

**DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH MAY 2019  
AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Parish Councillors – Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Heneghan, Cllr. Young  
Cotswold District Councillor – Cllr. Spivey  
Gloucestershire County Councillor – Cllr. Parsons  
Poulton Playing Field & Allotment Charity –Trustee Roger Randall  
Women’s Institute – Elinor Davis  
Poulton Village Hall Committee – Hilary Antingham  
Poulton Sports & Recreation Committee – David Knight & Simon Smith

**Poulton Parish Council, Chairman's Report.**

Firstly I would like to thank the clerk and the councillors for their involvement over the last year. Special thanks are due to Barry Thomas who has retired from the council after eight years and to David Fowles who represented us as District Councillor for sixteen years.

I am now entering my third decade as a parish councillor and most of that time has been spent as your chairman. It is a conundrum why so few people, especially the younger generation, do not want to be involved in their own communities. Perhaps as far as parish councils are concerned it is not too difficult to fathom out why in that we have little or no autonomy in decisions that affect us. The paid executive must start to take more of an approach in doing what we want and not what they want. If not they will have to take on the running of small parishes like ours at a considerable cost in both time and money.

Planning is obviously one of those issues and we have very little impact on decisions in fact valid concerns often go unheeded. There is no reason why parish councils cannot be involved at a much earlier stage. It seems absurd to me that applicants can go to the council for pre-planning discussions and that this is not made public knowledge. It cannot be difficult to devise an effective communication chain in these times of email and websites.

Planning agreements are not always adhered to and when challenged overlooked. To date the application for a second development in Bell Lane has been rebuffed but no doubt a further application will soon be submitted. We expect the planning department to uphold the planning inspector’s decision for the Rivar Homes site, that the piece of land in question should be kept clear to protect the conservation area. Such an agreement is overriding and in my book agreements are there to be kept. In one instance where an agreement was not kept this council threatened to resign and only then did CDC act to attempt to enforce what was agreed, however, the original consent was not adhered to. Frankly that is neither acceptable nor fair on residents.

Traffic is a classic example of where we have hardly any impact on its control and this has to be improved. Since the developments in Fairford and the success of the workshops at Priory Estate the volume and speed of traffic through the village is becoming intolerable. Heavy lorries need to be re-routed away from the A417 especially if you bear in mind the situation in the centre of Fairford. The pavements here are narrow or non-existent and traffic impacts on the safety of residents and their quality of life. When I moved in to the village, forty years ago, our children would walk to the playground and cross the road on their own. I would not let any young child of mine do that today.

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of traffic entering Poulton is 43.3 miles per hour and there is an average of 2,500 vehicles per day travelling in to the entry point where this is recorded. This percentile figure should be 35 miles per hour so there is a real failure in speed control here. The average speed in the thirty limit is 35.3 miles per hour with a maximum of 85 miles per hour being recorded. Ten thousand vehicles a day are travelling along the London Road and that does not take in to consideration what is happening in Bell Lane and Cricklade Street. Something needs to be done. We are a living community, a village which needs to be protected and not a trunk road. We should not have to tolerate this.

Looking at other issues Andy Young and Roger Randall, one of the trustees, has been involved in discussions with Priory Estate over the options regarding a new cemetery. We had been hoping that a “land swap” involving the land belonging to the trust to the west of Englands would go some way to resolving the issues and considerably reduce the cost to the village. The land owner has rejected this out of hand and we are therefore left with only two options which are either to pursue a compulsory purchase or to investigate the re-use of the old Priory graveyard a task made somewhat more difficult by all the headstones having been moved, without consent, from their original positions to the edge of the site some years ago. The council will have to address this over the next year.

Hilary Antingham said that she felt people in the village were unaware of what the Parish Council did. Cllr. Davies said that the Council was a low cost maintenance organisation but there was a desperate need for more involvement from villagers as it seemed to be the same people who were involved and the same age group. The Clerk mentioned that until recently information on what the Council did had been the village website.

Cllr. Spivey said that advertising what the Parish Council had responsibility for should be part of a cohesive, holistic approach to community involvement. The Chairman said that face to face communication had always been far better than electronic information. Cllr. Spivey agreed that being open and accessible was much better and it is quicker to resolve issues face to face.

## **Gloucestershire County Council Report**

A417-Cllr. Parsons that the A417 was only being patched and not resurfaced at the current time, water erosion had caused many potholes and he had received emails asking for the road not to be resurfaced as it slowed the traffic down. 50,000 potholes had been repaired, 99% of them on time. £151m to be spent on roads over the next 5 years.

Council Tax-4.99% increase this year with the Gloucestershire County Council making up the largest proportion of Council Tax. The addition levy for Adult Social Care was 2%. There is an additional £2m being allocated for elderly people making a total of £168m. £45m for schools. There has been a 39% rise in children in care mainly due to broken homes and drug related issues in the home. Educational Health Care Plans are up 47% for children with health and learning disabilities and a 41% rise in the number of elderly people needing help. The retired population is moving towards being larger than the working population.

A419 Missing Link Nettleton Bottom-Highways England has said the project is due to start in 2021 and will be on going until 2025.

Second homes-The Chairman asked why there wasn't a surcharge on second homes in villages. Poulton now has up to 20 second homes. Both the District and County Councillor said they were looking to tackle the problem but have limited powers. Cllr. Heneghan said that change was needed at policy level.

### **Cotswold District Council Report**

The Chairman welcomed the new District Councillor, Lisa Spivey. She said that she would be taking office tomorrow and was looking forward to working with the Council over the coming years.

Cllr. Fowles sent the following final report:

Sadly on 2nd May at the local elections after 16 years in control of the Council, the Conservatives lost 8 out of their 22 seats (including the Ampneys and Hampton Ward) to the Liberal Democrats for the first time in the Council's history such that the new Council starting tomorrow will look like this

Lib Dem 18 seats  
Cons 14 seats  
Green Party 1 seat  
Independents 1 seat

The Council will be handed over in good shape

This year Council Tax was increased by just 2.0%

The local plan which runs until 2031 was approved last year which gives a lot more control over the planning process

A master plan is being drawn up for the centre of Cirencester which provides a great chance to sort out a lot of issues and encourage growth.

CDC is already one of the highest recycling Councils in England and is investing in new vehicles and new containers this autumn to collect additional items such as textiles, tetrapak and small electrical items on the kerbsides to further increase recycling and reduce carbon emissions.

CDC together with the HLF is investing a further £1.5m in the Corinium museum to create a new visitor experience.

Plans are being finalised to build a new multi-storey car park for 600 spaces on the Waterloo end a park n stride for 150 spaces at the rugby club

This last year money was allocated to housing for the homeless, business rates relief for small independents, fly tipping, Youth activities, WW1 remembrance and for defibrillators. CDC also launched the Chairman's Community Awards scheme to recognise the unsung heroes of the Cotswolds with 7 award categories each winning £1000.00

CDC has been independently ranked the most efficient shire District Council in England in terms of low Council tax, shared working initiatives, outstanding recycling figures etc.

## **Poulton Sports & Recreation Committee**

David Knight said that following a village survey, residents had asked for tennis courts to be provided on Englands. Funding for this had been looked into but it would cost £60-70k. However, a multi sports surface area would be a possibility and £7,600 has been raised via the Village Fete. Problems occur when trying to juggle the space between the Football and Cricket facilities and using the space for other sports. A fitness run around the perimeter of Englands was being looked into. Both Mr Knight and Mr Ponting said that more members of the committee would be welcome, especially young people.

The Chairman commented that there was a need for better communication between the village and the Cricket Club and that no contribution had been made by the Cricket Club to the fete. Transparency regarding finance was still very much an issue to be resolved. The Committee are to approach the Secretary of the Cricket Club and ask if she would be willing to also be Secretary of the Sports and Recreation Committee to ease communication lines.

## **Poulton Village Hall Committee**

Hilary Antingham said that the Committee was a good team and has run varied and vibrant events during the year. The plans for the shop/hub were on hold as it was seen as unsustainable commercially with insufficient volunteers. A new Pantry & Post Office will be starting on Tuesday 1-3pm and offer a café similar to the very successful Books & Bickies.

## **Women's Institute**

Elinor Davies said that it was the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the WI in Poulton but with only 16 members and ages increasing, it had been difficult to get new members. She said that age and gender is not a barrier to attending events.

The Chairman thanked all the village groups for sending a representative and for their valuable contribution to village life.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.