

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 13th JULY 2020 AT 7.30 PM
AT THE PAVILION ON ENGLANDS

Present: Chris Davies
Phil Heneghan
Mike Willis
Andy Young
Lisa Spivey (District Councillor)
Shaun Parsons (County Councillor)
Heather Harris (Clerk)

One member of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Summers and accepted by the Council.

1. Appointment of Chairman.

Cllr. Young proposed that Cllr. Chris Davies continue as Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Heneghan.

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman.

Cllr. Davies proposed that Cllr. Heneghan continue as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Young.

3. Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th March 2020 were signed and approved. There were no matters arising.

4. District Councillor's Report.

Report sent by Cllr. Spivey:

Recovery

As we begin to ease out of lockdown and discover what the “new normal” looks like, work on recovery has been progressing since we last met. Whilst work continues to support those still shielding and in need of assistance, focus at CDC has also had to be on the future and what that looks like and working on how the Council can support businesses, individual

residents and communities. A recovery group was set up a couple of months ago and meets weekly to ensure that we can do everything we can to be thinking ahead.

Part of the new future is looking at how we can improve our neighbourhoods and how we travel about the District as we emerge from lockdown.

In the last few weeks you may have seen changes to our major towns across the District as we have begun to implement measures to enable our businesses and services to open again. We also want to give residents space to practice social distancing and have confidence to visit and shop in our towns again.

Covid-19 Community Response Survey and Focus Groups

The Community Response Survey has generated some really useful responses so far. The Council really wants to make sure that we can capture some of the amazing work which happened throughout the District in response to the pandemic. Community resilience is very important and our community groups across the Cotswolds responded brilliantly when needed.

As part of the recovery process, focus groups will be set up to develop a platform for community groups to share their experiences, best practices and ideas and to develop a sustainable network. Anyone interested in being part of the focus groups should contact response.hub@cotswold.gov.uk.

The team are also keen to know about any local schemes which are providing people who can't afford to feed themselves, with free meals/food. Information can be sent to community.support@cotswold.gov.uk

Waste & Recycling

All collections are running as per the normal scheduled collection rounds. There is still higher than normal amounts of waste and extra vehicles are being deployed to help with this. I know that the Ampneys and Hampton ward has had some problems with an erratic service over the last few weeks and I am working hard to resolve these issues. It is not acceptable that it is a lottery every week whether all waste gets collected, and I am sorry that residents in this village have suffered for which I can only apologise.

Ubico staff knows that this is not acceptable and measures are in place this coming week to ensure that all waste gets collected.

The general message is still to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle with the most important part of that being to Reduce.

Garden Waste Service

The cost for this year is £30 and it is valid from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021. This is reduced from £35 because the service was partly suspended due to Coronavirus. We suspended the service during April and May because of numbers of staff self-isolating. We made the decision to prioritise general waste, food and recycling collections.

Garden waste collections are currently still fortnightly, although I know that for some of you, that has not been reliable over the last few collections.

I know that everyone is keen to have their say on the service and there is a clamouring for the promised consultation. Please bear with us. We have been dealing with an international pandemic, and have simultaneously launched an entire new waste service. Getting that new service to be 100% reliable especially for the residual, food and recycling waste has been the main focus as that is a statutory, district wide service the council is required to deliver to all residents. We will consult on the garden waste service as part of a bigger waste service consultation once we have the service running reliably and have fully assessed the impact of what the “new normal” has on a service which was designed and commissioned 2 years ago. The consultation is most likely to be in the autumn.

Cotswold - Exercise, activity and leisure survey

HOW DO OUR RESIDENTS STAY ACTIVE AND HEALTHY IN THE COTSWOLDS? We would like as many residents to complete this survey as possible, whether they exercise or not.

This information will help us to understand more about the different barriers that can prevent people from being active and using their local leisure centres, and what the Council can do to support and encourage people to lead more active and healthy lives.

Please complete it yourself, share with others and help those less digitally-confident to complete it too. The more the merrier.

The survey can be completed here www.tinyurl.com/activecotswold2020 and the closing date is 17 July 2020. (It would be wonderful if you could support those less digitally-confident to complete the survey - we want to hear from everyone.)

Playgrounds and recreation facilities

We have seen the lockdown measures easing and more leisure and recreation facilities opening up. I know there has been some concern over the liability of the PC where playgrounds are concerned, but I think the key message is that users of the playground must take some personal responsibility and assess the risk themselves. It is neither fair nor practical for the PC to be sanitizing equipment after every use, or even daily. CDC is developing some template posters to put up, but the national guidelines still apply – safe social distancing, hand washing and staying home if you have Corona virus symptoms.

Parking App

To make paying for parking easier and cashless, residents and visitors are encouraged to use contactless when paying for parking charges using MiPermit. The app allows users to pay for their parking in any of the Council's car parks and can be downloaded from [MiPermit](#). (You can use the app in Cheltenham too.)

It's not only quicker and easier but is also a lot safer as the user doesn't need to queue or touch ticket machines.

NHS staff and care workers can [apply for free permits](#) up to 31 August 2020.

Support for businesses

We distributed some 700 business support packs to help shops to safely reopen. We are encouraging people to stay safe and shop local.

We did the same with the Hospitality industry across the District and supported our cafes, restaurants and pubs when they re-opened last weekend. Our businesses need us to support them, but please do so responsibly and stick to guidelines.

Domestic Abuse

The police are still prioritising and dealing with reports of domestic abuse in an emergency call 999.

GDASS are working remotely to support victims of domestic abuse on 01452 726570 or for professionals wanting advice -01452 726561.

Please share this website with people who might find it useful:

<https://www.gdass.org.uk/staying-safe-at-home/>

Virtual Meetings

The Council has moved to virtual meeting via the Cisco Webex system and we held Cabinet on 1st June, Full Council on the 3rd June and Cabinet again last night, 6th July.

Those meetings take the usual format, albeit in the virtual world, and members of the public can join in. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Cabinet 1st June 2020

At this meeting Cabinet:

- Approved the Publica business Plan for the period 2020-2022
- Recommended to Full Council a partial update of the Local Plan
- Allocated £60,000 for the trial of a Housing First model to tackle homelessness in the Cotswolds
- Authorised the Chief Financial officer to prepare a revised budget in light of the Covid -19 impact on the Council's budget. This budget to be presented to Full council in September 2020

Cabinet 6th July

At this meeting Cabinet:

- Approved the contract for cleaning and maintenance of public toilets
- Commissioned a new contract for cashless payment service for parking
- Sanctioned the approved rises in car parking charges, the implementation of the 20minutes free parking bays and the changes to season ticket charging

Decided to pause the planning application on a multi-storey carpark in Cirencester for a 12 month period whilst a transport review post Covid is carried out.

Report Ends.

The Chairman asked why the garden waste was not being collected in line with the survey of residents. Cllr. Spivey said that there will be a full consultation on the service in the autumn. She said the actual cost is £75 whereas the public were being charged £30.

She said the car parking would still be free after 3 pm in the Waterloo and Forum, with parking at Trinity Road Council offices free on weekends and bank holidays.

5. County Councillor's report.

- There is concern regarding internet speeds, Cotswold District Council have a reserve to help with this.
- Gloucestershire County Council only has online meetings now.
- There is a six month's supply of PPE.
- An extra £68M has been allocated to improving the roads, mainly patching, however Poulton is not included in this work.

6. Report on Internal Audit.

The Accounts for 2019/20 have been internally audited and signed off. The Internal Auditor did not raise any issues.

7. Signing of the Annual Accounts.

The Accounts were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. The Cashbook was signed by the Chairman.

8. Financial Report.

Payment received into the account of £6,000 precept from Cotswold District Council.
Payments made from the Current account:

Zurich Insurance	725.75
Playsafety (playground inspection)	111.60
GAPTC (membership)	117.20
Royal British Legion (VE day wreath)	20.00
Humphreys Electrical (speed camera battery)	63.84
P Heneghan (refund for signs and playground maintenance)	132.60

The Council resolved to transfer the sum of £3168.52 into the Cemetery account. This sum represents £90.85 VAT refund and £3077.67 surplus from 2019/20.

Balances after transfer:

Current account	£4012.98
Deposit account	£4777.03
Cemetery account	£6896.01

9. Report on RoSPA Inspection.

A letter has been sent to Playsafety Ltd who conducted the inspection to ask for further information regarding the under 5's swing seats which were mentioned in the report.

'Corrosion in cradle seat top frame could lead to sudden failure of the seat. Risk level Medium. Risk score 12.'

The Councillors will then decide on the correct course of action regarding this. Quotes for new swing seats have already been requested.

Cllr. Heneghan was thanked for all his hard work in repairing and maintaining the playground which in turn saves the Council a great deal of money.

10. Report on Cemetery.

Due to the pandemic and the cancellation of the annual meeting, there have been no further developments on this.

11. Bell Lane Repairs.

Cllr. Young reported that Thames Water are conducting repairs to the roadside.

12. Defibrillator.

We are awaiting contact from SWAST South Western Ambulance Services NHS Foundation Trust.

13. Report on replacement Post Box.

The long awaited replacement for the post box which was removed without notification has once again been delayed due to Covid. The latest estimated is mid-September. The time for the collection of post has been changed at the nearest box by Bell Lane Farm to 9am.

14. Report on new noticeboard.

The Chairman contacted Paul Williams, he has a robin nesting in the machine he needs to use so will have to wait until the nest is not in use.

15. Speeding meeting with Sir. Clifton-Brown MP

The data from our interactive speed signs shows that 75% of vehicle counts (30,000) per month were speeding vehicles going through the village, the average speed of speeding vehicles being 38mph with a top speed recorded of 85mph. The County Councillor suggested we contact the Police enforcement regarding this to which the Chairman said that we have already on many occasions but the Police are unwilling to act. Cllr Parsons said that the Road Safety Partnership will be restarting soon and hopefully this will lead to a better response. He suggested the Chairman write to the Police Commissioner. The Chairman said that both Tesco delivery drivers and the Postman had both said that the village could do with speed cameras. Sir Clifton-Brown said that he would look into the possibility of a zebra crossing being installed to enable the two sides of the village to move safely. The Chairman also discussed with him the situation with Lorries using the A417 as a shortcut to the A420 via Faringdon.

Volumes

	Time	5 day	7 day
Average Daily		2668	2495
AM peak	7-8am	232	201
PM peak	4-5pm	244	212

Speed

Speed Limit	30mph
85 th percentile speed	42.8mph
Average speed	34.9

16. Appointment of new Trustees.

The Poulton Playing Field and Allotment Charity have vacancies for two new Trustees with the resignation of the Chairman Nick Sanford due to move from the village and long serving Trustee Roger Randall.

The notice will be placed on the website/Facebook page and noticeboard with a closing date of 31st July. The new Trustees will be officially appointed at the next meeting in October.

17. Parking Notices.

There has been an objection by a resident to the lack of possible enforcement of the new parking signs on the entrance to Church Lane. These signs are there to improve safety for cars exiting the lane. The resident was asked to attend the meeting but was not present therefore; the placement of the signs will go ahead.

18. War Memorial.

The Parish Council agreed to pay for resources needed to repaint the railings. Mr Wood and Mr Fowles have offered to complete the work.

19. Any Other Business.

Poulton Brook – the annual letter to riparian owners will be sent – Cllr. Young to write the letter.

Message of thanks – The Councillors wished to thank all those in the village for their caring and work during the lockdown. The Chairman to write a letter to the village via the website/Facebook and noticeboard.

The next meeting will on Monday 12th October at 7.30 pm. Venue to be confirmed.