

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th DECEMBER 2021
AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Members of the public present: 2

1. Procedural Issues - Closed session.

The Councillors discussed procedural issues regarding meetings and communications. It was decided that all future meetings will commence at the earlier time of 7 pm.

Cllr. Hyslop was appointed Vice Chair, proposed by the Chair, and seconded by Cllr. Sleight, following the resignation of Cllr. Heneghan on 1st December.

Liability Insurance was discussed regarding the playground infrastructure.

The Clerk will re-send the Standing Orders to the Council for clarification on meetings.

Members of the public were admitted to the meeting at 7.30 pm.

2. Apologies for Absence.

All Councillors present.

3. Election of new Councillor.

Following the resignation of Cllr. Heneghan, Cotswold District Council were informed and an advert for a Casual Vacancy has been placed on the website, Facebook page and noticeboard. The closing date will be 31st December after which time, if no election is called for, the Council will co-opt a new Councillor at the March meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 11th October 2021 and matters arising.

The fibre broadband being offered to the new development at Wheelers Rise may also be rolled out to 20 properties in Bell Lane with additional charges applied. Cllr. Young to liaise with Mr. Kilby regarding this.

The Gilbertine Café - the horsebox food van is allowed to operate 28 days a year as part of the existing licence, this will be regulated and enforced by CDC.

Dog Fouling - Mr. Ashley has offered to convert the dog bin map to black and white for inclusion in the Poulton Eye newsletter.

Poulton Eye - the Council thought that this was a good first edition although difficult to sustain.

5. District & County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Spivey confirmed that the Public Space Protection Order is being renewed and that the Enforcement Team would be able to fine irresponsible dog owners up to £1,000 for failing to clean up after their dogs. Evidence would be required.

The Councillor also confirmed that there is a fund for local highways which she can access and use for possible speed surveys in the village. Cllr. Hyslop suggested that the east and west access gateways would be good place for the survey.

Cllr. Spivey also suggested using the Crowdfund Cotswold to raise money for the new playground equipment. She also confirmed that lower operating charges had been negotiated for 2022

The Local Plan will include 18 sections in plain English dealing with the climate change emergency. It is hoped that it will encourage people within a 7-mile radius of Cirencester to leave their cars at home and use sustainable and viable options for travel.

Waste Collections for the Christmas period are unaffected in the village. Dobbies Garden Centre can take Christmas trees or the green bin collections.

Fosseway Recycling has had £160,000 spent on improvements, the Centre is now open, but booking is still required.

6. Financial Report.

The Clerk reported that two cheques had been issued:

Willow Gardening Services (grass & hedge cutting for 2021) £2,500

McAfee (virus/ransomware protection) £59.99

Balances :

Current account £3421.30

Deposit account £4778.35

Cemetery account £6172.43

The Clerk will attend the CDC meeting on the 22nd May regarding the new charges to parishes for local elections. This charge of approximately £2,200 per election has been passed down to local town and parish councils in view of central government cuts of £3.5M. Only elections which are contested will attract the charges and, if combined with other elections, the costs will be shared. The Council discussed the issue and felt it prudent to raise the funds to cover these costs should they be required.

7. Review of budget and setting of Precept for 2022/23.

The budget prepared by Cllr. Heneghan was discussed by the Council and approved with the addition of £2,000 towards the election charge. This represents an increase of £8.52 on an average Band D property.

The Council resolved to set the precept for 2022/23 at £10,000.

8. Report on playground repairs.

The Councillors discussed the plans for the removal of the OXO tower which has badly rotten main struts. It is sectioned off and notices have been placed informing parents not to let their children play on it however, it was discussed whether to surround the structure with fencing in the interim period. The councillors formulated an action plan to two sections:

Section One - a work party will remove the structure before the end of January. Place a notice in the Poulton Eye asking for volunteers from the village to help with this and anyone who would like reusable parts, to contact the Clerk.

Section Two - Use crowdfunding to raise the funds for a replacement structure with £2,000 from the Cemetery account as a start. Cllr. Spivey to help with this by providing information. The District Councillor said that £275,000 had been raised so far for local projects using this initiative.

9. Update on Traffic Plan.

The Vice Chair provided the Council with an update on the Traffic Plan.

1. Poulton Speed Control Action Plan

A four-point plan was presented at the last meeting and approved by the Parish Council. Details are in the minutes.

2. Regional TV Coverage

Following the ITV coverage filmed in Poulton early in October, we were contacted by journalist Alice Bouvier of the BBC who wanted to run a similar piece on BBC Points West. They came and filmed in the village, including footage of Jenny Forde once again promoting the “20 is Plenty” initiative and a brief interview with Andy Kilby, as well as a telephone interview with me to provide background and context - and the piece was broadcast on BBC Points West on 17 October.

This kind of coverage helps to raise our profile and raise awareness of the issue in the region, which is helpful as we continue to lobby for greater enforcement action in the village.

3. Poulton Speeding Meeting with Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner & Others

On 17th November, there was an important meeting held in the village to discuss villagers' concerns about speeding with representatives of Gloucestershire Police and the Highways Agency. Nick Brown (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner) attended in person, along with David Collicott (runs Glos Police Speed Enforcement Team), Richard Grey (Highways Agency). Representing the village were myself & Simon from the PPC, Chris Davies and Mark Chamberlain. Lisa Spivey also came along, representing the CDC and CC. Many thanks to Chris Davis for organising and hosting the meeting.

The visit included the whole group walking the length of the A417 from West to East all the way through the village to observe the traffic and speeding issues first-hand (which was quite an eye-opener for our visitors...!), followed by a detailed discussion of the issues and potential actions.

We are now holding follow-up discussions to try to tie down the police to some actions. Nick Brown reassured us again that these issues were a high priority for the PCC and himself, and so we can hopefully now use this as some political leverage to keep the pressure on.

4. Community Speedwatch and Speed Survey in Village

Having registered for both these initiatives in September/October, we have been a little frustrated at Glos Police Speed Team's lack of urgency in getting things moving. However, I have finally heard back from Dave Collicott this morning, following much chasing, to reassure me that we will get both up and running in January. I will continue to apply pressure and hope to be able to recruit a team of volunteers from the village in the New Year.

5. Village Briefing in Poulton Eye

We supplied a detailed article for the inaugural edition of 'Poulton Eye' in November, to update all Poulton residents on the new 4-part Speed Control action plan

6. Gloucestershire Road Safety Workshop

I have registered to attend a Road Safety Workshop this Wednesday 15 December. Amongst other related issues, this will focus on the "Twenty is Plenty" initiative. I will be lobbying hard to understand the apparent paradox regarding whether this limit can be implemented in villages like Poulton that lie on a main A-road like the A417.... This appears somewhat at odds with CDC choosing to feature our village in two separate regional television features to highlight the initiative.

Appendix - excerpt from “20 is Plenty” Workshop Q&As:

10. Can you have 20mph on an A or B road?	Technical question	Yes. Many Local Authorities already have 20mph on A roads. In order to EXCLUDE a major street, the Highway Authority has considered the needs of vulnerable road users and shown that journeys on foot will be insignificant[17].
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Cllr. Hyslop said it was not yet clear yet whether street lighting was compulsory, but he was lobbying hard to understand the policy. Cllr. Spivey said it was rural discrimination to have to choose between dark skies or safe roads. Cllr. Hyslop said that he will challenge why streetlights are a rule as it seemed a paradox that streets were seen as safer with no streetlights and cars where therefore permitted to drive at a higher speed.

It was noted that the speed of cars in the village had decreased slightly due to the lack of road markings following the recent patching.

10. Planning.

Ranbury Plot - The Conservation Officer has sent a draft objection to this planning application. Cllr. Hyslop asked what weight this draft objection would carry. Cllr. Spivey said that as the application falls within the Conservation Area, it is a strong argument. Mr Ashley asked if flooding issues would carry more weight in the decision to which, Cllr. Spivey said no as the house would not be built in a flood area.

11. Report on tree maintenance.

The Clerk said that due to the difficulty in obtaining the second quote for tree maintenance works, as requested by members of the public at the last meeting, this work will now have to be postponed until next year. The two quotes obtained were entirely different and not comparable. Tree works need to be actioned in October.

12. Update on the defibrillator.

The defibrillator will be installed on Thursday by the electrician working on the village hall. Mr Willis had been incredibly helpful and offered to do this work for the village but, it made sense for the electrician working on the site to coincide the installation with his time at the hall. The Council thanked Mr Willis for his generous offer.

13. Any Other Business.

The Chair will attend the Englands Management Committee meeting tomorrow to represent the Parish Council.

Mr Fowles suggested an idea for the Poulton Charter to be given to Air bnb users in the village in the form of an acronym.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th March at 7 pm in the Village Hall.