## POULSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

# **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 13 April 2022**

This meeting was held in the Village Hall

## **Minutes**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Mike Davis (MD)

Vice Chairman: Cllr Liz Bissett (LB)

**Councillors:** 

Cllr Claire Church (CC) Cllr Tim Hues (TH) Cllr Dan Scott (DS)

Also present:

5 members of the public

### **Public Comment:**

- It was reported to the Parish Council that Ceffyn Gwyn Stud on Hay Lane on the night of  $9^{th}/10^{th}$  April 2022 still had lighting visible at 0130 hrs on 10 Apr in contravention of planning conditions.
- It was raised that horses and horseboxes are causing damage to the Green. This had been discussed at previous meeting but not minuted. A question was asked on what action was being taken by the Parish Council. The Chairman informed the public that correspondence had been sent to advise one such user of the regulations governing the protection of Village Greens. The Parish Council are considering signs and further communication to inform users of their obligations to respect and protect the registered Village Green. It is not common land and has specific protection, which it is considered some visitors may not realise.
- A member of the public asked about traffic monitor currently in place in Townsend. The Parish Council were unaware of why it had been placed there.

Agenda Reference	Item Detail	Action
21/22-134	Apologies Nina Jeffries (NJ) Caroline Nichols (CN) Cllr Tamara Reay (TR) – Wiltshire Council	
21/22-135	Declarations of Interest  Declarations of interest regarding agenda item 7 (Land adjacent to Higher Green Farm) were declared by:  • Cllr Dan Scott	

M) 18/5/22

21/22-136	Chairman's Comments	
	<ul> <li>The Parish Council currently has no Clerk. The recent appointee resigning after only one meeting. He stated significant historic issues (pre-May 21) made his desire to undertake the role untenable.</li> </ul>	
,	<ul> <li>The Chairman mentioned that the Parish Council has informed our insurers over a boundary dispute with a view to seeking legal support.</li> <li>This follows a period of attempted mediation that has reached an impasse.</li> </ul>	
21/22-137	Planning Matters  To consider and decide upon the following applications:	*
	PL/2022/02746 - 6 The Green - Tree work  Resolution: Approved with no objections  Proposer: LB	
	Seconder: CC Votes: All in agreement	
21/22-138	Financial Matters	
	To nominate a Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). In the absence of a Clerk, Cllr Scott will assume the role.	Cllr Scott
	Proposer: MD Seconder: LB Votes: All in agreement	
	• After support from WALC, Cllr Bissett has spoken to a locum Clerk who has offered to support the Parish Council until a new Clerk is recruited. This comes at a cost (£20 per hr) which above the contracted rate. He will be paid time and travelling time, plus expenses. This would be balanced against wages that would have been paid to a permanent clerk and the balance from contingency. The employment of a locum was discussed and proposed as a solution. Cllr Bissett will contact the locum to confirm his contract-based employment. Intent is he will start immediately and be at the next Parish Council meeting.	
	Proposer: LB Seconder: TH Votes: All in agreement	Cllr Bissett
	• The Chair provided an update on the VAT challenge dating back to a reclaim made in 2019. Following a VAT recovery for the installation of the pavement at the southern end of the village. To seek closure on this issue the Parish Council have written to HMRC (22/03/22) and provided additional information on 04/04/22. Once an HMRC response is received there will be two outcomes: 1. The VAT recovery was appropriate and in compliance with policy, no further action and all challenges closed; or 2. The VAT recovery was outside policy in which case the Parish Council will repay the claimed sum to HMRC. The funds for this are within the Community Fund and will have no impact on in-year finances.	

### 21/22-139

## **Bank Accounts/Banking Matters**

• The Parish Council has (finally) made progress on electronic banking. Matters had not been progressed as swiftly as councillors had wished. Cllr Bissett has had to put insignificant time with Lloyds bank and Cambridge & Counties bank. The proposal to structure the Council's finances as follows, was discussed. There are four accounts: three with Lloyds and one with Cambridge & Counties. The Cambridge & Counties pays the best interest - currently 0.75%. This will therefore be used to hold the majority of the Community funds. The account will be 'topped up' to £83,000 just below the £85k banking protection level, allowing for interest growth. (Over the next 3 years this will therefore remain protected based on current interest rates.) The other three accounts (all Lloyds) will be used as follows: balance of community fund; 'Precept' deposit account; and routine current account. The important factor of operating separate accounts for the community fund and annual council spending will be achieved.

Proposer: DS Seconder: CC

Votes: All in agreement

• The Parish Council has for sometime paid a savings adviser - Savings Champion, £88.00 per quarter for their savings advice. After review of their services and advice it was proposed that this offered little value for money and should be ceased. Saving £352.00 per year.

Proposer: LB Seconder: MD

Votes: All in agreement

# 21/22-140

## **Consider and Agree Community Matters**

The Chair briefed on details regarding the village land adjacent to Higher Green Farm (HGF). As part of the transfer agreement the previous landowner has an obligation to provide a fence around the land. A total of 296m, specified as 1.2m high chain link. There was discussion on what type and style of fence should be installed and that engagement with the residents of 21 to 27 Poulshot Road is necessary regarding the provision of gates in their boundary fences. Cllrs Davis and Hues agreed to meet with the landowner to agree the style/specification of the fence and the timeline for installation. Councillors agreed that the 6-month time period, after transfer, could be waived to allow discussion and the installation of the best solution for the long term.

In addition to the fence there are to be two 12' access gates one at Sillington Lane and at the opposite end of the track. At the HGF side there is to be a pedestrian access gate.

Cllrs Davis & Hues

21/22-131	Correspondents & circulars received	
	<ul> <li>The Village Hall (VH) committee has sent through a Heads of Terms document for the transfer of the small front section of land inside the village hall perimeter. These were reviewed by the councillors and approved. Cllr Bissett agreed to email the VH committee.</li> <li>Proposer: LB Seconder: MD Votes: All in agreement</li> <li>Notice has been received from Wiltshire Highways that Poulshot Road between Barley Hill Lane and Sillington Lane will be closed to all traffic for</li> </ul>	Cllr Bissett
10	2 days from 3 May 22. This is to enable tree works.	
	<ul> <li>An email has been received from a member of the public about the tree work on Poulshot Road asking if replacement trees were to be planted. Cllr Scott agreed to write to the council to ascertain their intent.</li> </ul>	Cllr Scott
21/22-132	Items of Maintenance	
	Grass Cutting  The Chair has contacted five contractors to request quotes for grass cutting of the village green. He had two contractors opt not to quote and has received three quotes. Conservation Contractors for 14 cuts and strimming @ £4560 +VAT; J Hawkins for 9 cuts and strimming @£450 per cut; and ID Verte for 14 cuts and strimming @£1514.74 +VAT. There was some question at the seemingly low price of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quote. Cllr Davis expanded having spoken to them. They provide the same service to many local Parishes and Wiltshire Council. All councillors agreed to instruct ID Verte. Cllr Davis agreed to instruct them to start immediately.  Proposer: MD Seconder: LB Votes: All in agreement	Cllr Davis
-	Next Meeting	
	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May Village AGM at 19:00hrs followed by Parish Council Meeting 19:30hrs	

Meeting Closed 20:35hrs