# Pentlow Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of meeting held 2nd September 2026

058/2026 No apologies for absence were received.
Present Cllrs T. Bartlett, I. Bower, M. Stuchfield and R. Smith
4 members of the public were present plus a member of the press.
The resignation of the Parish Clerk was noted.

The recently elected County Councillor Nathan Robins attended the meeting and the Chair invited him to address the meeting.
Councillor Robins explained that he was Deputy to the Deputy Leader of Essex County Council with responsibility for 33 parishes as a District Councillor. He provided an update on pothole repairs. The JCB Pothole Pro (all-in-one road repair solution) was now being used to carry out repairs. The machine is fully road mobile so can cover more repairs in a day than the normal manual process. Subsequently there has been a 60% increase in pothole repairs resulting in around 30,000 including those that were regarded as non urgent. There is now a machine in each part of the county. Other focus's of the new administration was addressing Adult and Social care costs, support for the Safety Institution campaign and increasing the number of adults prepared to become Foster Parents.

A member of the public raised the matter of the Essex County sign in the parish that has now been missing for around three years and was advised the Parish Council should keep chasing.

059/2026 Declaration of Interests.
No councillor declared any pecuniary or not pecuniary interest of any items on the agenda.

26/1750/AGR Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development at Esterdale, Pinkuah Lane, CO107JW. It was noted that no planning response was required.

062/ 2026 It was noted that the planning application for Simpsons Farm, Belchamp Road, CO10 7JT had been approved by Braintree District Council. The Parish Council had not raised an objection to this proposal.

063/2026 The treasurer for the Village Hall Management committee had prepared a report on the current state of Village Hall finances.
This amounted to £11,438.01 in total with £9,777.21 held in the saving account, £348.77 in the community account and £946.10 held as cash. £365.93 has been spent on replenishing bar stock.
There was an update on Village Hall maintenance issues including faulty electrics and step hazards. Fire extinguishers had been tested.
Risk assessment was undertaken for 57 attending the Summer Social, which, due to the good weather, was mainly held outside.

064/2026 Repairs to the Village Hall roof and chimney were complete.

065/2026 Request to authorise payment of £150 for the Christmas tree.
Cllr. R Smith proposed and Cllr. M Stuchfield seconded. All agreed.

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066/2026 Number of complaints received that the blue and red recycling bins were not of sufficient capacity for four weekly collections. Cllr. T. Bartlett had spoken to a parishioner who had been advised that additional bins could be provided on request. It was noted that the Village Hall had not been provided with any recycling bins.

067/2026 Cllr. T. Bartlett had observed a significant amount of litter had collected by the roadside. He proposed a litter-picking day on 4th October. This would be subject to appropriate equipment and Hi-Viz being available. Concern was raised that this should only be undertaken within the 30-mile speed limit. It was agreed to promote the event and see what interest resulted.

O68/2026 Village Hall grant application. Cllr. T. Bartlett informed the meeting he had made a submission for a grant (Bramford to Twinstead Community Fund) for replacement of the Village Hall windows and doors. Three quotes had been obtained varying in range from slightly over £10,000 to marginally below £15,000. A maximum grant of £10,000 was available for this type of project but it was clear that local contributions to the project were expected. £5,000, equating to approximately 50% of the costs, had been applied for hoping that, if approved, the balance can be agreed from village funds.

069/2026 Councillors considered the merits of grouping with Foxearth and Liston Council. It was felt that this would reduce running costs that could be spent on community matters. It was proposed that a parish meeting would be arranged for Wednesday, 7th October to receive parishioner's views on the matter. Cllr. M Stuchfield proposed and Cllr. I Bower seconded. All were in agreement.

070/2026 Confirmation that bulk refuse collection for household and garden waste has been arranged for Saturday, 10th October between 10.00a.m. and 12 Noon.

071/2026 Cllr. M Stuchfield reported that an article relating to the Parish Sign would be published in the September edition of the *Parish News*.

072/2026 It was reported that that the bank balance at 31st July 2026 was £17,129.91. This was £416.91 less than on 30th April 2026. No information available at the meeting on actual expenditure against budget so deferred to next meeting.

073/2026 Public Participation Session.
A parishioner raised the issue of periodic smells from the sewage treatment plant located at the rear of the properties in School Road. AW has been reminded several times that a lid needing replacing. Cllr. R Smith agreed to become involved.
A member of the public mentioned the book exchange in the telephone box had been closed because many books were stolen and the box had been vandalised. She proposed to try and start up again in the New Year.

074/2026 Items for the next agenda. This item to be removed from future agendas due to the difficulty in knowing in advance all that is important to discuss.

075/2026 Date of next Full Council meeting confirmed 11th November 2026. Budget and Parish Precept for 2027/28 to be discussed and agreed.

076/2026 The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35p.m.

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