

MINUTES OF POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 18th November 2013, at 7.30pm in Poulshot Village Hall

PRESENT: Geoff Collett (GC) [Chair], Steve Housby (SH) [Vice Chair], Tim Coleman (TC), Adrian Baber (AB), Ben Hamilton (BH), Nicky Hunloke (NH), Tim Nixon (TN), Jonathon Seed (JS) [Wiltshire Councillor]

Audience: 24

1.	Apologies & Acceptance of Apologies: none	
2.	Register of Members' Interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no business interests to record at the meeting. 	
3.	Chairman's update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Collett informed everybody that Rebekah Jeffries had resigned as Parish Clerk due to pressures of work. If anybody is interested in becoming the Clerk would they contact one of the Councillors. • Cllr Coleman has kindly agreed to take the minutes of this meeting. • There have been several complaints about the state of the Village Green and the roads. Cllr Collett updated residents on actions being taken on the Green and Cllr Coleman will provide an update on the roads later in the meeting. • A letter from Claire Perry (Devizes MP) on the subject of Solar Panels was read out. She would like to meet the Parish Council. Cllr Collett will contact her to agree a convenient time. 	All GC
4.	Update from Wiltshire Council – Cllr Jonathon Seed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Seed informed the meeting that he'd been closely involved with the Parish Council on the Solar Panel planning application. He pointed out that Government guidance is not strong enough and that the planning decision will be taken by Wiltshire Council. • He also pointed out that he had been working with Cllr Coleman on the various Poulshot Highways issues. 	
5.	Update from Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Thomas (Community Beat Manager) did not attend and therefore no update was available. Need to ensure that she is informed about upcoming meeting. 	TC
6.	Presentation on High Speed Broadband in the village – Mike Wilson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the village is connected via copper wire. Broadband speeds vary from 0.5MB to 3MB. • Wiltshire Council's intention is that 91% of the population are on Superfast Broadband (SFB), but no date has been given for when this will be achieved. • Poulshot is currently in the last tranche of areas within Wiltshire to be looked at. • We don't know whether we fall within the 91% or not and if we do when SFB will be available. • Wiltshire Council has contracted with BT to roll out SFB across the County. Their plan is to provide Fibre to Cabinet (FTC). This means that fibre optic cable runs to the BT green box in the village. From there connection to households will be via the existing copper cable. Performance will therefore be better the closer a household is to the cabinet. • Some communities have made their own plans to install SFB. In some cases they have gone with private companies (e.g. Gigaclear) that have been able to provide Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) so that SFB reaches right to the household. • There is a fibre optic cable running down the A361 so it is theoretically possible for Poulshot to be connected there rather than to a main exchange. • If Mike Wilson lets the Parish Council (Cllr Coleman) know what questions we need Wiltshire Council to answer he will endeavour to get those questions answered. 	TC
7.	Public Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Lawrence from Wiltshire Protect talked about their objections to the Solar Panel planning application. • Jonathon Seed pointed out that there is no government directive on Solar Panels and that if the application satisfies government policy it will go through. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various other members of the audience expressed their views on the solar panel planning application. 	
8.	Agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One change was made to the draft minutes. Bowerhill Road was corrected to Barley Hill Lane. The minutes were agreed and signed. 	
9.	Planning application on Solar Panel development (13/05244/FUL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Collett informed everybody that Hive Engineering (the firm behind the development) had offered the parish £60,000 as a benefit to the community. The Parish Council was able, after negotiation with Hive, to increase this figure to £150,000. The sum would be for the long term benefit of Poulshot and is not conditional on the way that the Parish Council votes. It is dependent on approval being given by Wiltshire Council and on development starting. At that time the Parish Council will let the village know how they propose that this sum is handled. • Each of the councillors expressed their views on the planning application. • A vote was held. NH, TN and GC voted in support of the application. SH, BH and TC voted against. AB abstained. GC (Chairman) cast the deciding vote in favour. The application was therefore approved. 	GC
10.	Planning application for tree house at Belle Vue Farm (13/05168/FUL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application was approved unanimously. 	
11.	Planning application for clean and dirty water tanks at Belle Vue Farm (13/0517/FUL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application was approved unanimously subject to the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A soil bund to be placed on the road side of the tanks to shield them from the road. 2. Tanks to be painted green to reduce their impact • Cllr Hamilton to confirm these conditions in writing to Cllr Seed. 	BH
12.	Request from Jonathon Hawkins to erect a 1.2mtre fence around his allotment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application was approved unanimously subject to the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fence should enclose the complete allotment area (i.e. the three plots). 2. The fence should be a 1.2m high wooden post and rail fence with stock fencing at the bottom. 3. Plot holders to be responsible for keeping the paths and hedges in the allotment area tidy. • Parish Council to write to Jonathon to confirm this decision. 	TC
13.	Actions arising from Parish Council meeting 16th Sept. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Housby said that he had raised an issue about the Lutsey Bridge warning signs. • Cllr Seed pointed out that Wiltshire Council has developed a Smartphone app so you can report local issues on the go and receive progress updates. 	
14.	Grant for Village Hall repairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vote was taken to approve a contribution of £450 towards the Village Hall damp repairs. • It was approved unanimously. • Cllr Baber will be the Parish Council representative overseeing the work on the Council's behalf. 	AB
15.	Highways and Rights of Way (Cllr Coleman) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'pavement' from Poulshot to the A361 is still under review by Wiltshire Council. The intention is that a decision is made as to the action to be taken (e.g. lengthening the existing pavement outside Poulshot Lodge Farm) at the next Community Area Traffic Group meeting in January. Mike Hues suggested that their ditch on the roadside of the hedge be piped and filled thus enabling a wider, lower verge to be created. Cllr Seed asked that he be emailed on this suggestion so that it can be considered by Highways. The further suggestion was made that a duct could be laid along the ditch so that a connection could be made between Poulshot and the fibre optic cable on the A361. • Wiltshire Council will send a tree specialist to Corn Close to cut the hedge to a uniform height towards the end of December. Community Payback have agreed to send a team week 	TC

	<p>beginning 9th December to clear the verge for grass seeding. Wiltshire Council will then remove all the detritus and sweep the road. Cllr Nixon commented that the ditch clearance work has already shown benefits by reducing the level of water at the end of the road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Steward is expected in the village week beginning 18th November. His priority is to tidy the gutters and pavements on Poulshot Road and to check the drains round Townsend Farm to ensure that they are clear. 	
16.	<p>Village Green Matters arising (Cllr Collett)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Nixon reported that the village green safety checks had been carried out and no issues were identified. • Cllr Collett has spoken to the tractor driver about driving across the Green. The farmer (Jim Butler) is concerned that trees are overhanging the track, preventing his vehicles from using it. Cllr Collett to talk to Simon Franklin about lopping the trees. • Cllr Collett thanked Tim Hues for getting the area round the ditches cut. • Cllr Collett is still seeking volunteers to work on the Green. He will arrange a working party and will publicise within the village. • Cllr Collett will spray the Play Area in front of the Village Hall to get rid of the moss. • The Council has been advised that unless an issue is reported they do not need to arrange for tree inspections. No further action will therefore be taken. • Jim Aldridge asked the Council for permission to plant a 20m by 20m area of the Village Green with Wildflowers. The Council voted unanimously to approve the idea in principle. Jim will mark out an area and arrange an on-site visit by the Council to confirm the actual site. 	<p>GC</p> <p>GC</p>
17.	<p>Update on Higher Green Farm Development (K/59951/F)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivor Sault (Pippin Homes) stated that no further progress has been made regarding securing a planning permission, the main hurdle being the affordable housing. Pippin attended a meeting with Wiltshire Council's Housing Officer in mid September to discuss the application to apply a departure from the target provision for affordable housing. The Housing Officer made it clear in that meeting that the application would be refused if Pippin continued with this action. Pippin made it clear they were not happy with this (the site has a deemed resolution to approve subject to finalising the Section 106 Agreement) and have subsequently taken advice from another planning consultant who has confirmed that their case has been very well argued and they are trying to set up a further meeting with Wiltshire Council in an attempt to resolve the matter. The Council is concerned that this application has been dragging on for 5 years and also that there is already sufficient affordable housing in the village. Council to write to Cllr Seed seeking his support in expediting this matter. • Cllr Collett confirmed that Pippin Homes had offered a 1¼ acre site to the community for recreation. He also stated that, under S106, Pippin are obliged to give about £29,000 to the Community for children's recreation. Poulshot will need to make a case to ensure that this money comes to the village. • Cllr Collett stated that a parishioner insisted on getting his solicitor to write to the Parish Council's solicitors (Wansbroughs) on this matter causing the village unnecessary legal fees. Wansbroughs have been instructed that any Council correspondence should be forwarded direct to the Parish Council who will then decide if they need to instruct a solicitor to act on the matter. 	<p>TC</p>
18.	<p>Proposal to adopt a policy for use of the marquee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new policy was unanimously approved and will be put on the village website for all to see. 	<p>TC</p>
19.	<p>Proposal to adopt a policy for use of the management of events on the Village Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new policy was unanimously approved and will be put on the village website for all to see. 	<p>TC</p>
20.	<p>Review of allotments tenancy agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to defer this decision until the next Council Meeting. 	
21.	<p>Village Design Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Housby confirmed that a public meeting was held 3rd October 2013 and that two working 	

	<p>parties had been established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He and Nick Church will attend a meeting on the topic in Calne on 28th November. 	
22.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter has been received from Lady Kate Hunloke requesting that the contribution from the Council for the Over 60s Christmas Dinner be increased to £300 to cope with the aging population. This request was unanimously approved. • A letter has been received from Gavin and Eve Curnow seeking the Council's support for an application they are considering submitting for an extension to the front of their house. Cllr Collett suggested that as it was a listed building they should first of all seek the Planning and Conservation Officers views. 	
23.	<p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft budget prepared by Cllr Hamilton was unanimously approved. • The Monthly invoices need to be signed. 	BH
24.	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Collett proposed a vote of thanks to Rebekah who has resigned as Parish Clerk. The Council unanimously approved this vote of thanks and requested that the Chairman write to Rebekah on their behalf. 	GC

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 20th January 2014, at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Future meeting dates - Monday 17th March 2014, Monday 19th May 2014

A reminder that all requests for work/or goods should be presented to the Parish Council first for authorisation.

Signed: by Geoff Collett (Chairman)

Date: 20th January 2014