

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 8th MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 PM
ON ZOOM

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

1 member of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence.

None received.

Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters arising-The Council have been looking to install an ANPR speed detection system in the village due to the high numbers of cars travelling at speed through the 30mph section of the village. Unfortunately, due to the costs and therefore the huge increase on the precept, it was decided not to proceed.

Report from District Councillor.

The following is a report given to the Council prior to the meeting:

As I write this report the first rays of Spring sun are coming through my study window, news of the vaccine targets being hit every day play out and there is a “road map” to a return to normal life and just as the spring bulbs push through the grass in our beautiful villages, the shoots of hope also appear.

There is still some way to go, and we must remain steady in our commitment to get through the next few months, but I hope that before long we will be meeting in person again.

As ever work continues at your local Council both in dealing with everything that the pandemic throws our way and in the everyday business.

Please find below a summary of what has been happening at CDC since we last met.

Council and Cabinet Meetings

Full Council on the 20th January was a largely procedural meeting and looked at:

1. Terms of reference of the Crime and Disorder Committee
2. Adoption of the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct, appointment, and Remuneration of Independent Persons
3. Appointment of Interim Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

Cabinet on the 8th February looked at:

1. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy and budget for 2021/22
2. Ubico (waste contractors) contract extension for a further 5 years with a review at 2 years
3. An update on Council Contract rules
4. A report on Affordable Housing Delivery
5. Changes to Governance arrangements at SWAP Internal Audit Services Ltd

Full Council on the 24th February was dedicated to the budget setting for the year 2021/22.

I was particularly pleased to see £200,000 set aside in the budget for a new “Civic Pride” scheme. This will focus on all the things which many of you contact me about and which I know cause annoyance – littering, fly-tipping, dog fouling – general “enviro-crimes”.

How our district looks are not just a matter of appearances for visitors who come to The Cotswolds, it is also incredibly important for all of us who live here and travel around the district daily. The cleaner and tidier our streets, the more well cared for our signage and verges, the less likely people are to destroy it with littering and fly-tipping. The key strategic outcome is to achieve a reduction in these “enviro-crimes” solving immediate issues, but also preventing further recurrences. Further detail is in Cabinet papers for Monday 8th March.

I am also glad to see investment in establishing better, greener transport options which is something which came up a lot in the budget consultation feedback. CDC is not the lead transport authority, but we recognise that having plans that can be implemented will make it easier for the district to get what it needs.

The budget supports economic development in the district via the Recovery Investment Strategy and continues to work on Strategic Planning and making our Local Plan “green to the core” acknowledging the need to address the climate emergency and address the housing affordability crisis.

In order to do this, Council Tax will increase with an average Band D property seeing a rise of £5 per year.

Flooding remains an issue in the local area and over the Christmas period, Cirencester in particular was badly affected and even made national news headlines. Although not the lead flood authority, CDC officers and cabinet members were at hand on the front line dealing with flooding all over Christmas and throughout the last 2 months. CDC decided to hold an open Flood forum to hear residents’ concerns. This was a very well attended and lasted over 2.5 hours. You can watch highlights of it again here:

<https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldDC/posts/1561562604214975>

The outcome is that CDC wants to really take a leadership role in demanding action for residents and will be putting in place a number of measures and really trying to ensure action is taken both the organisations who have the duty

to deal with flooding. This work has already begun with a strongly worded letter sent to Thames Water from our new chief executive and a scheme to bring forward flood wardens in the most hard-hit areas.

Local businesses continue to be supported as much as possible and the period of lockdown for non-essential shops and other businesses continues. There have been some public questions about the payment of grants which I can give you some background on. Since November, CDC has assessed and paid out 2,264 business grants worth £13m. If you or any business, you know have not received your grant please check your emails because we may have requested further information from you.

The Council has learned lessons from previous rounds and simplified the application process in January by aggregating the nine different grant schemes into just two forms. We appreciate that the system is still not perfect, but we are taking any feedback on-board and will continue to improve the process for future rounds wherever possible.

The last round of grants expired on 14 February and, like you, we are waiting for an announcement from the Government on what happens next and then the specific guidance that usually follows several days later. Once we have the guidance on who is eligible for what grants we will work as quickly as possible to arrange any application and payment processes. We will then inform you of what you need to do.

The new system of community grants – CrowdFund Cotswold – was launched last week with an introductory event explaining the platform, how it works, how best to use it and a timeline for applications was held on the 22nd February. This excellent method for communities and groups to raise money for projects in their local area really gives groups the opportunity to raise funds for much needed/desired projects. The potential to gather support not just from the Local Authority but also from businesses, individuals, charities, central government makes it an ideal way to both raise money and raise awareness and gather community support. It has been very successful in other local authority areas and I hope that it will be just as successful here in the Cotswolds. If you want any further information, you can go to:

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/crowdfund-cotswold-launches-next-week>

There will be further launch events on the 9th and 18th March and the first round of applications should be submitted by 21st April.

Upcoming meetings:

Monday 1st March 6pm Cabinet
Wednesday 17th March 6pm Full Council

This is just a brief overview of what has been happening at your District Council. As ever, if you would like further detail or have a matter you would like me to take up, please get in touch with me directly
Lisa.spivey@cotswold.gov.uk

Matters arising from District Councillor's report:

Cllr. Spivey asked if the Crowd Fund Cotswolds could be used to fund the ANPR speed detection system? Cllr. Davies said that major action was needed, a dog had already been run over and a young child recently managed to get into

the road which could have been fatal. Cllr. Summers asked if we had received a response from Geoffrey Clifton-Brown. Cllr. Davies said. Still no response from the local MP regarding the issue. Cllr. Spivey asked if the Police had conducted a site visit and Cllr. Davies replied that the Police had not had a speed check for some time.

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Parsons said that he had been in touch with Highways but no response yet. He will keep the Council informed of any progress.

Cllr. Parsons agreed that traffic needs enforcement. He said that Fairford Airbase lorries can be given routes to use. He said that he will be in touch with construction traffic management and keep an eye on the situation.

Cllr. Heneghan asked about the litter along the A417 and whether this could be dealt with. Cllr. Spivey said that she will ensure that the stretch of road is put on the list to complete, it is all part of the Civic Pride Agenda.

Financial Report.

The Clerk informed the Council that no invoice had been received for the noticeboard. If it were late, it would be paid after 31st March in the next financial year.

Payments paid from the Current Account:

Cosmos Solutions (defibrillator case) £636.00
C. Davies (refund for 'no dogs' signs on the playground) £35.66
Zoom Pro (internet meetings) £14.39

Balances as at 8/3/21:

Current account	2478.90
Deposit account	4777.02
Cemetery account	6171.46

Report on Flooding Forum.

Updates will be put on the noticeboard.

There was a positive response from Lawrence King and there are plans to enlarge the bund in the field.

Bell Lane-There has been an increased chance of flooding in Bell Lane due to the building work by Rivar. The clearing under the bridge will be left until the autumn, there is 5% loss in capacity. Lawrence-King has it in hand. Highways will be inspecting the bridge annually, it was last cleared in 2018. It needs a surveying team to do the inspection. Cllr. Young said that sediment had been classed as 'unhealthy' in the past. Cllr. Davies said that branches and all sorts gets washed downstream.

Report on Cotswold Flooding.

Cllr. Davies said that the inaction of Thames Water was a main contributor of sewage overspill. Thames Water are currently lining pipes. He said that we are still awaiting a response from Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP regarding Bell Lane and is exasperated by the lack of action.

Cllr. Parsons said that Meysey Hampton had now been done. More assistance is needed from Environmental England who need to chase Thames Water for them to action. Cllr. Heneghan said that a survey of sewers was being

undertaken by Thames Water at the moment and it would be good to get a copy of the report to get a view of the drainage problems in the village. Cllr. Parsons suggested that the Council should ask for a copy of the Strategic document.

Traffic speeds through the village.

Cllr. Davies will write to Geoffrey Clifton-Brown again. Cllr. Young said that lorries are still using the A417 as a shortcut. Cllr. Davies said that we were unable to stop that. Cllr. Summers said that Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP had said he would look to remove the route from Sat. Nav.maps. Cllr. Parsons suggested sending letters to local hauliers.

Report on Cemetery.

The Councillors discussed the possibilities regarding burial grounds in the village. There was question as to if there is burial space adjacent to the churchyard wall and Cllr. Davies will discuss this with the vicar. Cllr. Summers said a ground radar could ascertain where they are situated. Cllr. Spivey asked if there was a time limit on when graves could be re-used. Cllr. Davies said they had looked at re-using the plots at the Priory Churchyard just as municipal cemeteries do. Cllr. Davies said it will be a very costly exercise if we decide to go ahead with a cemetery. Cllr. Heneghan said that the Council should do a public survey.

Update on Falcon Hill.

Cllr. Parsons said a site meeting when possible but after the forthcoming Election.

Update on Priory Estate waste.

Cllr. Davies said questions had been met only with excuses from Priory Estates regarding the waste and 'false truths.' The waste collection lorries should not be collecting from the village roadside but from the Estate area. Cllr. Parsons said that it was an unsatisfactory situation. Cllr. Davies said that there were environmental concerns. ~~The waste should be collected from the Priory Estates site.~~ Cllr. Spivey said that Ubico were satisfied that only residential waste should be collected within the village.

The Gilbertine Café had been raided by the Police and people sitting around moved away from the site as this was breaking Covid Regulations. The situation at the café is seen as being out of control.

Update on broken gateway (south).

Repairs were needed after a road traffic accident. Cllr. Willis said the car had gone over the verge and into the gateway. Cllr. Parsons said he would investigate how the repairs were progressing.

Update on Defibrillator.

The Clerk was asked to include the defibrillator on the Council's insurance. Cllr Summers said the cabinet will be installed when the village hall refurbishments had been completed.

Any Other Business.

Fairford US Air Forces – the U2 planes are here to stay.

Village Map – a footpaths map is currently being designed.

Next meeting will be held on Zoom on 10th May 2021 at 7.30 pm.