on order.
- Following the install of new equipment at the play park during 24/25 the sports and Rec committee have continued to inspect and maintain the area. The next item to be considered for updating may be the 30 year old climbing frame. **Action** The clerk was asked to procure a quote for cutting back the back hedging that overhangs the climbing frame and the new zip wire. This work will not be permitted until autumn following the bird season.
- The Men's Shed and ITFC continue to utilise South Green and are working together to provide for the wider community.
- The new owners of the village post office have now been here for a year. The service they offer continues to provide well for the community.
- All the allotments are let, and the annual fees support its upkeep.
- Pennoyers continues to provide well for the community, and the Council were pleased to work with them on the recent 'Whats up, Whats on' event.
- Cllr Freeman, in his role as footpath warden, works to ensure the footpaths are maintained and has installed a new kissing gate.
- The improved local bus routes, with the exception for problems caused by the road closures, now provide an excellent service to the village.
- The Parish Council were happy to provide the Christmas tree in 2025 and thanks were extended to Cllr Hudson for providing the lights.
- Gratitude was extended to the gardening club who are now maintaining the village flower containers throughout the village.

5: Reports by County & District Councillors: Copies of reports from Cllr Wilby and Cllr Thompson are attached

Cllr Hudson commented on the 7th May Elections and County Cllr Wilby standing down. Cllr Wilby has been a great friend to the village, and we wish him well for his retirement.

Cllr Hudson advised he had voted with the majority to support the £5.00 raise to the district council element of council tax. This has enabled the increase to the community action funds and Community facilities funds, which now opens availability to groups providing facilities within the district. Other funds available include the South Norfolk in bloom and the members individual funds. Last year Cllr Hudson supported the Men's shed and Brockdish village hall with his fund.

Cllr Hudson did not support the proposed governance split for devolution as Pulham, falling within East Norfolk, may have its governance centre in Great Yarmouth.

Over the last year Cllr Hudson has responded to concerns raised on the North Green planning application, thereby ensuring it was referred to officers. Cllr Hudson has also attended planning meetings on the Kings Head and was pleased to witness the recent injunction and work currently being carried out by to maintain water tightness.

Cllr Hudson will attend the neighbourhood police meeting on the 15th April, noting the disappointment of the Parish Council for the lack of presence of the polices in response to recent events in PSM, and he advised the next meeting will be in Long Stratton on the 5th July.

6: Presentation of Parish Council Accounts 2025/26 – to date: The current parish balance sheet and variance schedule comparing the last 2 years were presented by the Clerk, copy attached and available on the parish website. The accounts have been drafted for 2025/26 and will be presented to Council at parish meeting to follow. They will then be submitted for internal audit, and a copy will be made available on the parish website. It is anticipated that the final accounts including the internal audit report, the annual governance and the financial statements will be presented for approval at the May meeting before submitting for external Auditor PKF Littlejohn. All approved copies will be available on the parish website and details of the dates for the exercise of parishioner's rights will be made available following the May meeting, with a notice being displayed on the parish notice board and on the parish website.

7: Presentation of Charity Accounts 2024/25 to date: Pulham St Mary Charities report was delivered by MS providing an overview of the Charities activity and noted expenditure and income over the last 12 months. Copies included in the APM reports.

Cllr Hudson asked if the figures on the accounts represented the funds held. MS confirmed

8: Reports from village organizations/activities:

SM provided a report on behalf of the Pennoyers Trustees – details of event over the last year were listed, including the forensic talks season, the old school event, craft fairs and 'Whats up, Whats on'. Talks on the Pulham Pigs are always popular and there is one planned in May. Many groups regularly use the centre including the art and film clubs, book club and the gardening club. Regular evenings are held like Evening Inn, bingo and Silver Sunday. Other users of the facility include the River Trust and the Miniature Donkey Group, who carry out admirable work with older and LD individuals. New connections were made at the 'Whats up, Whats on' event and there are plans for Citizen Advice, the South Norfolk bus and hopefully other resource groups to use the centre, providing services within the community so parishioners will not be required to travel further to access these. The Café is normally open 6 days a week. Costs have risen steeply over the last couple of years, including increase to the minimum wage and food costs, it is therefore with regret that the trustees are now considering increases on

prices. However, comparisons have been carried out and the café remains on level with similar other establishments.

The admin team continue to work hard and there are now 50 volunteers helping to continue the services at the centre. It has been 14 years since the refurbishment, several amenities/items are now beginning to need repair or replacement. And the active work of the admin team fundraising and volunteer import remains important.

Cllr Scanlan the report for the YEP and MS provided details of the accounts. Copies are attached

9&10: There were no further questions and Cllr Scanlan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

1 members of the public left the meeting.

Signed:

Date: