

POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 1 JULY 2014, 7.30PM
THE VILLAGE HALL, POULSHOT

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Mr G Collett (Chairman); Mr A Baber; Mr B Hamilton; Mr S Housby.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr T Coleman; Mr N Hunloke; Mr T Nixon; Mr J Seed (WC)

Also present: 10 members of the public; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

ACTION

14/15/046 Declarations of interest.

There were none.

14/15/047 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

14/14/048 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman reflected on the spring growing season, reporting the requested cutting back of the A361 reservation had been completed, and that hedge cutting by the Parish Steward was due. The Green had been cut twice. Congratulations were offered to the Vintage Society, Church Fete and the Carriage Drive organisers for their successful events held on The Green.

14/15/049 Public participation

There was none.

14/15/050 Wiltshire Councillor's report

There was none.

14/15/051 Poulshot Community Fund

The Chairman reviewed the consultation process so far, emphasising the need to achieve support for a decision-making process before considering what allocations to make. The Clerk reported on the range of suggestions received from residents, adding note of the services available from The Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon. It was proposed by Cllr Housby, seconded by Cllr Hamilton, and with all **agreed** that two options be further explored, being either that the Council forms an Advisory Committee or that the Community Foundation be asked to manage the Fund through a Panel process. In either case, a mixed group of residents and councillors would be required and the Chairman invited applications from anyone with an interest. The Clerk was asked to facilitate a meeting with the Community Foundation in order that more could be learned of their services, with a view to a further public meeting being called before the next Council meeting by way of additional consultation.

14/15/052 Access over The Green

Middle Green Farm

The Chairman noted that there remained a policy decision to charge the owners of Middle Green Farm for access over The Green, following the construction of a new house on the Farm site. Further advice had been received to the effect that the existing prescriptive right of access applied to the site, not to the occupiers, with judicial case precedent showing that an intensification of use could not be demonstrated by the addition of one house on site. Therefore, a charge could not be sustained. It was proposed by Cllr Housby, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and **agreed** by all that the Council should not make a charge for access over The Green in these circumstances. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner and inform them.

Higher Green Farm

The Chairman noted that final planning permission had yet to be granted but that before that process could conclude it was necessary to resolve access over The Green. This would bring intensification of use, so extinguishing any prescriptive rights that may already exist for other purposes, but to succeed would require a parcel of land to be de-registered as 'Village Green' in order that common land rights of access by easement could be put in place. The Chairman reported that the applicant had offered a 1.2 acre field, adjacent to the site, in exchange for an easement over the ex-Green for access, an offer of the scale that would be required by the Secretary of State in support of an application to de-register. The Council's legal fees would also be paid by the applicant. Cllr Hamilton reported that a land valuation had been received that seemed fair value for the exchange. It was proposed by Cllr Housby, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and **agreed** by all that on condition there are no costs to the Council the offer be accepted, and that the Chairman and Cllr Baber be authorised to negotiate the finer details of a settlement with the applicant, reporting back to the Council.

PB

PB

GC
AB

14/15/053 Road safety

Cllr Housby reviewed the issue of speeding through the village, reporting receipt of a letter from a small child asking the Council to consider actions to reduce the problem. It was proposed by Cllr Hamilton, seconded by Cllr Housby and **agreed** by all that application be made for a metrocount study to ascertain data that can be used in planning and lobbying for a suitable response. The Clerk was asked to make the arrangements.

14/15/054 Planning

The following decision was reported:

14/04273/FUL 72 The Green – single storey extension. Approved with conditions.

14/15/055 Swanborough Cottage, Mill Lane

A consultation had been received from Wiltshire Council, who intend to apply for an Order to stop up of part of the Highway over which part of the cottage had been built. It was proposed by Cllr Baber, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and all **agreed** that the application be supported.

14/15/056 External Audit report

The Clerk reported receipt of the external Auditor's report for 2013/14 which was satisfactory with no comments made.

14/15/057 Subscriptions to Open Spaces Society

It was proposed by Cllr Hamilton, seconded by Cllr Baber with all **agreed** that the Council's subscription to the Society be renewed.

14/15/058 Finance*The Ladies Club*

It was proposed by Cllr Baber, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and with all **agreed** that the Club be asked for a 50% contribution to the costs of framing the Hall embroidery artwork, the Council having paid 100% of the cost.

Disbursements

The following payments were authorised:

Chq	£
475 (cancelled)	
476 S J Franklin (grass cutting)	588.00
477 P Baxter (stationery expenses)	20.73
478 S Housby (Open Spaces subs)	45.00
479 P Baxter (Locum fees, Mar-Jun)	600.00
480 Worton Parish Council (Jul/Aug clerk fee)	365.40
481 P Baxter (Jul/Aug office use)	20.00
482 Chesterton Humberts (valuation fee)	300.00

Bank Mandates

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there were just two authorised signatories for bank transactions, leaving the Council at risk if one were not available. It was **agreed** that Cllrs Baber, Collett, Coleman, Housby, and Hamilton become signatories, and the Clerk be authorised for non-transaction administration purposes.

14/15/059 Correspondence and circulars received

The Clerk reported receipt of a request for a donation to the work of Splash, a charity supported by the Police working with vulnerable young people. The Council wished to consider the publicity material further before a future decision.

14/15/060 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was **agreed** for 2 September 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

14/15/061 Items of maintenance

A number of overgrown footpaths were reported. The Clerk advised that it was a landowner responsibility to maintain overhanging vegetation. It was **agreed** that some local farmers would be approached with regard to footpaths on their land.

14/15/062 Key messages

Cllr Housby undertook to write the next village magazine article, with items on the community fund, the Green access, speeding and a reminder of the date of the next Council meeting.

14/15/063 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by the Chairman, and **agreed** by all:

(a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and

(b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:- *The item relates to staffing and the public interest in seeking this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because of the need to protect the privacy of employees.*

14/15/064 Appointment of Clerk (public information only)

It was proposed by Cllr Hamilton, seconded by Cllr Housby and **agreed** by all that Mr Baxter be appointed to the substantive position of Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer, in a shared finance agreement with Worton Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed Chairman, 2 September 2014