

Pulham Market Parish Council
Chairman's Report to the 2024 Pulham Market Annual Parish Meeting

Over the past year the Parish Council has managed with only 6 Councillors, our full complement should be 9. We need others to come forward and help take the Council up to full strength!

Meetings are held every month, usually on the second Monday with the exception of August.

Meetings are open to the public and there is the opportunity for parishioners to speak during Public Forum.

Your Councillors are Ann Ford (past Chair), Madeline Alexander (Vice Chair), Alison Schwier,

Su Pietrzak, Sara Herschel-Shorland and myself.

We have a very capable and qualified clerk in Lisa Shulver who gives us good advice and guidance.

We are fortunate with our 2 District Councillors, Clayton Hudson and Delme Thompson and our County Councillor Martin Wilby, all of whom engage regularly with the Council on various matters.

Volunteers are always greatly valued for what they do in the village. In particular I would thank Roger Manly for work he does around the village and also welcome Rich Hall who has volunteered to take over the responsibility for the SAM 11 speed monitoring equipment. There are others as well. We are grateful to Sue Hewitt who has served as the voluntary parish footpath warden for a number of years. Sue will be stepping down this year, so another volunteer is needed to take over this task. Thanks also to John Young, Ivan Alexander and Paul Schwier for putting up (and taking down) the Christmas tree on the Green.

Pulham Market Parish Council has responsibility for -

- The playing field at Mill Lane, including the pavilion, tennis court, BMX track and all play equipment. The field has been owned by the parish since 1974.
- The burial ground and the churchyard. The churchyard was closed to burials in the 1860s and the burial ground was established. In recent years the Council has bought further land at the south east end.
- The Green and the use of, and the car park in the village centre.
- The Memorial Hall, which although owned by the Parish Council is run by its' own management committee.

The Parish Council maintains reserves in its' accounts to meet the various expenses for these cost centres. Grass cutting, tree surgery and ground maintenance will alone account for over 28% of our £30,030 precept for 2024/2025.

The Council is consulted on planning applications made to SNC, as well as highways and other issues dealt with by Norfolk County Council that affect our village.

During the past year a community meeting was instigated by Julie Jillings to discuss ways the village might celebrate the Coronation. This resulted in a celebratory picnic being held on the Green in May. Monies raised have been put towards redesigning the "village

garden" area around the village sign. The recently grassed area will feature King Charles roses as well as a stone plaque.

The tennis court has been refurbished at the playing field with grant aid from the Norfolk Playing Fields Association. The court is free to use by all – but only for tennis please! In the past users have had to contact the clerk for a gate code. Whilst it is being used responsibly we would like to continue with free access.

The Council has secured a Community Action Fund grant of £10k from SNC through the efforts of our District Councillors towards some new play equipment. A survey at the Pulham Primary School gave us some good ideas of what the children would like to see as additional items of play equipment.

Tasburgh United Football Club have hired the field over the past two years for use by their younger players. We are pleased that they have signed a further agreement to 2026.

The Parish Council shared the cost of having the 2 walls at the rear of the Memorial Hall rebuilt with the Memorial Hall Committee. This area is now much tidier, having also had the Lime tree shaped by Waveney Trees. They also re shaped the 5 trees at the end of Falcon Road, whilst Saffron Housing arranged to have work done on the large Plane tree at the Falcon Road car park.

Saffron Housing very generously provided the new seat at the end of Falcon Road for use by those waiting for a Norwich bus. The village is fortunate to have an hourly service from the village, including two late buses home from Norwich, and one from Harleston.

Through the efforts of Mark Scanlan and others the Pulhams have a Youth Engagement Project, a youth club for 11 to 17 year olds. Meetings alternate between the Memorial Hall and the Pennoyers Centre. Our District Councillor Clayton Hudson is promoting the formation of a men's shed group based at South Green Pulham St Mary.

The Beckvale Community Car Scheme which had served both villages for a number of years has unfortunately ceased because of a lack of volunteer drivers. Surplus monies from the scheme has been divided between the two villages for other community activities.

The Council is pleased that the Benefice has a new Rector and that the Falcon a new landlord.

The village is well served with two public houses, a post office and Sam's Local Shopper, CTS, Olivia's Hair Studio, Goodies, Cherry Lane Garden Centre, a doctors' surgery, a primary school, the Parish Church and Methodist Chapel, the Memorial Hall and the Brewhouse, plus several B&Bs for those visiting.

All of these things, together with the activities of our local clubs and organisations, plus the residents of course, go towards making Pulham Market a good community to live in.

Steve Hewitt
Chairman Pulham Market Parish Council

11th March 2024