

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 8th JULY 2019 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Davies
Phil Heneghan
Mike Willis
Andy Young
Ailsa Summers
Heather Harris (Clerk)

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Spivey (District Councillor) and Cllr. Parsons (County Councillor).

2. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019 were approved and signed.

Matters arising- Cllr. Heneghan confirmed that the seat on the under 5's rocker has been restored. Cllr. Davies confirmed that the planned resurfacing of the A417 was actually just patching and he wondered whether repeater 30 mph signs painted on the road may help with speeding issues.

3. County Councillor's Report.

The County Councillor was unable to attend the meeting as he was out of the area.

4. Financial Report.

Payments made from the current account:

Fairford Town Council (New Councillor's course) £70.00

Balances:

Current account	£3745.64
Deposit account	£4694.20
Cemetery account	£3001.67

5. Village Cemetery.

Mr Jackson has offered two plots for the new cemetery both of which are unsuitable. The copse adjoining Lot Lane has access, water course and drainage issues and land behind Ranbury Barns is too close to the new housing and the approach and driveway are in rough land and would not be under the control of the Council. Mr Jackson has been offered a land swap on land adjoining Englands rather than compulsory purchase but this has been rejected and Mr Jackson has given notice on the land he rents from the Trustees. The Councillors discussed various options regarding the cemetery, one option being to use land adjacent to the current graveyard and provide car parking elsewhere. If the compulsory purchase route is taken, the criteria must be that land is owned by a major landowner and therefore only Mr Jackson and Mr Horton would be eligible. Mr Horton's land is too far outside the village for it to be viable. The Clerk was asked to look into the legal obligations regarding the provision of a cemetery and the Chairman will contact the Diocese regarding the re-use of the old Priory graveyard.

6. Common land at Falcon Green.

There are issues with car parking on the land and also erosion by traffic. The common land is a registered green space – Councillors decided to conduct a site visit at the end of the meeting.

7. New Noticeboard.

The Chairman had a ball park figure of £1,300 for a new noticeboard – Councillors decided to conduct a site visit at the end of the meeting.

8. District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Spivey was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report to the Parish Council.

The election already feels like lifetime ago and the hard work has already started.

At our first Council Meeting in May, our new leader, Cllr Joe Harris outlined the new administration's vision for the next few years. A vision which has improving and bettering life in the Cotswolds for ALL residents at its core. It is all part of our manifesto which you can read in full.

This vision includes making sure that people who are from the Cotswolds, or have a close connection with it, can afford to live here. Housing provision is going to be very important over the coming years and we believe passionately that this must be carried out in a sustainable manner, sensitive to the surroundings and with affordability at its core. I was delighted to be appointed as Cabinet member for Housing and Homelessness as this is something I am very interested in.

This brings me immediately to the major concerns expressed by this Parish Council about the planning system at CDC.

Needless to say, getting to grips with planning policy and understanding the national framework we are obliged to work within has been a large part of my learning since the election and I have been speaking to officers at CDC, parish councils in the ward, and other ward members to try to establish where the problems are and how best to move forward. I know, not just from this parish council, but from others, how frustrated you are with the planning system and how it is handled at CDC. I cannot speak for the previous administration, but I can tell you that your concerns are also shared by the new administration and we want to make sure that planning both in terms of policy and application are thoroughly reviewed in order to deliver better outcomes for everyone.

This work will encompass a review of the Local Plan which must be carried out before 2023 but we will begin by the end of this year as we want to start the process as soon as possible. This work will be spearheaded by the forward planning officers in James Brain's team, and under the eye of Cllr Rachel Coxcoon whose background and experience in planning and sustainable development and knowledge base is vast and detailed. This work will naturally include consultation with residents and parish councils and as an administration we want to encourage meaningful consultation. By which we mean speaking to a minimum proportion of residents. A consultation which only has a handful of responses cannot be considered meaningful and we will make sure that we make contact with as many individuals and groups as possible. I don't yet have detail on how that will be executed or monitored, but I will report back to you when I do. That does not mean that we will always be able to include exactly what each parish or resident would like, difficult decisions will no doubt need to be made, and we are bound by many factors, not least national policy and legislation, but we will take a robust stance when defending the new Local Plan when we have it.

As far as current relationships with Planning officers is concerned, I have asked Mike Napper who will be head of planning upon Kevin Field's retirement to host a planning forum at CDC for all parish councillors to attend. This will take place in September (I will hopefully have dates ASAP) and will be an opportunity for planning officers to explain how

they work and the criteria and legislation they have to work to, and for questions regarding the planning process to be asked. Any more specific questions could then be followed up at individual meetings. I hope that this will begin a process of understanding which will foster a better relationship with parishes and planning officers which will lead to better decisions.

Of note currently in planning terms, are the 2 proposed developments on Bell Lane. I have met with residents in the Poulton working Group as well as Chris to discuss these applications. The conservation officer has yet to submit his/her report which I think will be crucial in the 2 house application and for the 9 house Reserved Matters application the flood officer will make an evaluation of the drainage strategies and then there will still also be conservation to report on the other outstanding issues. When I last spoke to Adrian Walker, he said that he would not be looking at everything until the end of the consultation period, so we await his decision. I am sure that Chris will have more to say on this.

There has been an application to turn the former Post Office and Village Store into residential space.

The new Lib Dem administration is committed to making the democratic decision making system at CDC more open and transparent and to that end have moved the majority of our Full Council and Cabinet meetings to late afternoon and early evenings which will give more of the public a chance to come along and engage with officers and members, and also makes sure that as members we are scrutinized and questioned on our decisions and policies. We are here to work on your behalf and not just to deliver what we want. I would encourage you to come along to a council meeting when you can.

We had our first evening Council last Wednesday where there were a number of members of the public present, including families with children and some young people. This was largely because we declared a Climate Emergency in line with many other authorities. The motion was far reaching and will require hard work and a massive change in culture. We will be putting the safeguarding of our precious countryside at the heart of all decision making. This administration is fully committed to doing whatever we can to protect our environment for residents now and future generations.

In order to kick start our manifesto pledges and get to work on making the Cotswolds even better, we have created 3 new cabinet posts for this first year.

Of course, the core of that work can only happen in close partnerships with the many villages and communities which make up the district and I am delighted to say that we have recognized the importance of this and have appointed a cabinet member (Cllr Mark Harris) whose duties will include Parish Council liaison. This doesn't mean you won't be seeing me at your meetings, but that we recognize that the heartbeat of the Cotswolds is its villages and that in order to maintain that, we must support it wherever possible. This isn't just financial assistance, but also help with promoting village events, and encouraging community involvement which in turn will help with social cohesion and tackle social isolation, another founding pillar of our manifesto.

This brings me to grant funding currently available.

Community Funds – There are a few funds currently open for submissions with each Councillor having money allocated to their ward. They are: the Community Activity Support Grant and the Community Projects Fund as well as the Defibrillator Fund.

The Community Activity Fund is aimed at activities which involve a large proportion of the community and is not restricted to youth funding or the purchase of equipment. It can't however, be used for maintenance or routine inspections or work carried out in villages.

The Community Projects Fund is more for larger infrastructure projects like villages halls, but I wondered whether this could be used for the fitness trail which was discussed at the last meeting or for the noticeboards? If you have some money to start the project, this grant might be a way of raising some more money. For more information you can speak to Joseph Walker at CDC.

A final note on an issue I campaigned on and am determined to see progress on – roads.

I talked a lot about the condition of the roads during the election campaign, and although it is a County Council matter, I am committed to lobbying for repairs and improvements to be carried out urgently. I am in the process of preparing a photographic report of all the roads in the ward which have potholes and/or require work. As you can imagine, this is taking some time as it seems that most of the roads need attention, but as soon as I have this done, I will be sending it to the County Councillors. I am also trying to see whether we can do anything at District level to help with some of the minor urgent repairs.

9. Any Other Business.

Councillor Areas of Responsibility – the following responsibilities were decided upon:

Cllr. Davies – Planning

Cllr. Heneghan – Finance

Cllr. Willis – Health & Safety

Cllr. Young – Drainage/Riparian owners

Cllr. Summers – Regulations

Cllr. Young was asked to send out letters to riparian owners in September regarding responsibilities for the water course. Cllr. Summers was asked to update the Standing Orders. Cllr. Willis to conduct the annual Health & Safety review. Cllr. Davies asked all the Councillors to respond within one week to all planning applications to gain a consensus of opinion.

Speeding Issues – the Police recently conducted a speed check in the village and all drivers were over the safety awareness course limit of 35 mph. The issue was discussed and Cllr. Young was asked to contact Mr Hutchinson of AGD Systems Limited to ask for information on the latest speed reducing systems available.

Planning – the Clerk has still not received any notification from the Enforcement Officer regarding The Chapel and will again write to ask for action to be taken. Cllr. Spivey to be copied in.

Site Visit Notes

Noticeboard – two options were discussed for the siting of the new noticeboard and the corner of Cricklade Street and West View was considered the best choice.

Falcon Green – the land was viewed and found to be cluttered with old/disused posts and signs. It was felt that the bin was little used and could be better placed elsewhere. The installation of a post and chain protective surround was suggested and reinstatement of the grass to the original area. The Council will look at the options available and discuss at the next meeting.

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm