

POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 9th DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Davies
Mike Willis
Andy Young
Ailsa Summers
Lisa Spivey (District Councillor)
Heather Harris (Clerk)

1 Member of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. Parsons (County Councillor) sent his apologies.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th October 2019 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

The Chairman reported that the new post box will be sited at the corner of Elf Meadow in the next couple of months.

Cllr. Summers said the dog owners in the village were upset by the new rule on Englands regarding dogs having to be kept on a lead. She offered to clean up after irresponsible dog owners in order for other dog owners to let their dogs run free. The Chairman said the only reason dogs were allowed on Englands at all was due to the Public Footpath running through it. Cllr. Summers asked if the decision could be reviewed. The Chairman said he would ask the Trustees of the Poulton Playing Field & Allotment Charity and said he would discuss this at the meeting of the cricket club/trustees/sports club.

3. County Councillor's Report.

The County Councillor did not attend the meeting.

4. Financial Report.

Payments received to the Current account:

CDC Precept £2000

Payments made from the Current account:

Royal British Legion (poppy wreaths) £44

Poulton Village Hall (rental) £30

Balances:

Current account £5330.17

Deposit account £4774.91

Cemetery account £3001.67

5. Setting of the Annual Precept.

The budget proposal prepared by Cllr. Heneghan for 2020/21 was circulated and discussed. Funds for a solar unit for the interactive speed signs was discussed as the battery charging is difficult. The base of the sign on the Fairford road is rotten. It was felt that a rise in the precept was unnecessary.

The Councillors resolved to set the precept at £8,000.

6. Parking on the Playground.

The issue of people parking on the playground was discussed. It was felt that this is a dangerous practice and may cause injury to children playing. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to residents of West View.

7. Falcon Hill parking.

The Chairman reported that Richard Grey is due to get back to the Council on this issue as there are services underneath the area. Cllr. Heneghan has looked at concrete tubs which are £50 each, these could be planted up to stop cars using the area to park on. Staddle stones on the edges were also discussed. Stone kerbing has proven effective in Ampney Crucis but the costs are prohibitive.

8. Village Cemetery.

After discussion, it was decided to send a letter to Mr Jackson regarding compulsory purchase. Costs are estimated at £30,000. The Councillors decided to ask the villagers their opinion on whether to proceed at the Annual Meeting in May and take a view after that.

9. Peer Review Feedback.

The Chairman said that lack of communication between the Planning Department and Parish Councils was the consistent comment by participants. The District Councillor said she had spoken to Mike Napper about the issue.

10. Road Safety Event Feedback.

The Chairman and Cllr. Summers attended the Decreasing Speed; Increasing Road Safety event. The Community Police said they were short staffed which is why nothing happens after community speed watch has taken place. The system which sends letters to speeding offenders costs £5,000, it may however be possible to form a local traffic group with other villages. The average speed camera costs £30,000 which is beyond the Police budget limitations. The Chairman said he submitted data from our interactive speed signs and is awaiting a response from the Police.

11. District Councillor's Report.

Budget A consultation on the budget will commence in January. The Councillor asked for engagement with this consultation. Last year only 15 responses were received from 84000.

Climate Change Manager Interviews are now underway.

Community Activities £2,500 per ward is available.

There has been a request by the Cricket Club. There was a discussion about the installation of a defibrillator on Englands. There is a £500 fund from the England Cricket Board towards the defibrillator so the net costs would be £1-1,500. The Chairman said that the Sports Club would need to contribute and will discuss the matter with David Dunn.

Cllr. Heneghan asked why the Liberal Democrat manifesto stated an emphasis on the environment and yet, a car park is the first new project for the Liberal Democrat District Council. He stated that limiting the use of cars and improving public transport should be priority. The District Councillor said that in rural areas, it is a big issue but would respond with a fully considered answer in due course.

12. Any Other Business.

The Clerk reported that she had emailed the Police regarding the crimes reported in Poulton but had received no response.

There had been a complaint regarding light pollution at The Priory Courtyard.

Bell Lane Development – The Council will reiterate comments regarding the attenuation pond.

The Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th March 2020.