

Your Local Council

Paulton Parish Council was formed in 1894 and has a membership of twenty-one councillors. The parish of Paulton is one of the largest in Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES). Elections for the council are held every four years with the next one scheduled to be held in May 2011. Paulton parish councillors have elected not to receive any expenses but to give their time, services and skills freely for the benefit of the local community.

The council operates on a committee structure and has six main committees – Amenities, Finance & General Purposes, Health & Safety, Highways, Parks & Cemetery and Planning. In addition there are a number of sub-committees and working parties. The full council meets bi-monthly. All the meetings are open to the public and details are displayed on the notice boards in the village hall car park and in the Somerfield precinct. Parishioners have the opportunity at all meetings to raise questions and put forward their points of view.

The council owns and maintains the following amenities in the parish: the cemetery, Memorial Park, Miners Welfare Recreation Ground, Wallenge Open Space, Noah's Ark Pre-school, nine allotments and the war memorial. The Memorial Park and Miners Welfare Recreation Ground are both registered charities of which the parish council is the trustee. The council is also responsible for the public convenience in the Red Lion car park which is leased from B&NES.

The leases for the village hall and the swimming pool are held by the parish council. These amenities are looked after by independent management committees with the parish council funding major capital works to the buildings and the majority of the administration expenses of the committees.

**Paulton's Annual Parish Assembly
is being held in the village hall on
Tuesday 22 April 2008 at 7.00pm
Come along and inform your local
councillors of your views and concerns**

Review of 2007/2008

The costs of maintaining the recreation areas and the cemetery to a high standard were a major area of expenditure for the council. A new tractor was purchased, an essential item of equipment for the groundsman, and new litter and dog bins were also purchased. In the autumn a French drain was built at the Miners Welfare Recreation Ground. This has improved the drainage of surplus water from the upper football pitch and the BMX track.

Planning consent was obtained for the installation of floodlights around the tennis court in the Memorial Park. The works to install the lights and replace the fence around the court should be completed by the end of March 2008. The council is grateful to Paulton Netball Club for their donation of £4,000 towards the costs of the lights.

The installation of a 'mobilus' play unit in the park was considerably delayed but this should also be completed during March 2008.

The council has overall responsibility for the safety of visitors to the cemetery. Regular surveys of the condition of all the memorials in the cemetery are made and works were undertaken during the year to ensure that any headstones and graves in a hazardous condition were made safe. These works are funded by the council when it is not possible to trace the owner/ purchaser of a memorial.

The works to upgrade the village hall continued with the installation of a new floor. This has significantly improved the appearance and ambience of the hall.

Paulton Parish Council is committed to maintaining high standards in all areas where it has control. This necessitates considerable expenditure and the council does not want to lower standards to save money. The parish council office is open five days a week and is an essential facility for the effective management of the village amenities and the work carried out by the council.

The Way Forward

The aim of Paulton Parish Council is to provide best value local services and amenities for the community. This can only be achieved by the council issuing a precept on B&NES which is then paid by parishioners as part of their council tax bills. It must be noted that the parish council does not receive any financial assistance for the general maintenance of the cemetery and recreation areas in Paulton but all parishioners pay towards the maintenance of similar areas in Bath. This is known as 'double taxation'.

For the 2008/09 financial year the parish council has raised a precept of £150,000 – the same as 2007/08. This is an annual charge of £88.47 for a Band D property in Paulton (£1.70 per Band D property per week). A breakdown of how this is to be spent is shown overleaf.

Further improvements to the village hall are planned with the renovation of the toilets being the priority project. The decoration of the interior of the hall and the renovation of the bar area will follow when funding permits.

A donation has been allocated in the budget towards the building costs of the new Scout and Guide Community Hall

In the cemetery further works will take place to ensure the memorials and graves are in a safe condition.

The high standards of maintenance in the cemetery and recreation areas will continue and funds have also been allocated for the resurfacing of the BMX track at the recreation ground.

Last year the council produced and distributed a Paulton Village Walk leaflet. In 2008 members will be producing an updated map of the village which will mark the routes of all the public rights of way in the parish.

Your money - 2008/2009

Proposed expenditure

	£
Parks, cemetery & war memorial	58,400
Village Hall	25,717
Road sweeping, public convenience, footpath clearance, cleaning Somerfield precinct	16,720
Administration/office expenses for the council, village hall, swimming pool inc insurances, audit fees, training, subscriptions, health & safety	83,000
Amenities – lighting, bus shelters etc	1,700
Donations & grants	7,000
Noah's Ark Pre-school	250
Publications inc footpath map	<u>3,700</u>
	196,487

Council reserves have been allocated for expenditure in 2008/09 to enable the precept to be retained at £150,000.

Estimated income

Parish precept	150,000
Cemetery	8,964
Road sweeping, public convenience, footpath clearance, cleaning Somerfield precinct	15,570
Other income	<u>6,208</u>
	180,742

Please note that a summary of the accounts for 2007/08 will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly on 22 April 2008.

The accounts of Paulton Parish Council are audited annually. Copies of the Statement of Accounts are available for public inspection and can be obtained from the Council Office.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

To comply with the above act the council has adopted the Model Publication Scheme for Local Councils (Core Classes only) and a range of documents are available for the public to inspect.

Requests for other recorded information held by the council can be made in writing. For further information on the above please contact the clerk.

Any questions regarding the parish council and the services it provides should also be forwarded to:

The Clerk
Paulton Parish Council
The Village Hall
Farrington Road
Paulton
Bristol BS39 7LW

Tel: 01761 413644 Fax: 01761 413679
E-mail: paultonparishcouncil@btconnect.com

All enquiries regarding Paulton Village Hall and Paulton Swimming Pool should be forwarded to the administrator for the hall or pool at the above address or e-mail the following:

paultonvillagehall@paultonbs39.co.uk
swim@paultonpool.co.uk

Paulton Cemetery

Please advise the clerk to the council if you are responsible for a memorial/burial plot in the cemetery and you have changed your address since the plot was purchased

Paulton Parish Council

Precept 2008/2009