

OLD LAUND BOOTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 18th March 2026

Present: Cllr. Mrs J. Hartley, Cllr. Mr C. Bevan, Cllr. Mr P. Coleman, Cllr. Mrs D. Marsden, Co. Cllr. Mr H. Hartley, Interim Parish Clerk P. Rosthorn

Apologies: Cllr. Mr A. Mayor

Absent: Boro. Cllr. Mr B. Newman

Vacancies: 3

Members of the Public Present: 5

No	Minute Heading	Any Action
2638	Welcome and Public Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cllr Hartley opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors and Members of the PublicA member of the public requested clarification regarding the recent precept increase <i>Cllr Hartley explained that, following completion of the 2026/27 budget, it became evident that an increase was necessary to meet the Council's running costs for the forthcoming year. The Council has kept the precept at the same level for several years, with only small adjustments in some periods. As a result, the precept has not risen in line with inflation during that time, meaning its real-term value has effectively reduced year on year. However, the financial demands for 2026/27 require a substantial uplift to ensure that essential services, maintenance and operational obligations can be properly funded. Cllr Hartley noted that because the precept had not been significantly increased for several years, the rise for 2026/27 may appear steep when viewed in isolation; however, this adjustment is necessary to bring income back in line with operational requirements, to reflect today's inflation and rising costs and to ensure the Parish Council can continue to deliver services without financial strain</i>	
2639	Declaration of Councillors Interests / Code of Conduct <ul style="list-style-type: none">No interests were declared this month	
2640	Minutes of the last meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes of the Council meeting, held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record, (Proposed by Cllr Hartley and seconded by Cllr Coleman)	
2641	Update on progress of outstanding items from the minutes (for information only) <ul style="list-style-type: none">No outstanding matters to report beyond those included on the agenda	

Signed: _____
Date:

2642	Planning Applications and Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26/0099/FUL: Change of use of a general industrial building (Use Class B2) to 1 no. dwelling (Use Class C3) At: Slate Age (Fence) Ltd, Fencegate, Fence, BB12 9EG For: Mr Philip Berry <p style="text-align: right;">– comments due by 12th March 2026</p>	<i>Due to the deadline for comments, this application was discussed by email prior to the meeting. It was resolved that there are no comments or concerns at this time</i>
2643	Councillor Vacancies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently three vacancies available for co-option Two members of the public attended the meeting expressing an interest in the current vacancies 	
2644	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments for expenditure considered and agreed by all <i>Patricia Rosthorn (March Microsoft charge)</i> £3.91 <i>Patricia Rosthorn (Interim Clerk)</i> £655.00 Income received: <i>Bank Interest</i> £68.32 To consider and approve the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 financial year <i>Due to being unable to locate the previous internal auditor and owing to the lack of cooperation from former Parish Councillors and former Parish Clerk in providing the necessary information regarding who had been appointed in previous years, a local accountant has been approached to undertake this year's internal audit</i> 	
2645	Clerk's Report and Correspondence (for information only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report was distributed to Councillors before the meeting Matters noted: Pendleside Hospice have confirmed that they are willing to either arrange a meet-and-greet event to receive the donation or to host the next Parish Council meeting. It was resolved that a meet-and-greet would be arranged for the formal handover of the funds, during which Councillors will participate in a photographic session for social media purposes Clerk to contact the family who recently donated a bench to arrange a suitable time for Councillors to meet and have a photograph taken to mark the occasion No response has yet been received from the Sports Club regarding the Peppercorn Rent 	<i>Clerk to liaise</i> <i>Clerk to liaise</i> <i>Add to next Agenda</i>
2646	Neighbourhood Watch Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee representative was unavailable for tonight's meeting; however, a report was provided in advance confirming that sign-ups for the Neighbourhood Watch scheme are increasing 	
2647	Barrowford & Western Parishes Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Hartley attended the March BWPC meeting Crime figures for this month were reported as zero There is speculation that MP Jonathan Hinder wants Pendle Council to halt decisions about the new Pride in Place Impact Fund 	<i>Awaiting update on this matter</i>
2648	Borough Councillors Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report this month 	
2649	County Councillors Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that delays in the completion of repairs logged via the Love Clean Street App are due to staff sickness 	

Signed: _____
Date:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that 141 roads require resurfacing; however, only approximately 80 will be completed. It was further noted that some roads are being repaired using substandard materials, resulting in the works being washed away during periods of bad weather As noted at the February meeting, the footpaths along Barrowford Road remain in a poor and potentially unsafe condition following the clearing of the grass verges. Co. Cllr Hartley will contact the Head of Highways to discuss this issue with a view to securing a resolution 	
2650	Village Repairs and Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that a public footpath running through farmland requires overgrown brambles to be cut back. The Clerk will contact a local resident to confirm its exact location, with a view to establishing responsibility for its maintenance before approaching Tom Partridge at Pendle Borough Council It was discussed that a village clean-up and litter-picking session should be arranged. Dates will be confirmed and advertised on social media and local notice boards for any residents who wish to take part 	<p><i>Clerk to liaise and report back</i></p> <p><i>Councillors to arrange suitable dates</i></p>
2651	Playground Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 of the playground repair and maintenance works is close to completion. The scale of the required works, needed to keep the playground safe and open, and arising partly from the playground not being maintained as it should have been in recent years, has led to the project being split into phases to allow for manageable budgeting and staged payments It was noted that there are some brambles and bushes near to the slide that require some maintenance and cutting back A donation of two large boxes of bulbs has been received. Arrangements will be made for their collection, and Councillors will organise the planting 	<p><i>Cllr Coleman and Cllr Bevan will arrange the required maintenance</i></p>
2652	Other Parish Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCTV – Two dates have been arranged for meetings with prospective companies as part of the Parish Council’s ongoing consideration of future CCTV provision within the village. Cllr Hartley will confirm the agreed dates and times with both suppliers and will notify Councillors accordingly Annual Parish Village Meeting (APVM) – it was resolved to hold the APVM on Wednesday 20th May at 7pm in the Village Hall. As this is the first meeting of this kind to be held in several years, the Clerk will ensure it is appropriately publicised through social media and by placing notices in the Parish Council notice boards. Invitations will be sent to local representatives and further details will be agreed at the April meeting 	<p><i>Cllr Hartley to liaise and report back</i></p> <p><i>Clerk to advertise and liaise with Village representatives. Leafleting to be done as needed.</i></p>
2653	Items for consideration for next Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Club Peppercorn Rent Councillor Co-option Annual Parish Village Meeting 	
2654	Date of next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 15th April at 7.00pm <p>~~~~~</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting closed at 19:32 	