

POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7th MARCH 2017, 7:30PM
THE VILLAGE HALL, POULSHOT
MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Mr G Collett (Chairman) [GC]; Mr S Housby [SH]; Mr A Baber [AB]; Mr B Hamilton [BH]; Mr N Hunloke [NH]; Mr T Nixon [TN]. Mr T Coleman [TC]

Apologies: None

Also present: Members of the public; Parish Clerk, Mrs E Martin [EM]

Meeting commenced 19:40 pm.

16/17/106 Apologies for absence.

None

16/17/107 Declarations of Interest.

TC; NH; BH; AB; declared an interest related to Agenda Item 11 (Village Trust)

16/17/108 Agree minutes of previous meeting (January 2017)

January Minutes accepted [BH Proposed. GC Second. **Agreed**]

Resolved 1) That the minutes be accepted

16/17/109 Chairman's Announcements

GC thanked the council for their participation over the years and for their support to his chairmanship. GC also thanked JS for his on-going support.

GC thanked everyone who helped in the Great Poulshot Pickup, it was a successful day with lots of litter picked up and now Poulshot looks considerably better. Thank you to Elizabeth the Clerk for organising such a successful day out and thank you to Pam Gillies for helping with the food in the hall for the volunteers. Around 20 people gave their time on the day. Hope to see photos in the magazine of their success.

16/17/110 Wiltshire Councillor's Report (Cllr. J Seed)

JS told the audience that a balanced budget has been passed by WCC but government funding had been cut. Budget is approx. £900 million with £230 million discretionary budget. Admin has decreased from 19% to 6%. Still working to pay the best they can for the vulnerable and want to keep services such as libraries and leisure centres. There is around £850k for community projects. Thanks given to GC for his continued support.

JS was asked about grants for grass cutting. JS advised that capital grants would be available and that WCC is favourable to groups to apply for funding but for amounts over £1000 the groups would need to match funding in most cases.

SH raised the question of road restoration. JS responded that there is an additional £52m over 4 years to help improve. Please Report potholes etc. on the Wiltshire App as this is the best option for results.

16/17/111 Public Participation

No points raised from the Public.

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16/17/112 Planning Matters

New Applications Received For Discussion

- a) Application 17-01272-TCA – Felling of a Robina Tree (Ray Josey) – No Objections.
- b) Application 17-00785-FUL – Agricultural Barn (Andrew Stewart on behalf of “The Homeground, Mill Lane
 - a. Council were happy to support the proposal as long as the barn was returned to its original planned location in the middle of the field rather than near to the cottages. There has been some communication issues on this subject, these discussed and it was felt that parishioners should be encouraged to approach the PPC more readily so that issues or questions with planning can be assisted with.
- c) Application 17-00658-FUL – The Tranquil Moment (Joanna Murphy) – No Objections
- d) Application 17-00547-TCA – Reduce Conifer by 30% (Gerald Cross) – No Objections
- e) Application 17-01546-TCA – Reduce Hazel Tree Height by 30% and shape (Pete Wright) – No Objections
- f) Application 17-02113-TCA – Crown of Oak and felling of an Oak at Stansfield Cottage (E Plank) – No Objections

Action: EM to make sure that planning matters are communicated within the Key Messages (that are put into the magazine). **Action:** EM to forward responses to above planning requests to WCC as per usual.

EM

EM

16/17/113 Higher Green Farm – Progress Review

EM updated the council on the progress of the HGF development. The Councils legal representative is currently reviewing the paperwork and the contract will be forwarded to the council members for final comment in the coming days. After this opportunity for final comment, contracts will proceed to exchange.

16/17/114 Community Speedwatch – Update

TC proposed a vote of thanks to the Speedwatch group for all of the work they have done over the last year to setup and run the team. The Council felt this was a successful project.

EM reported, on behalf of Mr M Wilson of the Speedwatch Group: The speed assessments are limited to just the area covered by the 30mph limit, and not the 40mph limit. Residents in the 40mph zone have voiced concerns regarding excessive speed. The Speedwatch Group have no objections to performing in this area but this requires approval from WCC and they will require a metro-count to be done. The metro-count attracts a cost (last time this was £350). The PPC would need to fund the count.

Council was supportive of extending the speed assessments into the 40mph zone but at this time were not willing to support the funding. This will be reviewed at a future PPC meeting.

16/17/115 Village Green Maintenance - Update

The Council reviewed the proposal from the Cricket Club for maintenance of the Green. Some members felt that the contract needed to be longer in length, that the assets needed to belong to Council rather than co-owned (and then leased to the CC) and the cutting schedule needs to be as flexible as possible. It was felt that the proposal is not mature enough at this stage to proceed and that for the near future the Council will continue to use an alternative contractor. **Action:** EM to continue to manage the cutting schedule for the time being with the current contractor (Mark Goddard) but also to continue discussions with the CC and look for alternative options for the future. [GC Proposed. TC Second. Agreed]

Resolved 1) That the current maintenance plan be continued whilst discussions and other options are explored by the Clerk

EM

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The Council also discussed the cutting of the trees. There is currently a plan in place to cut the trees on the main Green but not for the Green Gardens. See item 16/17/116 below.

16/17/116 Village Trust and Green Gardens – Review and Update

Trees were planted in 2003 for the long term. Recently there has been request by the Village Trust to fell 50% of the trees both to the PPC and to the Community Fund. The Green Gardens has been visited by two Arborists to review the current state; both felt that minimal maintenance is required in the next 3-5yrs (and no large scale cutting should take place).

The Council discussed taking the option of using one of the two Arborists to do a professional survey of the Green Gardens AND of the other trees under the Council's remit. The outcome would be to produce a

management plan for all trees over a rolling 5yrs period, equalling the costs out of those years to allow the budget to be correctly managed.

Action: EM to get a sample of the management plan along with a further quote for a plan from an additional Arborist.

16/17/117 Community Fund – Decision and Update

A proposal had been put forward by Mr T Coleman to the panel for funding some gates along some of the public paths in the village area. The request was for £333 for three gates, two metal and one wooden. The Panel had discussed and passed to the Council for approval. [SH Proposed. NH Second. **Agreed**]

Resolved 1) That the project be funded

Action: EM to manage payment to WCC (not to Mr Coleman) once invoice arrives to maintain compliance with the council's financial policies.

A proposal has been put forward to the Community Fund by the Village Trust to fund the felling of 50% of the trees in the Green Gardens. The Panel had been split 50/50 on their support and a number of issues had been highlighted with the application. The application, therefore, was not presented for approval to the Council but for discussion only.

See item 16/17/116 above. The management of the trees in the Green Gardens is officially the responsibility of the Council and two independent reviews by Arborists had resolved that the proposed work was not required and was inconsistent with managing an area such as the Green Gardens. Discussions with one of the Arborists had indicated that felling on this scale may have legal ramifications that needed to be understood and both suggested a proper management plan for the trees was needed. Additionally the Terms Of Reference for the Community Fund do not allow for non-Capital Projects and, after discussions with a Council advising body, it was advised that this proposal fell into that category.

16/17/118 Correspondence and Circulars Received

EM advised that the FOI request regarding Higher Green Farm has now been completed.

16/17/119 Finance

EM requested the Council to place the £1000 cheque from Dan Baber's estate into Earmark for the requested bench for Dan until the bench is ready to be paid for. [BH Proposed. TN Second. **Agreed**]

Resolved 1) That the proposed budget be earmarked.

AB advised that the bench would be 3-4 seater, made of hardwood with an engraving. The bench will be placed to the right of the trees in front of Mrs Kidd's wall. Costs are expected to be £700 for the bench, £300 for the installation. [BH Proposed. TN Second. **Agreed**]

Resolved 1) That the proposed plan for the bench be accepted

16/17/120 Actions By Council From Prior Meetings

EM provided an update on the current outstanding and closed actions from January and November.

16/17/121 Disbursements (since last meeting)

Cheques Written

- a) 000570. Bristol Water (Water Bill) £19.70
- b) 000571. Liz Read (Prior Clerk) Tax Settlement Refund £***.**
- c) 000572. HMRC (Salary Tax for Current Clerk) £***.**
- d) 000573. Grant Thornton (Audit, top-up payment to cover VAT) £80.00

Community Fund Receipts.

- e) Reversal of CFO 105 Poulshot Cricket Club. £2500.00. Loan Repayment Received. Balance owed. £0.00

16/17/122 Items Of Maintenance

EM mentioned that during the Poulshot Pickup two items had been reported. The first was a damaged Water Service cover and the other was an exposed Drain. Both will be reported for fixing.

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EM

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16/17/123 AOB

EM was asked about the collection of the rubbish from the Poulshot Pickup. EM advised that we had been “missed” from the collection and a separate collection was being arranged for this week.

16/17/124 Key Messages

Action: GC to write Key Messages

GC

Meeting closed 21:50

Minutes Agreed As a True Reflection _____