

# POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mike Davis (Chairman)  
Cllr Dan Scott  
Cllr Chris Dyke  
Cllr Tim Hues (arrived 19:48)  
Cllr Jeffries  
Cllr Church  
Cllr Reay (Wiltshire Council) (left 20.08)

**OFFICER:** Jeannette Young (Clerk)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** 11 members of the public were in attendance

A statement from the member of the public who was in attendance was received with the main points being; -

- Irritation at light pollution caused by a flashing flood light all through the night in the lambing shed at the horse stud.
- Parking concerns outside Aubury Yard.

It was confirmed by the Chairman there was no parking allowed on the Green.

### **69/24/25 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Liz Bissett.

### **70/24/25 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **71/24/25 Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Dyke and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish

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Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as a true record. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr Davis.

### **72/24/25 Chairmans Announcements**

The following announcements were made: -

- 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. It was a successful evening with donations raising £650. These funds will be kept and used to fund next years Fireworks. A reminder was given, that any unused grant funding must be returned to the Parish Council.
- 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.
- Ashford Homes will be removing there advertising sign by Christmas.

### **73/24/25 Police Report**

October's rural police update was noted.

### **74/24/25 Solar Farm Pre-App Information.**

The information and background material on the Pre-App was noted.

### **75/24/25 Update from Wiltshire Councillor Tamara Reay**

- Devizes Area Board is to be held on Monday. There is a potential underspend for this financial year, All community groups are encouraged to consider applying for funds for capital projects
- LHFIF also looks like it will have an underspend,
- Wiltshire Rail Strategy has been published by British Rail, with a number of recommendations including; considering Devizes for a train station, Westbury upgrade to increase capacity, Trans Wilts line that goes through Melksham line upgrade and increase trains to hourly. Corsham to reimplement the station and line
- Elections costing increase, email to be sent through from the Monitoring Officer.
- Wiltshire Council sent out Tax Base and are working on the budget for 25/26 that gets agreed in February.
- Wiltshire Transport Plan to go to Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

### **76/24/25 Planning Applications:**

None received.

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## 77/24/25 Working Groups Notes and Recommendations

The notes and recommendations (following the RoSPA) of the working groups (Maintenance and Survey) from the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> October were considered and it was therefore; proposed by Cllr Scott, Seconded by Cllr Dyke and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to replace both swing seats, one with a toddler cradle, the other if possible with a flat seat for older children, and chains, 8mm straight link, these to be purchased from and fitted by the local supplier 'A' . **Cllr Bissett to action**

There followed further discussion that as recommended in the RoSPA the bench by the rocking horse should be repositioned. Members agreed to relocate the bench and out of courtesy inform the Village Hall of the planned action. Concerns were again voiced about how to deal with the moss on the ground of the playground. It was agreed that before the reopening of the playground Members would meet and try and remove the ingrained moss, the working group agreed to set a date after the installation of the new swing seats.

## 78/24/25 Village Trust Update

Members received the update from the Village Trust. Due to apologies being received from the secretary this was read out by the Chair, Cllr Davis.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffries, seconded by Cllr Church and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREE** to grant permission to the Village Trust Committee to move branches and timber lying on the woodland floor in Green Gardens into the existing dead hedges to enable hogweed control next year, 2025.

Members noted that unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances the planned clearing of the invasive New Zealand Pygmy Weed due to take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, had been cancelled along with the skip hire. It was confirmed that 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 would be suitable for The Keep Britain Tidy campaign and members looked forward to being involved.

Regarding the request for saplings to be bought to replace five unhealthy lime trees on the southern edge of the Green and the proposal to provide new signposts to mark walks around the village. It was proposed by Cllr Jeffries, seconded by Cllr Church and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that on submission of 3 quotes for replacement sapling, members would further consider the request and then advised that a grant application be submitted for the purchase of the proposed signs.

## 79/24/25 Annual Vintage Vehicle Gathering- Permission to use the Green

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On receipt of the Permission form request, members positively discussed the previous Vehicle gathering and how clean the Green was left after the event. There was only one concern about parking by visitors along the road by the Raven Pub. It was believed that emergency services, if needed, could be hindered in getting through the village, therefore, a suggestion was made that the police be requested to place cones along that part of the road. It was also noted that all proceeds from the event would be donated to The Dorothy House Hospice. To conclude it was proposed by Cllr Hues, seconded by Cllr Dyke and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to grant permission for the use of the Village Green for the Annual Vintage Vehicle Gathering on the evening of Wednesday 18th June 2025 (from 6 pm until 10 pm approximately), on the prior provision of the necessary risk assessment and proof of insurance.

### **80/24/25 Permission Request to use Green Gardens**

A permission request form from the Poulshot Fete Committee, seeking to use the Village Green and Green Gardens on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025, was considered and furthermore, proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Church and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to grant permission for the use of the Village Green and Green Gardens on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025, on the prior provision of the necessary risk assessment and proof of insurance.

### **81/24/25 Loan Application**

Following the receipt of an application for a loan received from the Village Hall Trust (VHT), to pay an electric bill debt. The request for £2,400. with an offer to pay back the amount over 24 months at £100 per month, was intensely debated with frequent interruptions from members of the VHT, some in answer to questions from Cllrs. It was noted that supplied documents had not been received in time to go on to the agenda, despite this Cllrs had reviewed the late documents. In answer to remarks that, if the loan was not granted the Hall would close to all but essential users. Cllrs reiterated that they wanted the Hall to remain open but stated that they must show due diligence when granting public money or community funding. There were concerns over the transparency, governance and finances of the VHT. No Annual General Meeting had been held by the VHT since 2022 and there were disagreements over the provided accounts. It was felt that the VHT should have provided at least a business plan and budget to support their application. There were several requests from the Treasurer of the VHT that a private meeting take place with members, however it was explained that all discussions should take place in a proper public Council meeting to show transparency and enable any decision to be made. Eventually it was proposed by the Chair, Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Jeffries and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to defer any decision on the loan application, with an email to be composed by the Clerk at Cllrs request, to ask the VHT for further required documentation and once the documents received, to arrange an Extraordinary Meeting of Council to further discuss and consider the loan application.

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For clarification the additional documents were provided too late to be included on the agenda therefore they are included as an attachment along with timeline to these minutes.

### 82/24/25 Updates from Members on Delegated Actions

**Tree Survey** - Cllr Davis stated that he was struggling to find another Arborist for the third quote. The company he recently made inquiries with had not returned contact, however he would make further effort to find a local company.

**Tree Grant** – Cllr Bissett had sent apologies so there was no update.

**Bus Shelter** – Cllr Dyke Had managed to secure one quote for a bus shelter with a slate roof and was chasing for another two quotes to bring to the next meeting. It was asked if planning permission was needed, it was agreed to contact Wiltshire Council planning depart and seek their advice. Also to consider applying for a grant through the Area Board

**Speed Indicators (SIDs)** – Cllr Church stated she had the LHFIG form to send into the group ready for their next meeting in January.

**Broadway Lane -LHFIG** – Cllr Church declared she had received an email saying ‘thank you for your email when I am next in the area I will have a look and see what materials are required.

**Allotment Fencing** – Cllr Dyke declared he had received 3 quotes one of which arrived to late to be included on the agenda, this late quote ‘C’ (£ 1460.00 plus vat ) was handed to members for inclusion in their considerations. It was proposed by Cllr Dyke, seconded by Cllr Scott and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to go with supplier B which included all materials, a 6’ gate, and full installation at a cost of £1500. to be taken from the CiL fund.

### 83/24/25 Draft Budget

The Draft Budget for the Financial Year 25/26 was presented by the RFO and **NOTED**. It was stated there was an increase in salary figures and money put aside for election cost, however, it was also explained there could be savings made by closing down the old website, and because the planned target for reserves had been achieved the draft budget was showing a saving of approximately £2000 circa.

### 84/24/25 Finance Report and Bank Balances.

Members received and **NOTED** the attached report, showing balances of.

Total Funds = £146,385.30

Parish Accounts = £24,163.46

Community Fund = £122,221.84

At this point it was explained that Lloyds had sent notification of bank charges of £4.25 per month for maintenance as well as other transaction charges.

### 85/24/25 Financial Expenditure.

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Members considered the expenditure report, of the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 with payments totalling £5,027.78 and credits of £9,991.70 listed, it was therefore proposed by Cllr Davis seconded by Cllr Jeffries and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the attached expenditure report.

Meeting ended at 21:25

Signed..........Date.....14/1/25.....