

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 18:30 on Tuesday 10th January 2006.

1. Attendance

Attending -

Mr Michael Hues (MH) Chairman
Mrs Sue Aldridge (SA) Councillor
Mr Joe Dyke (JD) Councillor
Mr Malcolm Nixon (MN) Vice Chairman
Mr Nicky Hunloke (NH) Councillor
Mr Geoffrey Collett (GC) Councillor
Mr Joe Baber (JB) Councillor
Mrs T Carr (Kennet District Council)
Mrs P Rugg (Wiltshire County Council)

Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Apologies - WPC Anne Deuchars

Absent -

Visitors - There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

2. Public meeting

The Chairman opened the Public meeting and welcomed visitors. He then invited Mr Rod Gibbs who is the Area Highway Engineer from Wiltshire County Council, based at Marlborough.

Mr Gibbs explained that the responsibility for Highways in Wiltshire is now a partnership between the County Council, an independent consultant, and a service provider. Communication between the members of the partnership is a problem as well as communication with the public. All work now has to be programmed and priced, and this has removed some flexibility in response. Mr Gibbs explained that he and the partnership are new to Wiltshire and he is still finding his feet, as is the partnership. He came from Hampshire where it took 14 years to reap the benefit of the partnership; he hopes that progress will be quicker in Wiltshire as it is learning from the experience of other pioneering counties. He assured the meeting that progress is being made and that the tax payer can expect improvements.

The most important message he could give is that the Parish must keep communicating with them and he offered the Clarence telephone number which should be used to report and chase any faults on the road, including street lighting. 0800-232323. this number is available 24 hours a day, and the Marlborough office is open at 07:00 when he arrives at work.

He then turned to specific problems in Poulshot and admitted that perhaps Poulshot had been overlooked a little.

- Footpath styles broken and un-repaired. This is the responsibility of the land owner but please report these to the Rights of Way Warden who can enforce repairs.
- Hay Lane Bridge. Temporary repairs have been made and they are awaiting parts to complete the repairs.
- Higher Green Farm Entrance. No Progress as yet.
- Verges and Grass in Barley Hill Lane. The Grass was not cut and should have been done, he apologised and would be discussing this with the contractor. As to driving on the verges, this is a problem over the entire county, he could offer plastic warning wands, but often these were torn up and produced a litter problem. Machines are getting bigger with some as wide as 15 feet, thus passing is a problem in front of the Old Chapel as well, and vehicles are almost bound to ride up on the verges.
- Mill Lane is also in need of attention. He will inspect the lane in the next few weeks.
- Cutting Policy. Rural lanes should get cut at the end of February, and budgetary constraints prevented a second cut later in the year at the moment.
- Pavement outside Lodge Farm. The Curb had sunk and was dangerous, and the pathway is overgrown. He will review it in the next few weeks.
- Pathway outside Belle Vue Farm. A gang is working to cut the growth back and has found the pavement in poor repair, repair work will begin shortly.

Approved By Chairman _____ on _____

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- Resurfacing and Dressing of the road. He was aware of the complaints regarding blocked drains, gutters and weed growth, and had inspected the road. He pointed out that there had been no weed spraying since 1990, due to environmental legislation, however he would put Poulshot on a weed spray program for 1006 to take place in April or May. As funding is always a problem weed killing comes last.
- Lengths men. It is felt that 4 days a year with the number of men allocated is insufficient. Perhaps the gangs should be bigger and less time should be spent leaning on shovels. Mr Gibbs committed to visiting with the gang when it next comes in February. Please continue to feed him with information via fax to the Marlborough office. He has 9 people in the Marlborough office, 4 cyclic gangs, 4 lengths men gangs, and 90 parishes to cover. He has a UniMog which is currently being used to clean signs.
- Flooding at 29 Poulshot Rd. He has arranged for the Kennet land drainage engineer to attend the site with him in the next two weeks, when levels will be taken. He pointed out that there have been incidents of residents filling some of the ditches with cuttings which do not help. He and Steve Ibbotson will review all of the drainage from the Raven to Sillington lane.
- Hedge Letters. Parishes should send out the first letter. When a complaint against an uncut hedge is made, the parish clerk should write to the land owner. If nothing is done then the Highways authority will write; if nothing is done legal proceedings follow fairly quickly.
- Vehicle widths and parking. Farmers should consider applying for temporary access into fields where access via the high way is a problem. These licenses can be renewed annually.
- Ditches. These are the responsibility of the land owner and the highway authority has the right to shed water of a carriageway onto private land.

The chairman thanked Mr Gibbs for his presentation, and closed the public meeting.

The Chairman pointed out that WPC Deuchars was unable to attend and therefore there would be a short pause before the Council meeting proper began.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 15/11/05, were reviewed and no comments were received. The minutes were then approved by the council and signed by MH in the presence of the council.

4. Matters arising

4.1. Speed & Weight Limits

The Clerk reported that he had received no communication from WCC, but that he had been in touch with Mr Harris. Mr Harris would be putting Poulshot forward for consideration but as yet he had made no determination as to the section of 40 mph road between Sillington lane and the dual carriageway. *Clerk to progress.*

4.2. Youth

The Clerk reported that no progress had been made as yet. The Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Dalley to set up a meeting. *Clerk to progress.*

4.3. Public Consultation

No further information was reported.

4.4. Web Pages

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting information from the Village Hall Committee. *Clerk to progress.*

4.5. Village Pond

MH reported that work had taken place to clear 1/3 of the pond, and NH reported that the work was well done. MH then read a letter of complaint from Mr Kidd alleging that the work had damaged his drainage. MH undertook to meet with Mr Kidd at the pond to review the situation. The Clerk requested all invoices so that he could progress the grant. *MH to progress.*

4.6. Play Area

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area, it had been cleaned just before Christmas but that it needs another clean. The Clerk once again pointed out that he had not yet received an invoice for work done by Mr T Nixon. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

4.7. Sarsen (car parking & General maintenance)

The Clerk reported he had heard from Sarsen and that work on the Car Park had not started in December as promised by Sarsen. He would contact them to ascertain a new date. *Clerk to report.*

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4.8. Foot Path status

The Clerk reported that the Parish is now a full lifetime member of GLEAM. *Clerk to progress Gleam.*

4.9. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that no further progress had been made. *Clerk to report.*

4.10. Lengths mans report

As per the public meeting. *MN to report at the next meeting.*

4.11. Litter and Refuse.

SA reported that no additional waste was visible, however the track was very muddy and that was probably discouraging dumping. MH reported that the hedgerows along the track had been cut back. *Clerk to progress.*

4.12. Village Green

MH reported that one full size pitch football match had taken place, but that those involved did not feel that the green was a suitable venue (too narrow and wet). They will not be trying it again, and the posts had been returned to their original positions. There was a short discussion as to the possibility of Cricket restarting, the Council unanimously would welcome games on the green. MH stated that the additional cuts seemed to have worked and the green was a lot tidier. *MH to introduce at next meeting.*

4.13. Bridge in Hay Lane

As per the public meeting.

4.14. Village Design Guide

Nothing to report. *NH to raise at next meeting.*

4.15. Neighbourhood watch

Nothing to report.

4.16. Sewerage

4.17. The Clerk reported that work had begun; JD stated that they were working very quickly and disruption to Mill lane had been minor.

4.18. 72/74 The Green

MH stated that he was disappointed in the impact of the development at No. 72; it stood out on the green. SA suggested that the view would be better once hedging etc. had time to grow. MN suggested that the finish was in keeping with the existing buildings, but as the rendering was new it stood out. GC agreed with this view. MH asked if the property was listed, the Clerk responded that it was not. The Clerk reported that the Mr Brown had requested a site meeting to discuss hedging, fencing and ditch work on the property. *Clerk to arrange a site meeting.*

The Clerk reported that he had circulated the initial letter from the Land Registry, which stated that the right of way being claimed at No. 74 was based upon a statement from Mr Gillham. The Clerk is in the process of obtaining a copy from the Registry at a cost of £4.00. Once that has been circulated he will pass this on to Community first for a legal opinion.

4.19. Grass Verge outside 43 Poulshot Rd.

The Clerk reported that he had replied to Sarsen, and had circulated the letter to the Council. He had not had a reply.

5. Plans

A proposal for tree removal at Townsend Cottage was considered and approved at the meeting. There had been various plans presented in the interim, the status of which was reported in the agenda to the meeting.

- Townsend Farmhouse – removed
- Townsend Cottage – approved
- Wessex Water – approved

No further discussion of plans took place at the meeting.

6. Accounts

6.1. The Clerk presented the current financial position, with the current balance standing at about £2000.

6.2. Payable.

1. Several accounts were payable; one cheque was signed at the meeting;
 - a. Clerks salary, £450.00
2. In the interim between meetings several cheques had been signed by Councillors.
 - a. Gleam, £30.00
 - b. Wessex water, £13.53
 - c. Over Sixties Dinner, £200.00

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d. Hawes Macleod, £60.00

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Church Triangle

The Clerk pointed out that ones again the triangle was being worn away by vehicles using it as a turning circle. It was not intended as such and at one time was a grassy bank with daffodils. He suggested that a fence be erected to close off the turning circle, yet still allowing churchgoers to park behind. SA suggested that this should be reviewed after Wessex Water have finished. JD suggested that Wessex pay. MH suggested a site meeting when Wessex had finished. *Clerk to arrange.*

7.2. Full Size Football Pitch

As per the report on the green, however JB added that a regular league match on the green would probably cut the grass up.

7.3. Lighting at Village Hall

NH pointed out that there was in fact an existing street light which illuminated the car parking area, it was not working. *Clerk to report fault.*

7.4. Devizes Town Centre.

MH reported that he and MN attended a meeting along with about 30 people. None of whom were supportive of the proposed development of the market place. JD suggested that the most important project for the town was a bypass.

7.5. Devizes Hospital.

PR stated that there was one further week of consultation before the report is published; however the hospital is effectively closed at the moment. JD stated that there are times when the Police station in Devizes is also closed due to lack of manpower.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 7/3/06 at 19:30 Poulshot village hall.

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