

POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd AUGUST 2021
AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr. Simon Collyer-Bristow (Chairman)
Cllr. Philip Heneghan (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Ed Hyslop
Cllr. Carolyn Sleight
Cllr. Andy Young
Cllr. Lisa Spivey (County & District Councillor)
Mrs. Heather Harris (Clerk)

Members of the public present: 2

1. Appointment of Chairman.

Following the recent resignation of three members of the Council, an Election was held to appoint new Councillors. The Election was uncontested, and all three seats were filled.

Cllr. Collyer-Bristow was asked by the Council to become Chairman which he accepted to give the new Council long-term stability.

2. Confirmation of Vice Chairman.

Cllr. Heneghan was asked to continue in the role of Vice Chairman to provide continuity for the Council and support to the new Chairman.

3. Allocation of responsibilities within the Council.

The new Councillors were asked by the Chairman to introduce themselves:

Cllr. Collyer-Bristow – Simon has been living in the village for nearly 8 years and is involved with the community. He has been volunteering in various capacities including the role of Chairman to Poulton Action Group.

Cllr. Hyslop – Ed has lived in Poulton for 10 months and wants to be involved in the community for the benefit of the village. He has previously served as a Parish Councillor in the past.

Cllr. Sleight – Carolyn has lived in Poulton for 23 years and is currently serving on the Village Hall Committee. She is looking to improve the village for its residents.

Allocation of roles:

Cllr. S. Collyer-Bristow (Chairman & Traffic Issues)
Cllr. P. Heneghan (Vice Chairman, Finance & Playground)
Cllr. E. Hyslop (Traffic issues)
Cllr. C. Sleight (Regulations and Risk Assessment)
Cllr. A. Young (Flooding issues)
Mrs. Harris (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

The Councillors discussed the issue of Planning and agreed that all planning applications would be considered jointly as a Council with the consensus being given to Cotswold District Council by the Clerk.

Cllr. Spivey was asked about the impact regarding the new white paper produced by the Government on planning issues and Zonal Planning under the headings of Growth, Renewal and Protection. This represents a structural change and will form part of the Planning Reform Bill. She said that National Planning Policy dictates the numbers of houses to be built in each area and 96% of planning applications are for small developments i.e., a porch on an existing property. Material planning issues are the remit of the Planning Committee at CDC.

Poulton has the advantage of listed properties and the Conservation Area to ensure that the Parish Council have some control of development within the village.

Cllr. Hyslop asked if a Neighbourhood Development Plan would be advisable for Poulton. Cllr. Young said that Poulton had historically been reticent to do a NDP as it had proved so counterproductive in neighbouring villages. Mr. Fowles said that lots of villages had started NDP to give more weight to their decisions and to attract a Community Infrastructure Levy. He said that it would need to be something a sub-committee took on.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed by Cllr. Heneghan (Acting Chairman at the time). Matters arising – the Clerk said that Arbor Tree Care will be conducting a review of the Council's trees in September with a view to any work necessary being completed in the autumn.

The Chairman issued Cllr. Spivey with an official apology for comments made in the last meeting which were inappropriate. Cllr. Spivey accepted the apology. Mr Fowles asked Cllr. Spivey, on behalf of Mr Davies, if the Leader of CDC would be responding to a letter sent by Mr Davies regarding the matter. Cllr. Spivey said that the Leader of CDC concluded that no response required, and the matter was closed.

4. District Councillor's Report.

The District Councillor sent the following report:

Cabinet on the 13th May looked at:

1. Ubico business Plan
2. Spacehive Pledge Decision process and criteria
3. Partial Update of the Local Plan Project Update
4. Re-opening of High Street, Welcome Back Fund
5. BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund
6. Funding for improvement works to Rossington Road carpark, Bourton-on-the-water

Full Council on the 26th May was a largely procedural meeting as it was the AGM. Couple of points to note is that a new chair was elected, Cllr Dilys Neill and new vice chair, Cllr Nikki Ind.

There was also a small change to the cabinet whereby Cllr Clive Webster stood down and Cllr Juliet Layton took his place. Juliet has been the Chair of the Planning committee for the last 2 years. The planning committee will be chaired by Cllr Ray Brassington with Cllr Julia Judd as vice.

Cabinet on the 7th June looked at:

1. Ubico Business case for expansion and extension of partnership to include Gloucester City
2. Council tax exceptional hardship fund
3. Green economic growth strategy
4. Green business pledge

Cabinet on the 5th July looked at:

1. Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) for the visitor economy and broader mitigation against Covid-19
2. Funding for essential maintenance of council service property assets
 - a) Flood works at Packers Lease Depot
 - b) Maintenance at Leisure Centre Pool Hall
3. Review of options for additional parking in Cirencester
4. Creation of CDC Flood warden programme
5. Local Climate Bond Pledge
6. Financial, Council Priority and Service Performance Report
7. Procedure for appointing temporary councillors for inquorate Parish Councils
8. Loan proposal for Cutaway Housing Association


And Full Council on the 14th July saw:


1. Expenditure of S106 commuted sums for Affordable housing schemes
2. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet on findings on Tetbury and Fairford Leisure Centre Provision
3. Funding for Improvement works to Rissington Road Carpark, Bourton-on-the-water
4. Review of the Statement of Licencing Policy
5. Report from the Short Term Lets working group
6. Refresh of the Constitution
7. Proposal of Loan to Cottsway Housing association

Worth noting:

- A couple of the car parks in Cirencester have now moved to cashless parking.

From 1 June, at the following car parks drivers will be able to pay using card, contactless, by phone or by using the PayByPhone app but will not be accepting cash payments:

 Abbey Grounds, Cirencester, GL7 2DA

 Old Station, Cirencester, GL7 1US

 Leisure Centre, Cirencester, GL7 1US

Removing cash payments from car parks will put a stop to theft and vandalism that has cost over £100k in the last 4 years.

This change will also help reduce our carbon footprint by removing 20,000 miles driven each year to collect cash.

Upcoming meetings:

Monday 6 th September 6pm	Cabinet
Tuesday 7 th September	PCC Roadshow at the RAU
Wednesday 22 nd September 6pm	Full Council

The District Councillor said that the Waterloo multi-storey car park had been moved to a later meeting as post pandemic needs were still unclear. Cllr. Heneghan said that CDC should be looking at a sustainable parking policy with emphasis on walking and cycling.

Cllr. Spivey said that a new Toolkit is available to residents for new builds, property developers and existing residential properties acted as a carbon zero guide. £1.3M had been allocated to de-carbonisation of CDC owned buildings.

<https://cotswold.gov.uk/media/05couqdd/netzero-carbon-toolkit.pdf>

S106 would be used for innovative housing developments.

Cllr. Spivey mentioned the short term lets issue which was to be discussed later in the meeting, she said that Air bnb had a code of conduct, but this was non enforceable at the present time. Future central Government legislation would be required. The Parish Council will be looking to work with homeowners as amenities in the village are advertised by the owners, but no contribution is given to their upkeep. The Chairman asked Cllr. Spivey to raise the issue with CDC. She said that most lets are run as a business to get around paying Council Tax which is a matter for central Government. Cllr. Hyslop said that it is the owners who have a

responsibility. The Council discussed whether a Poulton Star of Approval scheme might be worth looking into. (See point 11).

5. County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Spivey said that there had only been one full Council meeting so far. The Stockholm Declaration had been discussed which would mean local roads could be given a 20-mph speed limit however, this was not carried by the new County Council. She said that central Government had the power to legislate regarding A road such as the A417 through Poulton. She said that her focus would be on roads and reducing speeding.

The question of parking cars along the A417 through the village was raised and Cllr. Young said that the Police would see permanent vehicles used in this way as an obstruction however, temporary use of vehicles would be no issue. The Chairman said that lorries, which start using the road at 4am were putting undue pressure on the bridge at Ranbury and the road surface. Cllr. Spivey suggested lobbying the Police to enforce speeds used by the lorries early in the morning. The Chairman suggested Community Speedwatch however, Cllr. Spivey said that this has no enforcement.

Potholes in roads was discussed and the causes, weight of lorries, adverse weather, poor materials, and contractors. The £150M spent on roads by GCC had not gone a long way.

Flood prevention was discussed, the devastating pollution in rivers and the recent sewage leakage at Siddington and South Cerney. Cllr. Spivey said that the Environment Agency should be monitoring these levels but no action, other than fines, was being taken. The Chairman said that it is good that this is a priority. Cllr. Young said that this had been caused by extraction of funds from water companies therefore incurring debts which caused an inability to improve infrastructure.

Cllr. Young asked if there would be any further cover of Richard Grey's workload while he had long Covid. Cllr. Spivey said that his Deputy was working full-time.

Cllr. Hyslop asked why speed cameras had been deprioritised in Gloucestershire by the County Council. Cllr. Young said that ANPR style cameras, supported by Gloucestershire Police, were used in Wiltshire and the previous council had tried to get Gloucestershire CC to adopt the policy.

Cllr. Spivey said the new Police Crime Commissioner was having a meeting at the Royal Agricultural University at on 7th September at 6pm and this would be a good question for him.

6. Financial Report.

The Clerk said that a new Mandate had been signed by the Council for signatories to the Parish Council account, all previous Councillors had been removed from the Mandate.

Cheques paid from the Current account:	£
Playsafety Limited (RoSPA Inspection)	111.60
GAPTC (Courses for new Councillors)	42.00
G H Knight (printing of flyer)	20.00
Acorn Workshop (Information board)	768.00

Donations amounting to £500 had been received from local business so far and £128 would be refunded for VAT at the year end. The Parish Council liability was currently £140 however, a further donation of £100 was expected shortly.

Balances as of 2nd August 2021:

Current account	5856.24
Deposit account	4778.43
Cemetery account	7291.65

7. Update on Falcon Hill.

Cllr. Heneghan said that no progress has been made since the last meeting. Gloucestershire Highways were avoiding any responsibility regarding the signage which the Parish Council has asked them to remove. Cllr. Sleight said that the plans by the Parish Council to improve the area with planted troughs would possibly have a psychological effect of slowing traffic. Mrs Willis said that parked vehicles were blocking visibility for cars turning onto Cricklade Street. Cllr. Young said that it is common land and there should be no parking or use of the turning. The Clerk said that historically the middle section did not have a tarmac surface and Cllr. Heneghan provided photographs of the Falcon Hill prior to the erosion by repeated new road surfacing. These photographs showed a larger area of grass, without signs, and a rural centre of the village. The Councillors will do a site visit and report their suggestions to Cllr. Heneghan.

8. Update on defibrillator.

The new Councillors discussed the siting of the new defibrillator, and it was resolved that it will be situated on the end wall of the village hall adjacent to the playground where it is most visible. All villagers will be given the code.

9. Update on Playground.

Following the recent RoSPA inspection, the OXO tower will be removed during the winter months as it is 'at the end of its useful working life'. Cllrs. Heneghan and Sleight will form a working party to look at replacement of the play equipment. The Council wished for the new equipment to be green and sustainable. Funding will be looked into for this project.

10. Update on Information Board.

The information board has now been installed and the Council felt that it was very interesting, informative, and educational. The Clerk was asked to write to the sponsors thanking them for their donations and especially to Neil Ashley who has worked on the board for many months.

11. Impact of Tourism on the village.

Cllr. Sleight said there are upwards of 12 properties for holiday rental within the village, these properties advertise village amenities such as access to Englands and the playground without contribution to their upkeep by the owners. The Clerk will email the Trustees of Poulton Playing Field & Allotment Charity to discuss access onto Englands by the occupants of rental properties and ask for an update.

The adverse effects from these properties experienced by residents are: excessive late evening noise from large groups (some properties sleep 12), increased traffic, dogs unleashed and irresponsible dog owners leaving dog mess on Englands and local footpaths.

12. Any Other Business.

The Councillors decided to continue meeting on a Monday to ensure that the District Councillor could access all local meetings.

Village Gateway nr. Lots Lane-Richard Grey is in the process of obtaining materials for its repair. The post on London Road will also be replaced and the speed sign moved.

Mrs Willis said that she is very concerned about the speeding along The Butts and the road to the Gilbertine Café.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th October at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.