

Poulton Parish Council Newsletter

Elections to the Parish Council

In consequence of the recent resignation of three councillors, your Parish Council is presently inquorate and unable to conduct any new business. An election for three replacements will be held on 15th July 2021, and we encourage anyone who is interested in making a contribution to local affairs to stand for office. It should be recognised that the powers of the Parish Council are very limited, but it is villagers' best opportunity to influence their own environment. Interested parties should contact the Parish clerk at poultonclerk@gmail.com in the first instance for more information.

We hope everyone will join us in thanking the departing councillors for their entirely voluntary work on behalf of the village over several years, and in particular, the ex-chairman Chris Davies, who has devoted an incredible amount of time and effort over a long period to the benefit of Poulton. It has been a pleasure to work with Chris, and the village will be the poorer for his departure from office.

Defibrillator

GWAS Ambulance Service, who are based at Butts Farm Workshops, have very kindly donated to the village a defibrillator for the treatment of cardiac arrest. The enclosure and mounting of the unit have been financed by grants, and the electrical wiring provided by Mike Willis. This is to be sited on the wall of the Village Hall adjacent to the Recreation Ground. It will have a combination lock, for which the code will be published on the Village website and Facebook. This is confidential information for residents only. Non-residents will need to ring the phone number on the device to obtain the code

Cemetery

The graveyard at the church is running out of space and your Parish Council has been investigating the possibility of acquiring land for a cemetery. It is not a legal requirement for the Parish Council to provide this facility, but many parishes regard it as an important part of their service to the community.

The Council is obliged to discuss the acquisition of a suitable site with the larger landowners in the area, but to date these talks have not been successful. This may result in the necessity of a Compulsory Purchase Order to obtain a suitable piece of land within the curtilage of Poulton.

An estimate of the total cost of the cemetery would be around £50,000, and maybe more if we have to get involved with a compulsory purchase. Some of this cost can be recouped by the charges levied, but this would clearly have to be over a number of years.

In view of the large sums of money involved in this project, your Council is seeking opinions, comments and suggestions as to the future course of action. Please send your input to poultonclerk@gmail.com, or feel free to talk to your remaining councillors on the subject.

Traffic

The speed of traffic and the number of heavy lorries passing through the village along the A417 has to be one of the major issues affecting residents, with vehicles also continuing to abuse the speed limit in Bell Lane and Cricklade Street.

In the 40mph limit, on average, 700 vehicles a day are driving at a speed above the limit.

In the 30mph limit on average 1,252 cars per day pass the vehicle activated sign, their average speed is 34.9mph, and the average speeder is travelling at 37.9mph. Approximately 75% of vehicles are driving over the speed limit and the highest speed recorded was 85 mph!

A meeting was held in March 2020 with our Member of Parliament, where several options were suggested to him, including average speed cameras, restrictions on heavy lorries etc. He requested a further meeting in that summer to involve Highways, but due to Covid restrictions and other delays, a meeting was finally held on the 4th June 21, which was also attended by both local and County police representatives.

Despite this high-powered meeting, there was little in the way of tangible progress. The possible actions covered (and mostly rejected) include

Average Speed Cameras – best, but unlikely due to cost/installation. A cheaper ANPR type is being reviewed by police and they have offered more speed checks via van, personnel and Speedwatch.

Pedestrian Crossing – Sitting could be difficult as has to be away from bends in the road, parking areas etc.

Lorry Route/Length limit – the advised route for lorries to use the A419 to access the A420 instead of the A417 is only advisory and not obligatory.

Extending the 30mph limit on the eastern end of London Road – involves legislation and associated costs.

Use of 30/40mph repeater markings on the road surface – Richard Gray to investigate.

The most likely outcome is repeater road markings, speed camera warning signs and the provision of signs for wheelie bins, that is, lots of exhortation, and little action.

It is essential that we have the support and/or comments of residents over these important subjects, as this considerably influences the Authorities and increases the impact, so please put them in writing.

WE ARE SEEKING YOUR OPINIONS AND ASSISTANCE IN DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM

To submit comments about a cemetery and traffic control, or other issues, forward to:-

email: poultonclerk@gmail.com

or write to or speak to one of your Councillors below who will record your remarks.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Phil Heneghan - Acting Chairman

Andy Young