

POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17 MARCH 2014, 7.30PM
THE VILLAGE HALL, POULSHOT

MINUTES

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mr S Housby; Mr T Nixon.

Also present: 18 members of the public; Mr M Tidman (Wessex Water)[for part]; Mr P Baxter (Locum Clerk).

ACTION

13/14/001 Declarations of interest.

There were none.

13/14/002 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20 January and the extra-ordinary meeting held on 6 February were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

13/14/003 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman reported that the planning application for Higher Green Farm solar park had been approved with conditions by Wiltshire Council, with access for up to 8 lorries per day off Devizes Road, and not the A361. Wheel washing, road cleaning, and gate guard to be provided. It was noted that undertakings had been received from Hive Energy Limited that a community benefit grant of £150,000 would be payable, and that this should be seen as a positive outcome.

13/14/004 Clerk's vacancy

The Chairman introduced Mr Peter Baxter. It was proposed by Cllr Coleman, seconded by Cllr Hunloke and **agreed** by all that Mr Baxter be appointed as Locum Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer until the July meeting, pending review [*'staff in confidence' item*].

13/14/005 Public participation

The Chairman invited questions or representations from the public. Concern was expressed for planning approval given by Wiltshire Council for the felling of a lime tree at Higher Green Farm, and the Parish Council's response when consulted. The Chairman confirmed the Council's position, based on advice as to the tree's condition, and that re-planting was recommended as a condition. The Council was invited to attend the site at a future time to agree the position of replacement planting.

The nature of Hive Energy Limited's undertaking to pay a community benefit grant was queried, and whether arrangements would be made to consult the community on how it should be managed and allocated. The Chairman gave an assurance that the Council would be considering how to proceed, with proposals to be brought to a future meeting.

A request for the Village Green to be prepared for a cricket pitch was welcomed and **agreed**.

13/14/006 Wessex Water flooding presentation

The Chairman introduced Mr Tidman, Principal Engineer, who explained the known arrangements for the collection and disposal of foul and surface water, and how some properties came to be flooded in recent months. Further investigations are planned to identify both short term and longer term mitigation, and local knowledge of conditions was offered in support. The pumping station was confirmed as in full working order, and the Company sought out opportunities to influence the design of future developments to avoid further impacts on the system. Village scheme drawings were deposited with the Council for reference. Mr Tidman undertook to keep the Council updated on progress.

13/14/007 Wiltshire Councillor's report

Cllr Seed confirmed that he also remains concerned for the flooding situation, although noted that it remains improved from some 5 years ago due to ongoing maintenance. Cllr Seed addressed concerns for the Poulshot Lodge Farm access permission, supporting the site traffic scheme now approved which was proportional and reasonable for a public highway.

13/14/008 Wiltshire Police report

In the absence of PC Thomas, a written report was read out. The driver responsible for damage to The Raven wall has been prosecuted, and one other person warned for criminal damage. Travellers had been moved on, and an attempted break-in reported with nothing stolen. The Chairman invited comment, with speeding through the village identified as a concern.



13/14/009 Planning

There were no further decisions to announce.

14/01398/FUL Stansfield Cottage – extensions and wall/fencing. The proposed fencing was considered out of character with the area. It was **agreed** to support the application on condition that the existing hedging is retained or replaced with wicket fencing.

14/01885/FUL Home Close, Barley Hill Lane – rear extension. There were no objections.

13/14/010 Village Green

The Chairman noted that there had been some damage caused by vehicles in the wet weather.

An offer had been received to roll the Green. No concerns arose from recent safety checks.

13/14/011 Highways

The Chairman reported that the Lutsey Bridge works were on schedule, and may finish early although there will be another interruption to water supplies as the mains are reconnected.

13/14/012 Village Hall repairs

The Chairman advised that comments made at a previous meeting had been regrettable, and no offence was implied. The Council understand that works remain outstanding, and in response to comments from Mr Saunders hoped that communications and understanding would improve in future.

13/14/013 Grant request – Jubilee wall hanging

The Chairman congratulated the Ladies Club on the finished work now hanging in the Hall and reported that a grant request had been received for a contribution to the costs of framing. It was proposed by Cllr Coleman, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and **agreed** by all that the whole cost would be paid by the Council in the first instance, and a return contribution sought from the Club through its additional fundraising.

13/14/014 Disbursements

The following payment was authorised:

Chq		£
467	Original Glory Ltd (display frame)	895.00

13/14/015 Correspondence and circulars received

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Mrs Hamilton querying why Wiltshire Council did not refer the solar park planning application to the Strategic Planning Committee, and requesting the Parish Council to pursue the enquiry on her behalf. The Clerk was asked to make the enquiry.

13/14/016 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was set for 19 May 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



PB

The meeting closed at 8.45pm Signed Chairman, 19 May 2014