

Pulham Market Parish Council

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

I am pleased to report that over the past year we have 2 new councillors and hopefully, will have another joining us soon to take us up to our full complement of 9.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month 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 Madeline Alexander (Vice Chair), Ann Ford, Alison Schwier, Su Pietrzak, Sara Herschel-Shorland, Denise Holland, Tony Wickins and myself.

We will be sorry to lose Lisa Shulver our valued clerk who has given us good advice and guidance over the past few years. However, we are pleased to welcome Lisa's successor Wendy Alcock who will take up the role from 22nd April.

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. We wait to see how the devolution plans may affect us over the coming year.

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 Rich Hall who has responsibility for the SAM 11 speed monitoring equipment. We shortly hope to have a speed watch team in the village formed from local volunteers. Thanks to Jackie & Barry Lond for looking after flower beds at the end of Falcon Road and around the Memorial Hall and to Malcolm Young who regularly litter picks. We are still looking for a volunteer to be footpath warden as well as anyone keen to be the tree warden for the parish. As ever thanks to John Young and Ivan Alexander 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

This includes the pavilion, tennis court, BMX track and all play equipment. The field has been owned by the parish since 1974. The installation of new play equipment should be completed in the next few weeks.

The council encourages use of the good hard surface tennis court. 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.

Tasburgh United Football Club continue to use the field for their under 12s & under 14 teams. We are pleased that they have signed a further agreement to 2026.

- 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.

Waterfields have recently resurfaced the front edge of the car park and we are grateful to NCC for a contribution of £2,000 towards this cost.

- 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. Our precept for 2025/26 is £30,248

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.

We were fortunate in getting a grant of £750 towards the cost of a second defibrillator for the village which has been installed on the end wall of the playing field pavilion. The council is promoting another training session on the use of defibrillators and related issues on Thursday 26th April 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

The village has good bus services, including two late buses home from Norwich, and one from Harleston.

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.

Steve Hewitt
Chairman Pulham Market Parish Council

14th April 2025