

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 11th MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Andy Young
 Mike Willis
 Barry Thomas
 David Fowles (District Councillor)
 Heather Harris (Clerk)

2 members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for non-attendance received from Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Heneghan and Cllr. Parsons were accepted by the Council. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Council appointed Cllr. Young to Chair the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2018 were approved and signed.

3. County Councillor's Report.

The County Councillor did not attend the meeting stating that he was already committed elsewhere.

4. Financial Report.

The following payment has been received into the Current account:

Donations for book sales	£63.00
HMRC	£3,690.44

The Clerk reported to the Council that the sum received from HMRC is assumed to be an error. Two lengthy phone calls have been made but no further information has been given. The Clerk has therefore written to HMRC requesting information regarding the payment.

The following payments have been made from the Current account:

HMRC (PAYE) £128.20

Clerks Wages (October-March) £512.55

Balances:	£
Current account	313.71 (£4,004.15)
Deposit account	3,962.22
Cemetery account	3,000.41
Total	7,276.34

5. Playground Maintenance.

The Clerk informed the Council that Playsafety would be conducting the RoSPA inspection in April and bark chippings surrounding the OXO tower and the spacenet would need bringing up to the required depth. Cllr. Willis agreed to order the products required.

6. Parking Issues.

The Chairman had a meeting with Richard Gray from GCC and the issue of parking around the common land by the Falcon was discussed. Mr Gray said that he would raise the matter of customers parking indiscriminately in this area with the Police. There was not much that he could do to assist here given the only effective means to prevent parking would be a Traffic Regulation Order which would be between £15k to £20k even if it met the criteria and it is not a high priority site. As the green is Common land he suggested some polite no parking signs could be erected by the Parish. The Council discussed the issue and were reluctant to place more signage in the area but will monitor the situation although, it was felt that there was a high likelihood of a serious accident if patrons of the Falcon persisted in parking around the area which, it was noted, it against Highway Code regulations.

The suggested disabled bay for the proposed new shop was also raised with Mr Gray. He said that this was not something GCC would provide and the costs would be many many thousands if private monies were raised for this.

7. District Councillor's Report.

Planning – Lower Bell Lane proposed development – the applicant is to appeal the current decision. Apple Tree Cottage – the application was approved due to local resident and Parish Council support by a unanimous decision. The application provided a confidential

report on the health of her parents and the Councillor apologised for the distress caused to the applicant by this planning meeting and application process.

Council Tax – There will be a large increase in the Council Tax this year. The Police element will rise by 10%, GCC by 4.9% and CDC by 2%; this will be used for reinvestment into services, planning and waste.

Waste collections - With effect from 4 November 2019, garden waste collections will change from a weekly to a fortnightly schedule (but food waste collections will remain weekly). This change will be subject to a public consultation and subsequent review in early 2020 to fully understand the impact of this change on residents and help us decide on the frequency and cost of the service that will be offered in 2020/21.

Additionally, after 4 November 2019, residents will be instructed to recycle their food waste separately so we can produce better quality recycled products in line with county-wide practices. In other words, residents will only be able to mix food waste with their garden waste up until 3 November 2019.

Residents will be provided with larger and more robust pest-proof household food caddies to help separate their food recycling from garden waste recycling when presented for collection.

Car Parking – The ‘free after 3’ scheme will continue. 600 new spaces are to be made at the Waterloo car park, the design will be future proofed by cladding so that it could be used for residential purposes.

8. Any Other Business.

Cemetery – a report has been supplied to Mr Jackson regarding alternative sites and land swaps for his comment and review. A further meeting will be held in due course and there are 2/3 feasible proposals.

Website – Ms Haresign said that the website is now up and running. There is a 2 month rolling events list and link to planning applications. The challenges are getting it to format properly on mobile phones and the URL is not working properly. The Council thanked her and the team for all their work with this and the Clerk asked for any financial outlay to be noted as the Council has a Transparency Fund to pay for all such costs.

Mr Steele had three questions to raise with the Council:

1. He asked which Councillors were standing for re-election. The Chairman said that the Councillors were considering standing again. Applications were not required until the 3rd April.
2. He asked why the Council did not have a Parish Meeting rather than a Parish Council which he said was more democratic. [note: Parish Meetings are for parishes with less than 151 electorate.] The Chairman said that each May there is

an Annual Meeting of the Parish Council but residents of the Parish are welcome at every meeting of the Parish Council.

3. He asked why the Parish Council had registered the village shop as a Community Asset. The Council were unable to recall this information in order to answer this question fully without looking into the matter as it was some time ago. [note: the Parish Council had registered the shop as a Community Asset at the request of the local community.]

Mr Steele then proceeded to make allegations of a libellous nature towards Cllr. Fowles regarding his dealings with the property. Cllr. Fowles referred Mr Steele to a previous letter sent to him by Mr Adams of CDC which clearly answered all allegations. Cllr. Fowles had been found to comply with the law in all aspects of matter. Cllr. Fowles said that he found Mr Steele's accusations totally unacceptable. The Chairman closed the conversation and the meeting.