

POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2 SEPTEMBER 2014, 7.30PM
THE VILLAGE HALL, POULSHOT

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Mr G Collett (Chairman); Mr A Baber; Mr T Coleman; Mr B Hamilton; Mr S Housby; Mr N Hunloke; Mr T Nixon; Mr J Seed (WC)[for part]

Apologies: none.

Also present: PC E Thomas; L Griffiths, Community First; and 7 members of the public; Mr P Baxter (Clerk).

ACTION

14/15/065 Declarations of interest.

Cllr Housby declared a pecuniary interest in the item on Planning.

14/15/066 Minutes of the last meeting

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

14/14/067 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman gave an update on the solar park, reflected on the life of David Lovelock, recently passed away, and explained the presence of two metrocount devices at the entrances to the village, as placed by the highways dept for survey purposes only. The device previously requested for road safety data gathering may be repositioned.

14/15/068 Public participation

Mr M Nixon spoke on the cleaning of play equipment outside the Village Hall, the pollarding of trees in the same vicinity and the condition of benches and trees around The Green, the latter also mentioned by Mr P Wright. The Chairman asked the Clerk to place tree and asset management around The Green on the next agenda. Lady Hunloke commented on the financial position of the Ladies Club and their outstanding contribution to the costs of the wall-hanging frame in the Village Hall. Lise Griffiths introduced herself as the new Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator for the Melksham Area, and distributed some information guides.

14/15/069 Wiltshire Councillor's report

Cllr Seed noted that funding reductions continued to underpin changes to some levels of service by Wiltshire Council, and inevitably there would be some noticeable consequences.

14/15/070 Wiltshire Police report

PC Thomas reported that there had been no recent crime activity reported in Poulshot, and summarised incidents in the surrounding area. An offer for The Bobby Van Trust to give a presentation to the community before a future Council meeting was accepted.

14/15/071 Poulshot Community Fund

Cllr Housby reviewed current progress with the options of placing the solar park community fund into the care of the Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon, or to manage the fund from within the Council's own resources. Discussion noted that the allocation of the Fund, or part, to a number of projects first, before allocating it for medium or longer term management is also an option to be explored, as is the clarity required on the role of the Parish Council. It was confirmed that further research was necessary, so it had not been timely to convene a further public consultation meeting. It was **agreed** that such a meeting would continue to be planned, to be held in the next few weeks.

14/15/072 Flooding and drainage issues on The Green

The Chairman reported on a recent site visit by Wessex Water engineers, in company with a number of councillors and affected residents. A summary of the outcomes of that meeting was **noted**, the Council agreeing to monitor the performance of the remedial works through the coming winter. The first action of sealing the internal surface of a sub-surface holding reservoir had been completed the previous week.

14/15/073 Rights of Way and Highways

Cllr Coleman noted there remained some misunderstandings amongst some as to who may be responsible for the maintenance of rights of way. Cllr Coleman proposed, seconded by Cllr Hunloke, and with all **agreed** that a householders' leaflet be developed, following examples from other parishes, and that the Clerk should proceed, seeking value for money throughout. Cllr Coleman reported that a number of maintenance items, agreed with Wiltshire Council's staff, remained outstanding although some had just been commenced that week. Highways dept were to commence work shortly on extending the pavement outside Poulshot Lodge Farm to the A361, with a road closure for part of the work. Verges in that vicinity, and elsewhere in the parish, would also require more frequent cutting than the planned (annual) norm, Cllr Seed suggesting the possibility of the parish council making its own arrangements to do so.

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14/15/074 Open Spaces survey

The Clerk reported receipt of a survey request from Wiltshire Council. Cllr Housby undertook to draft completion of the survey and to circulate for comment.

14/15/075 Marquee letting policy

Cllr Coleman reviewed the policy, with concern for the equitable application of charges. It was **agreed** that hire for any event that excluded the general public should be chargeable. It was proposed by Cllr Coleman, seconded by Cllr Hunloke, and on being put to the vote, 5 were for and 2 against revising the hire charge to £75. The proposal was **agreed**. Cllr Coleman undertook to amend the Policy, noting that hirers must take due care to avoid and report damage (including mildew – Cllr Nixon undertook to research suitable treatment products) and to handle the weight with an appropriate number of persons. Bookings would continue through the Clerk, who would administer funding and authorise Mr Josey to release the marquee for use.

14/15/076 Website

Cllr Coleman reported that Mr Wilson had advised the Clerk that he no longer wished to manage the parish website. Cllr Coleman proposed and all **agreed** that the thanks of the Council be expressed to Mr Wilson for his service to the community over many years. It was proposed by Cllr Coleman, seconded by Cllr Hunloke and with all **agreed** that Cllr Coleman and the Clerk/Webmaster work together to establish and populate a new website, funded alongside the old for the interim, to retain important archive material whilst enabling the Council and the village to further develop their online presence. The assistance offered by Mr Martin was welcomed.

14/15/077 Allotment and Green Gardens

The Clerk reported that tenancy agreements for the two allotments required renewal, which was **agreed**. The Clerk also reported that the Village Trust had not been requested to pay its rent for the Green Gardens enclosure last year, or so far in this. It was proposed by Cllr Hamilton, seconded by Cllr Nixon, and on being put to a vote, 6 were for and 1 against the rent being reduced to a ‘peppercorn’ of 1p, from last year and ongoing without prejudice to the obligations on the Trust as renter of that space. The resolution was **agreed**.

14/15/078 Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority

The Clerk reported receipt of a consultation from the Fire Authority with proposals for revision to its management and governance, including a possible merger with Dorset Fire Authority. The matter was deferred pending further consideration of the issues.

14/15/079 Disbursements

The following payments were authorised:

Chq	£
482 CANCELLED (incorrect payee)	
483 Humbers Ltd (land valuation)	300.00
484 Springfords and Rose (printing)	50.00
485 P Baxter (old website renewal expenses)	59.99
486 S J Franklin (grass cutting)	372.00

Standing Orders

Two Standing Order mandates were signed relating to regular monthly payments to Worton Parish Council for Clerking services and to the Clerk as an office allowance.

14/15/080 Correspondence and circulars received

The Clerk reported receipt of an invitation to the AGM of Community First, and an email from Mr M Baker commenting on traffic speed, grass cutting and the community fund. The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Baker.

14/15/081 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was **agreed** for 4 November 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

14/15/082 Items of maintenance

Mr Saunders explained the excavation near the entrance to the Village Hall, caused by a small water leak requiring investigation. *[Cllr Housby left the meeting]*

14/15/083 Planning matters

14/05861/FUL 22 Poulshot Road – second floor extension and car port: Approved with conditions.

The following applications were considered and had no objections:

14/07017/FUL Old Bakery, 16 Poulshot Road, Poulshot – alterations and rear extension;

14/07910/TCA Townsend Barn, Poulshot – fell poplar and 2 x 30% crown reductions;

14/15/084 Key messages

Cllr Hamilton undertook to write the next village magazine article, with items on rights of way, drainage on The Green, revisions to marquee policy, the website, and the fire consultation.

SH

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