

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 9th MARCH 2020 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

None received.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2019 were approved and signed.

3. District Councillor's Report.

Since we last met, there has, as always, been much work happening at the District Council offices. January's Full Council meeting saw:

1. A cross party commitment to support positive mental health in our community, proactively listen to those who need help and prevent discrimination on the grounds of mental health.
2. A pledge to work in partnership with the Police and Domestic Abuse services to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms across the District with a particularly moving presentation by Nick Gazzard of the Hollie Gazzard Trust
3. A continuation to the commitment to open up public access to your local democracy by holding Council Meetings in the afternoons and evenings
4. Support for the feasibility study for the re-opening of a railway connection between Kemble and Cirencester

Cabinet in February saw:

1. A demand to improve the council's building control service after poor results in Q3

2. The rejection of the Government's consultation on the Future Homes Strategy as insufficient and inadequate
3. Funds allocated to upgrade the vehicle testing equipment at the waste depot to reduce cost and unnecessary travel
4. Plans approved for cashless car parking machines, making them easier to use
5. The administration's budget recommended to Council

And last week at Full Council, that budget was passed, securing the future of this Council and beginning the work to deliver on the priorities identified in the current corporate strategy.

Perhaps the most pressing issue at the moment is the outbreak of Coronavirus.

Coronavirus

This is an issue which may affect many of us over the coming weeks and months. As a Council, we are being regularly advised by government about updates and current advice is to take reasonable precautions and remain calm. Please avoid stock piling supplies, but make sure if you do need to self-isolate, that you have enough essentials for 2 weeks.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Joe Harris, sent out the following statement on the 3 rd March:

"Cotswold District Council is working closely with our partners at Public Health England and the County Council to safeguard the health of residents here in the district and I am confident that our tried and tested plans for dealing with emergencies mean that everything that can be done is happening.

"I'd like to ask for the support of everyone here in the Cotswolds in making sure everyone does their bit to help. Together we can make sure that everyone knows the importance of good hygiene – regular hand washing and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough - as well as where to go for the most up-to-date advice.

"If you have recently been to one of the affected areas and have symptoms including a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath, you should phone the NHS 111 helpline for further advice straight away – please don't go to your doctor or a hospital."

The situation is fast-moving and members of the public can find the latest information online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

In other areas, there are the following updates:

Cirencester Car parking

Work at the Rugby club carpark has begun and should be operational in the spring.

A planning application for the Waterloo carpark will be submitted in the next couple of months and is undergoing a full review to make sure that it is in line with the carbon neutral building standards passed at November's Council and delivers on the strategic objectives previously identified. I can confirm that, despite rumours to the contrary, there is still a commitment to the delivery of this carpark.

The Old Memorial Hospital site should be ready in the next few weeks.

Waste Service

The new waste service goes live on the 18 th March. You should have received your new grey food bins and the blue bags for cardboard. If you haven't received yours by the 6 th March, please get in contact with the Council as there will be a "mop-up" of ant missed deliveries.

The council website has a list of FAQs and good, informative videos, but do let me know if you have any questions.

Highways

I am delighted to report that the A417 between Norcote and Ampney Crucis has undergone repairs and resurfacing works. I think this silk like road surface should be the standard for ALL roads in the area and will be continuing to campaign for resurfacing wherever necessary.

Other resurfacing works will take place around the Ampney St Peter, Red Lion area in the coming weeks. The repairs to Meysey Hampton High Street and the lower end of the village are due to start on Monday 9th March. Work will be limited to daytime between 9am and 3.30pm, but the

Village will essentially be completely closed to traffic during those hours. There has been much correspondence between Highways, the Parish Council, myself and other concerned parties in the village, in particular the Mason's Arms.

Despite asking many times, we have yet to have a clear response from the highways manager about where might be a safe place to park in order to access the village by foot during the day. As we all know, there is no place to park out with the bounds of the works which will go from the Marston Meysey turning right up to the A417, but all I can hope is that the contractors will proactively work with residents and visitors. The positive aspect of course, is that the road will at long last be repaired. So do be aware if you are visiting the village during the day next week that it may be difficult to access.

Defibrillator Fund I can confirm that following the budget meeting, the defibrillator fund will continue, but will be subject to a review on criteria. This is primarily in order to relax the rules around match funding, so if the village is keen to install a defibrillator, then please let me know and I can help with accessing the grant. Given ambulance response times in the area which can be up to 20mins, a defibrillator can be a life-saver and I would encourage you look into installing one.

Flooding

There was a flood meeting chaired by the Cotswold's MP, Geoffrey Clifton Brown held on the 7th February. It was attended by the Environment Agency, Thames Water, County Council, Highways, FWAG/WILD and CDC.

It was clear that whilst much work has been done by both TW and the EA, there is still much to do and that in certain areas the problems are on the rise. I was especially concerned to hear that when the system is under pressure, TW are allowed to discharge sewage into the watercourses.

The weather patterns we have experienced this winter show that with increased frequency we are under more and more pressure and threat from flooding, as has been noted in this village in the last few weeks. My particular concern is that the speed of remedial works and flood resilience strategies and their implementation are simply not quick enough. Whilst we are not at the danger levels of neighbouring towns and areas directly on rivers, we are not far from it and it would be a real pity for the situation to get to that point when correct remedial action now could mitigate it.

It seems clear that much work must be done at MP level to support District Councils, especially planning authorities like ours, to give powers to refuse planning applications where flood risk is a clear factor, as Poulton village knows only too well, and to challenge the right of water companies to actively discharge sewage into our rivers. This practice should not be legal and I will be writing to our MP to urge him to challenge these allowed behaviours.

Fly Tipping, Speeding and Dog Fouling

You may have seen that the Council has had a couple of successful fly-tipping prosecutions and has in general, been very proactive in tackling fly-tipping. I have to say that I am very impressed by the ERS team who despite being a small unit are working very effectively across this large District. They have created some signage which they hope will help to discourage these anti-social practices which they are entrusting to local residents to administer. These include some “eyes”, “CCTV may be in operation” and “speed watch area”. I will make sure that Kevin gets in touch and gets some of these signs to you.

The Chairman asked why the Parish Council had not received the planning application for the Old Farmhouse or any decision notices for other applications in the village. Cllr. Spivey said she would look into this matter.

Cllr. Heneghan noted that cashless parking machines were taking too long to process fees.

4. County Councillor’s Report.

The County Councillor did not attend the meeting.

5. Financial Report.

Payments made to the Current account:

Poulton Village Hall (noticeboard) £950

Payments made from the Current account:

H Harris (refund for printer) £45

HMRC (PAYE) £131.40

Clerk's Wages (October-March) £526.10

Balances as at 31st March 2020 (financial year end):

Current account: £3209.07

Deposit account: £4777.02

Cemetery account: £3002.94

6. Report on Englands Management Meeting.

The Chairman reported that regular meetings have been cut down to two a year. Poulton Parish Council will be represented but have no voting rights.

The Cricket Club has a 3 day Beer Festival coming up and this leaves only one event permitted this year.

As there is no fête this year, Cllr. Heneghan has offered to do a BBQ at the Beer Festival with the profits to be kept within the village.

The Football Club have commented on the dangerous parking on the corner of Cricklade Street and Church Lane. A sign will be placed on the wall of the church.

7. Report on Flooding.

The Chairman thanked Lawrence King for overseeing the Flood Alleviation Scheme. A meeting has been requested regarding the water running off the A417 into the attenuation basin.

8. Report on meeting with Sir Clifton-Brown M.P. regarding traffic/speeding.

The Chairman and Cllr. Summers met with Sir Clifton-Brown and discussion the possibility of having: average speed cameras, the road through the village taken off heavy lorries' satellite navigation, a pedestrian crossing. There are been many concerns raised by parents regarding the safety of crossing the A417 in the morning to catch school buses. The M.P. said that he would look into these for the Council.

9. Update on Post Box.

The proposed sites by the War Memorial and the bus shelter have been rejected as dangerous. The site by the turning for Elf Meadow has been agreed away from the house windows and will be there in approximately 12 weeks. Cllr. Young noted that there had been no notification of removal and yet, endless discussions regarding installation.

10. Any Other Business.

Falcon Hill – Cllrs. Heneghan and Young to meet with Andrew Bewes to discuss possibilities to protect the verge of the green land from cars.

Trustee Vacancy - The Clerk was asked to place a notice regarding the selection of a new Trustee on the 17th March.

Noticeboard – A donation of £950 has been received from the old Village Shop for the new noticeboard. Cllr. Young will discuss with Mr Dyball the grass cutter regarding the location of the board on the corner of the playground.

Bus shelter – Cllr. Heneghan volunteered to repair the guttering on the bus shelter.

Annual Meeting – A circular will be sent to the village regarding the proposed cemetery and traffic issues. All Village Organisations will be asked to send a representative.

Defibrillator – New tenants in the village are proposing installing a defibrillator at their premises. Cllr. Summers to discuss with them an alternative place for the whole village.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting.