

# POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Mike Davis (Chair)  
Cllr Liz Bissett (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Claire Church  
Cllr Tim Hues  
Cllr Nina Jeffries  
Cllr Dan Scott  
Cllr Chris Dyke

8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Poulshot Parish Council on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Press and Public are welcome to attend this meeting. Questions and statements will be taken from members of the public for 15 minutes at 7.30 pm, if required, prior to the start of the meeting, in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Order No 3.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeannette Young". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jeannette Young  
Parish Clerk

POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN  
THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.

The Press and Members of the Public are welcome to attend.

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 permits the audio and visual recording and photography of the Council and Committee meetings by the general public and/or media. It would be appreciated if persons wishing to take photographs or to record a meeting, were, wherever possible, notified to the Chairman or Clerk before the meeting concerned.

**Public Participation-**

No decisions or arrangements will be made in this section. You will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes. Maximum of 15 minutes allowed in total, in accordance with Standing Order No 3.

**AGENDA**

**1. Apologies**

To consider apologies.

**2. Disclosure(s) of Interest**

To receive any declaration of interest by a member in relation to matters to be considered at this meeting as required by the Code of Conduct

**3. Minutes**

To confirm as a true record the attached Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The attachments will form part of these main minutes but will not be redistributed with this Agenda.

**4. Chairman's Announcements**

- The Neighbourhood County forum which was due to take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 1800hrs at Police HQ has been cancelled pending further consultation with the Area Boards.
- Thank you to organisers of the Fireworks and Bonfire evening.

- Devizes Area Board, meets on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 6.30 pm. Venue Needham House, Victoria Rd, Devizes, SN10 1FA
- Of the two vacant allotment plots one has been successfully let. If you are interested in the remaining plot, please let us know.

## 5. Police Report

October's rural police update attached for noting.

## 6. Solar Farm Pre-App Information.

Background and Information for noting:

- In March 2021 Black Mountains Development submitted a request (on behalf of Ampyr Energy) for Wiltshire Councils Environmental Impact Assessment (Regulation 2017) opinion on a proposed Solar Farm development at Townsend Farm. Request can be found at this link, <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z0000157syTAAQ/pl202103910?tabset-8903c=2> .
- A public consultation on a pre-app, was run from 19<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 with a drop in event held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October in the Village Hall. This drop in event and consultation was held by a company called Ampyr Solar Europe (which was created in 2021 through a merger with NaGa Solar and the old Ampyr Energy UK) Ampyr called the proposed Solar Farm, Byde Mill Solar Farm. Website link [BydeMillSolarFarm@axis.co.uk](http://BydeMillSolarFarm@axis.co.uk) .
- Solar farms with a generating capacity below 50 megawatts (MW) need planning permission from the local planning authority, Wiltshire Council. Solar farms with a generating capacity above 50 MW need development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, because they are nationally significant infrastructure projects' (NSIPs).
- It is claimed on the Byde Mill Solar Farm website that the proposed development will produce an expected to generation of a capacity of c.10MW. Therefore, it will be a decision for Wiltshire Council, however Wiltshire Council is concerned about solar on high grade agricultural land, and passed a motion to that effect in May 2024.
- That said, planning policy is a central government matter and the current Government could possibly override Wiltshire Council and make it easier (not harder) for any solar application in rural areas.
- Point to remember is that this is still only a Pre-App, no formal application has been made yet. If or when it becomes formal that will be the time to voice opinions and raise public petitions.

## 7. Update from Wiltshire Councillor Tamara Reay

## 8. Planning Applications:

None received.

## 9. Working Groups Notes and Recommendations

The notes of the working groups (Maintenance and Survey) from the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> October are attached with the following recommendations following consideration of the RoSPA findings.

Recommendations: -

- The swing seats should be replaced, with Cllr Bissett obtaining 3 quotes
- The Bench should be repositioned
- There should be a further attempt to remove the moss by the working group, date to be agreed.

Quotes for replacement swing seats as follows if required.

Supplier			
A*	Option 1	Supply only 2 cradle seats and chains, 8mm straight link - Local company	£351.40 Ex VAT
A	Option 2	Supply & fit 2 cradle seats and chains, 8mm straight link, plus disposal of old seats and chains.	£535.00 Ex VAT
B*	Option 1	Flat pack cradle seat in black. Online price only- Hooks extra	£82.68 Ex VAT
C*	Option 1	Cradle seat only- Flat Pack Toddler Cradle Seat in black with J Hook Connection Online company	£122.40 Inc. VAT

**\*All asterisk options are supply only and would need fitting by a competent person.**

**Regarding Supplier A's quotes, the inspection report does not ask for replacement chains, would you wish to replace them if it's not a requirement?**

## 10. Village Trust Update

Poulshot Village Trust committee members thought you might like a brief update on activities it has been undertaking and, with your permission and support the activities it would like to undertake in the future.

In September, a local ecologist, Simon Parkes, guided members and guests on a walk around Poulshot to detect and sight bats. Several species were confirmed, as each has a signature echolocating 'noise'. In October member moved branches and timber lying on the woodland floor in Green Gardens into the existing dead hedges. This has cleared two areas to enable hogweed

control **next year if you are happy to grant permission** for that to be undertaken again? It has also replenished the dead hedges which are overwinter habitats for many invertebrates and small animals, mice, hedgehogs and birds.

To encourage younger members of the village to think about the local environment, Jean Perrett has kindly agreed to lead another 'Autumn in Art' session on Saturday 9th November, which will have taken place by the time of your meeting. Looking ahead, on 16<sup>th</sup> November, members and volunteers will work to clear the two ponds on the Green of excess growth and the invasive New Zealand Pygmy Weed. Thank you for arranging for the specialist disposal of the New Zealand Pygmy Weed, which will be loaded into the skip on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November after any creatures caught up in the removed vegetation have moved back to their usual habitats.

Planning activities for next year has started, and as you requested, we will keep you involved in the **Keep Britain Tidy campaign in spring 2025, may we confirm that 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 will be suitable?**

There are two other matters we would like to ask you to consider. The first is replacing the five unhealthy and, in one case already dead, lime trees on the southern edge of the Green. The ideal time to plant bare root specimens is November to March. The Trust members are content to carry out the work but would need the trees and protect for the saplings to be bought by the Parish Council or Community Fund. We can advise on suitable suppliers and seek quotes for saplings and protection materials, if you wish. The second is whether you would consider investing in new signposts to mark walks around the village, especially the Queen's Platinum Jubilees Oak Tree Walk. Again, the Trust committee is happy to investigate options if you wish.

Lastly, and as always, the committee would like to thank the Chair and Councillors for their support for the Trust and its activities.

### **11. Annual Vintage Vehicle Gathering- Permission to use the Green**

Once again, we are writing to ask The Poulshot Parish Council's permission to use the Village Green for our Annual Vintage Vehicle Gathering next year. This event seems to have become a very popular event with both the village residents and the vintage vehicle enthusiasts. It has become part of their yearly calendar.

We would like to hold the gathering (weather permitting) on the evening of Wednesday 18th June 2025 (from 6 pm until 10 pm approximately)

As like last year all proceeds will be donated to The Dorothy House Hospice Care which we think is a very worthy cause.

Permission Request Form attached.

### **12. Permission Request to use Green Gardens**

Permission request form attached from the Poulshot Fete Committee, seeking to use the Village Green and Green Gardens on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### 13. Loan Application

Application for a loan (attached) from the Village Hall Trust, to pay an electric bill debt. The request is for £2,400. with an offer to pay back the amount over 24 months at £100 per month. It should be noted that although accounts and minutes have been requested, at the time of publishing this agenda they have not been received. In accordance with the Grants and Donations Policy please find attached the Village Hall Constitution and the Vulnerable Persons Policy, with a variety of other supporting documents found at the following link, <https://www.poulshotvh.com/governance>

### 14. Updates from Members on Delegated Actions

- 14.1 Tree Survey - Cllr Davis
- 14.2 Tree Grant – Cllr Bissett
- 14.3 Bus Shelter – Cllr Dyke
- 14.4 Speed Indicators (SIDs) – Cllr Church
- 14.5 Broadway Lane -LHFIG – Cllr Church
- 14.6 Allotment Fencing – Cllr Dyke

Supplier A Fencing	Post and rail fencing with rabbit netting and gate approx 34mtrs Supply of all labour and materials to complete new post and rail fencing with rabbit netting installed		£1,428.00 Ex VAT
Supplier A Gate	Supply and install new pedestrian gate as requested at one end		£380.00 Ex VAT
Supplier B	To construct 30 meters of post with 4 rail fence, stock netting and a 6ft wooden gate to allow access. Using 5x3 tanalised posts		£1,500.00

	and square tanalised rails.		
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**15. Draft Budget**

The Draft Budget for the Financial Year 25-26 attached for consideration and discussion.

**16. Finance Report and Bank Balances.**

To receive and note the attached report, showing balances of.

Total Funds = £146,385.30

Parish Accounts = £24,163.46

Community Fund = £122,221.84

**17. Financial Expenditure.**

To consider and to **approve** the attached expenditure report.

**18. Date of Next Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2024