

**DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th OCTOBER 2021
AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr. Simon Collyer-Bristow (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: 5

Apologies were received from Cllr. Heneghan and accepted by the Council.

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 2nd August 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd August 2021 were signed and approved.

Matters arising - The surplus road furniture on Falcon Hill to be removed. Cllr. Heneghan has been in contact with Gloucestershire Highways regarding this and will report at the next meeting.

2. District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Spivey said that she has been in touch with Paul James, Economic Development Lead at Cotswold District Council regarding poor reception for mobile phones and slow broadband speeds available in the village. Mr Kilby said that the new houses on Wheelers Rise off Bell Lane will be having direct fibre installed by BT and that BT have also said that by 2025 all households in Bell Lane will be on fibre. Cllr. Spivey will pursue this on behalf of the village as a whole. Mr Kilby said that in his communications with BT, they quote 30 Mbps as 'rural broadband speed' whereas other areas, such as Down Ampney are able to access 300 Mbps as they can use Gigaclear. Poulton is blocked from using Gigaclear, which runs through the village, due to Poulton having a BT exchange.

The Cotswold District Council budget consultation is underway <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/having-your-say/budget-consultation/> and the District Councillor encouraged everyone to complete the consultation. She said that cuts to local councils from central government amounted to £2.8bn.

20 is Plenty - The new campaign by Cotswold District Council which uses Community Speedwatch and moves towards using the Stockholm Convention where all but main A roads in the area move to 20 mph. Cllr. Hyslop gave the District Councillor a copy of the new speeding reduction plan produced by the Parish Council which followed on from a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner with the Chairman and Cllr. Hyslop. The Police are encouraging Council's to opt in to the new 20 is Plenty campaign. Cllr. Hyslop said that Poulton will be a pilot for any speed reduction schemes available.

Local Plan - review of carbon zero policies and sustainable transport will be conducted in December.

3. Report by County Councillor.

Each division has been allocated £40k by 2024 as part of a post Covid recovery plan. The Chairman asked if monies would be available for new equipment on the playground and the County Councillor said that it would.

Flooding-Cllr. Spivey has had a meeting regarding progress on flooding and to see the current plan. Cllr. Sleight said that sewage flooding rather than rainwater was the greater concern.

Fosseway Recycling Centre - closing 8th November until Christmas for flood alleviation works. Booking is still required.

Cllr. Spivey encouraged everyone to get the flu jab when they are called or by booking online <https://www.boots.com/online/pharmacy-services/winter-flu-jab-services>

Mr Fowles questioned whether the Stockholm Declaration was binding to which the County Councillor said that it would be by 2025. Mr Fowles remarked that it had no weight behind it.

Mr Kilby said that with regard to flooding, he had a meeting with Richard Gray of Gloucestershire Highways specifically about the drains on Bell Lane and he said they should be cleared twice a year, not once. However, Mr Kilby said that he had only had procrastination by Highways on this and not the alleviation of the flooding risk. He said that Farmers needed to clear the ditches after the hedge cut. In 2008, all new drainage had been put in and he had needed to pump out 22000l of water so far. The Chairman encouraged Mr Kilby to write again to Highways regarding this.

4. Financial Report.

Payment into the Current account:

Cotswold District Council (precept)	£2000
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Payments made from the Current account:

A Buse (installation of information board)	£60
GoDaddy (village website)	£115.04
Playground repair materials	£24.81
Bus Shelter key	£7.00
HMRC (PAYE)	£133.20
Clerk's Wages (April-October)	£533.30
A Buse (bridge clearance work)	£60

The Clerk said that this final transaction would be refunded by Gloucestershire Highways in due course.

Balances as at 11.10.21:

Current account	£6739.60
Deposit account	£4778.35
Cemetery account	£6172.43

The budget for 2022/23 will be set at the next meeting.

5. Footpath from Meysey Hampton to Poulton.

An email has been received from Meysey Hampton PC regarding the path as many villagers use it to go to The Gilbertine Café or The Masons Arms. The clearance of the footpath has been discussed with Meysey Hampton Parish Council and Cllr. Spivey will walk the path with Gloucestershire Highways and discuss works necessary. The path is part owned by Highways and local landowners.

6. Report on Speed Controls within the Village.

A four-point plan has been written by Cllr. Hyslop and the Chairman to move the issue of speeding in the village forward:

Poulton Speed Control Action Plan – Update/Discussion Paper for PPC meeting 11 October 2021 Since our last meeting, Simon and I have started making progress in developing a Speed Control action plan. This has included: (i) attending the Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner's roadshow last month; (ii) discussions with representatives of other Cotswold villages that have run successful campaigns; and (iii) collaborating with Gloucestershire Constabulary to get their support for a number of initiatives. Background The issue of speeding has been a long-standing concern for the residents of Poulton and Poulton Parish Council for many years. Unfortunately, over

this time the problem seems to have continued to gradually worsen as traffic volumes have increased. Since joining the Parish Council earlier in the summer, and subsequently soliciting opinions from residents of the village, we have noted that speeding through Poulton is the number one priority for the majority of residents. The Parish Council have committed to add new impetus to this issue and to develop a new action plan that will have a positive impact in improving both safety and traffic noise reduction throughout the village. Proposed Action Plan We propose an initial 4-pronged plan to be implemented immediately, subject to sign-off by Poulton Parish Council. This plan proposes an approach that combines collaboration with Gloucestershire Constabulary, recruitment of volunteers from the village, and potentially some future investment from village funds to fund equipment required for long-term use (any investment to be signed off by the PCC in the future, based on a fully-costed proposal at the time – and possibly funded from the precept if deemed appropriate). The proposed 4-pronged plan is as follows:

1. Speed Survey Camera Following a conversation at the Gloucestershire PCC's roadshow, we have applied to Gloucestershire Constabulary to install temporary speed cameras to conduct a 'speed survey' in the village. This will allow us to monitor average speeds through the village over a sample period of time and gather data on the number of speed offenders. A similar survey was undertaken back in 2018, with pretty alarming results. For example, it showed that an average 1,434 vehicles passed along the A417 from the west every day, and approx. 77% of these were exceeding the speed limit in the 30mph zone - with average speeders travelling at around 38mph. (Statistically, the harsh facts are that a pedestrian hit by a car at 30mph has an 80% chance of survival from death, whereas at 40mph this reduces to just 10%!). To get this average of 38mph, you can imagine that many were travelling a good deal faster! We suspect this may have even worsened since, and so it will be interesting to see comparative results from a new survey. Depending on the findings, Gloucestershire Constabulary may even be persuaded to step up enforcement action in the village (e.g., more frequent ad hoc speed checks or even a permanent speed camera).

Next step: We are awaiting confirmation from Gloucestershire Constabulary re timing of the new survey.

2. Community Speedwatch Programme We have applied to enrol on this Gloucestershire Constabulary initiative. In the first instance, they would loan us an approved model speed-gun for use by a team of village volunteers for a pilot period. They would then come and train us properly in its use and approve the exact locations that we situated them. We would then recruit a local team of volunteers (you ideally need to be in teams of 3 for each session – one to operate gun, one to identify vehicle reg/type, and one to record data) to operate the gun, wearing hi vis etc. I have no doubts that we could easily recruit a team of volunteers from the village. Having set us up properly, they will then be able to act on data we provide them regarding persistent offenders etc by sending out official caution letters (not fines). So, there are 4 potential benefits to this scheme: 1. The mere presence of people in high vis, pointing a speed gun at motorists is likely to slow cars down while we are monitoring. This will raise awareness, and hopefully the word will spread that Poulton is a place to watch your speed... 2. The data collated will be share with the Police who will act be sending out warning notices to offenders (not fines at this stage). This will act as a disincentive for persistent offenders and again the word will get around

3. Depending on whether the pilot was deemed a success, Gloucestershire Police would then consider attending in person more frequently, so that proper enforcement action (fines) can be taken. 4. Finally, if the results appear to justify it, they may even consider installing an official static speed camera, as they have done in other villages. I have spoken at length to the chairman of Barrington parish council (near Burford) who has been running a scheme in their village for the last 2 years. He coordinates a team of 30 or so volunteers in the village who monitor speeds with the handgun 3 times a day and collate data on registration numbers of speeders. They have developed a good collaboration with the police, who regularly send out warning letters to repeat offenders, based on the data provided to them by the village Speedwatch team. He feels it has definitely had a positive effect on speeding through their village. Next step: We are now awaiting confirmation from the Police re our registration on the scheme so that they can set up the training. I would be happy to coordinate this initiative – recruitment of volunteers/training in use of equipment/organisation of rota/collation of data in approved format/sending data to Gloucestershire Police etc. Once we get the go ahead from Gloucestershire Police, I would suggest we hold an open village meeting to brief everyone and recruit volunteers. 3. Buy our own hand-held speed camera If the results of the above pilot are successful, and we have sufficient support from village residents, we may consider buying our own hand-held device for use by the village volunteer team so that we can run an ongoing rota of speed-checking. These are relatively inexpensive, with a wide variety being available, and can be purchased for around £170-£300. We would just need to ensure the specification matched Gloucestershire Police’s requirements to ensure they would act on the data we collect. Next step: To be considered based on results of Speedwatch pilot above.

4. Consider funding our own Static Speed Camera with ANPR capability Gloucestershire Police have an initiative to encourage locally funded static speed control equipment. In its simplest form, this is the “slow down” or “current speed” flash-up boards that you will have seen around the place (and we already have one on the western approach along the A417). However, it is now possible to get cameras with full ANPR capability, that will record each vehicles speed, number plate, time, date and photograph it. If the model and its location are approved by Gloucestershire Police, then they will act on the data and again send out warning notices and even more for demonstrated persistent offenders (e.g., visiting them at their home). The cost of this is significantly higher than for the hand-held devices, but this may be worth considering creating a more permanent deterrent. Furthermore, based on the results which would be shared with the Police, they may consider installing a permanent ‘official’ static speed camera if this seems justified. If there was sufficient support around the village, this may be something we may consider funding via a small increase in the present... A similar programme in Rodborough, between Nailsworth and Stroud, has been hailed a great success and makes an interesting case study which has attracted some good press coverage.

Next step: To be discussed at Poulton Parish Council Meeting. If there is an appetite to pursue this, then we can develop a full costed plan for consideration by the Parish Council.

Five years ago, the average speed through the village was 38mph with, 77% of vehicles doing more than the permitted 30mph. The new speed survey will give the Council an update on the current situation and will be a useful comparison with the previous set of figures.

Speed guns can be used at authorised points, and this will be discussed at Village Meeting. There will be a rota scheme set up with the Police taking a part. The Police will issue warning letters and persistent offenders will be fined fixed penalties.

If effective, the Council will purchase speed cameras for this.

For a larger investment, ANPR static cameras can be purchased which record data and log persistent offenders who will receive letters from the Police, this includes haulage. Mr Ashley said that the Police need more involvement in small villages instead of easy cash sites on the A419. The Chairman said that he had been told there was a shortage of Police, only three for the County. Cllr. Hyslop said that he understood this view, but we have to try things in order to achieve results. Cllr. Hyslop had also spoken to The Barringtons Parish Council who had for many years used a team of community Speedwatch volunteers and had seen good results through collaborating with the Police.

Mr Fowles said that only Section 4, where fines can be given was worth doing. He said the Council needed to get to the end point. Cllr. Sleight said that the more people are involved, it will send a message that the villagers care about the speed car/lorry drivers are doing through the village. The Chairman said that we need to be proactive on traffic and proposed a village meeting on this subject. He will invite Chris Nelson and the Police to explain what they are doing. Cllr. Spivey said that the villagers needed to buy into this plan.

Cllr. Young said that when HTV came to do a piece for the local news this week, the traffic slowed down when they saw the cameras, and this showed that there is some awareness there. Cllr. Young said that during the last few years, the Police and the MP has spoken a lot about helping with the speeding issue, but nothing had been achieved. He said that the Community Police were more willing to think outside of the box. He also noted that if the village did install ANPR cameras at a cost to the village, the monies from the fines would not find their way back to Poulton.

Cllr. Sleight said that better communication was needed with the villagers, and she hoped that the new village newsletter would help with that as Facebook and the village Whatsapp group were not available to everyone.

7. Compliance on opening hours at The Gilbertine Café.

The Café was originally for the workforce at The Priory. There was a condition in the planning that it would not be open at weekends. The Café opened at weekends without permission. This was brought to the attention of the District Council who allowed this to continue pending the outcome of a retrospective planning application. This was granted but The Gilbertine are still pushing the boundaries by opening earlier than allowed. There is also a food van trading at the site outside of trading hours. This all contributes to litter, traffic, and dog fouling. The business is only permitted to open on weekdays 8am-6pm, Saturday 9am-3pm and Sunday 10am-3pm. The law was also broken during lockdown as café users were in the marquee area, sitting eating food bought from the café.

Cllr. Spivey said that Trading Licensing would do a site visit and that a licence would be needed for the van and a planning application.

Mr Jackson owns the Gilbertine premises and the marquee, but the company is run by a firm based in Coln St Aldwyns.

Mr Fowles said that he and Neil Shackell had a meeting with Mr Jackson regarding the café and the village hall. He said that enforcement could take months and he advocated a meeting with Mr Jackson. The Chairman said that he did not see the value of being confrontational. He said that the legal hours and status needed to be checked before any meeting. The Council would then follow up with an appropriate meeting.

8. Report on Dog Fouling.

Cllr. Sleight said that she had seen on the village Whatsapp group, users were asking about the signs on the footpaths and around the village regarding irresponsible dog owners letting their dogs foul the paths and not clearing up after them. She noted that this is a perennial problem. Mr Ashley had made some polite signs which could be placed strategically where the problem is at its worst. She noted that people drive to the village just to walk their dogs as well as Air bnb residents. The Council discussed providing dog bags to encourage people to pick up after their dogs. Cllr. Hyslop said he had priced it up to be around £10 per 1000 bags. Mr Kilby said the fine should be noted on the signs. The Chairman said it was a matter of getting the balance right and found the official neon spray signs by CDC unsightly.

9. Report on Vehicle Obstructions.

Following concerns raised by residents and as part of the annual Risk Assessment, it had been noted that there were many instances of vehicle obstructions around the village, parked cars on pavements, obstructing junctions and on bends in the road.

10. Report on Playground repairs.

Cllr. Sleight raised concerns regarding the progress of addressing the recommendations of the RoSPA report at the playground's annual inspection. Cllr. Heneghan to report at the next meeting.

11. Report on Tree Maintenance.

The Clerk had received a quote for tree maintenance with a total cost for 11 trees of £865 plus VAT. The public who attended the meeting said that they wished the Clerk to obtain a further quote.

12. Any Other Business.

Village Newsletter-Mrs Arkwright is co-ordinating a new monthly village newsletter and an Editor had volunteered. It is envisaged to be 20 pages and will carry advertising and news from the village organisations in an effort to co-ordinate support for each other.

Mr Fowles said that a monthly newsletter wouldn't be viable and should be smaller and less frequent and also for a group of local villages rather than just Poulton.

Poulton Action Group-a group set up to oppose any planning application for a solar farm near Poulton. The Chairman said that they were ready to oppose a planning application should one be submitted.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee-this will be a joint venture with village groups. There are lots of ideas and some tie in with national events. The planning is on-going.

Fairford Air Base-one U2 plane has now left the base but the B1 bombers would be flying in the early hours due to Ministry of Defence operational reasons.

Village Charter-it was discussed whether having a letter to owners of Air bnbs to leave in properties would be worthwhile. To be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.