

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 18:30 on Tuesday 10th May 2005.

Attending

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

Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Apologies

Mrs Sue Aldridge (SA) Councillor
PC Anne Deuchars

Absent

None

Visitors

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman opened the Public meeting and welcomed visitors; there were sixteen members of the public attending. He also thanked Mrs T Wilson and Mrs D Hues for preparing the refreshments.

Annual Parish Meeting

DRAFT

- a. The Chairman opened the Annual Parish meeting and welcomed the Public and visitors. He explained the purpose of the meeting and stated that there had been little to report in previous years. But he hoped that there would be a stimulating discussion this year.
- b. The apologies were received as the above list.
- c. The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting were read (4th May 2004) and were taken as approved at a previous meeting
- d. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- e. MH then took time to introduce the current members of the Council to the public attending and made mention that they encouraged contact with the Parishioners.
- f. MH opened the floor to the public and asked for any comments from the floor.
 - Requests were made that the green be cut more often and that cut is closer on the football area. It was stated that the long grass was encouraging people to use it as a dog's toilet, and this was not pleasant for any children playing in the area. The green is getting more use and in particular it is nice to see young people using it to get together, this should be encouraged. There is also a possibility that if the cut is kept short a volleyball practice session might occur during the summer. Has the Council investigated buying a tractor and gang mower, this would seem to be a cheaper option to paying for cuts. There would be plenty of volunteers to help cut the green, and the present state is unacceptable. MH stated that there could be insurance and liability issues with volunteer cutting and that surely it would be best if the council just requested more cuts. The council are already committed to 5/6 cuts this year and more if required. MH apologised for the current state, but the grass was cut only 3 weeks ago, and another cut was scheduled for last week but the contractor was on holiday. a cut would take place in the next week. It was pointed out that although 6 cuts didn't seem a lot the grass stops growing in July/August. MH requested that we stick with the current system and monitor the grass closely. a review will take place in the autumn before the awarding of any new contract, at that time the success of the policy will be established. A request was made to allow the football posts to be moved, by purchasing some alternative post holders. All felt this was a good idea, and the Clerk

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was tasked to get a quote for the same.

- Speeding, it was pointed out that Bodmans coaches were guilty of speeding through the village, and the clerk was requested to write to Bodmans requesting that they adhere to the speed limit in the village. The Clerk pointed out that the Police are monitoring traffic speeds but they are doing so in a very obvious way and vehicles are reacting by slowing when the Police are in the Village. A 30mph limit will not change the attitude of those who want to break the law, but public awareness of the dangers of speeds over 30mph is having some effect. Some felt the number of heavy vehicles using the road may also be a contributory factor in road safety within the village. The Clerk was tasked to ask highways if a weight limit on through traffic would be possible. It was noted that a temporary weight limit was imposed when the Worton - Seend road was closed. If a speed reduction was to be imposed, no additional lighting, signing or calming measures should be undertaken; the essentially rural nature of the village should be maintained. TC raised the issue of parking rights in a 30mph zone; the clerk was able to reassure the meeting that a 30mph limit has no association with parking issues.
 - Neighbourhood watch was discussed and the clerk confirmed that no volunteer had been found for the post. Some concern was raised regarding youths on motorcycles riding on the green areas. These matters should always be reported to the police, with a registration number. The clerk undertook to advise WPC Deuchars in this case.
 - Cars on the Green, MH stated that there was no parking allowed on the green, although he and in general the meeting felt that for one off visitors this was acceptable. However regular parking should not be allowed.
 - Benches and tables in the Green Garden. NH was able to confirm that John Scammell had kindly donated a bench in memory of his wife, and that tables were in hand.
 - Hay Lane plantation, could the fence around the plantation be removed now the trees are fairly mature. After some discussion it was felt that the fence should be removed and that the village trust will request volunteers to help.
 - Highways and curbs, several places were mentioned where curbs are being eroded and verges becoming overgrown. MN pointed out that Poulshot received a visit only twice per year from two length men for two days. A total of 8 man days. This allowed little time to achieve anything, it was hoped that by formalising the system some efficiency could be gained and prevent time being wasted. He pointed out that the clerk and he were working on a scheme whereby individual residents would take responsibility for their section of road. They would report faults and this would allow MN to prioritise work. The clerk also pointed out that if a village handyman was appointed some of this work could be undertaken by him. MH pointed out that herbicides could not be used as training and a license was required.
 - The issue of Car Parking and problems with cattle herding was raised. MN pointed out that damage caused by cattle being legally herded was not the responsibility of the Farmer.
- g. No further comment being received MH closed the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked all those for attending. MH took a seat in the body of the meeting.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

1. The Clerk then took the chair, and called the Annual Parish Council meeting to order.
2. Apologies and attendance were as the Annual Parish Meeting.
3. From the assembled Councillors nominations were requested for Chairman. MN proposed MH, this was seconded by NH. MH was asked if he was willing to stand and confirmed that he was willing. He was then unanimously elected.
4. MH took the chair and thanked those present for their continued support. Nominations were then taken for Vice-Chairman. JD nominated MN, and GC seconded that nomination. MN confirmed that he was willing to stand. He was then elected unanimously.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting

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The Minutes of last meeting 8/3/05, were reviewed and JD requested that the wording of Paragraph 4 be modified. Stating that the wording "JD Deplored the fact" was inaccurate, and that a suitable wording be substituted. This was agreed and the wording was hand written into the minutes and countersigned by the Clerk and the Chairman. The minutes were then approved by the council and signed by MH in the presence of the council.

The clerk requested that in future Councillors should report errors to him during the first circulation of the minutes; this would allow new minutes to be generated and circulated prior to the next meeting.

6. Matters arising

i. Speed Limits

MH introduced the item stating that there was no need for debate as the matter had been dealt with previously. He stated that SA was absent but had sent him a letter expressing her wish that her vote for a 30mph speed limit be recorded in favour. MH then proposed a vote in favour of a 30mph speed limit, MN seconded. JB, MN, MH, SA, and GC voted in favour and JD and NH voted against. As the motion was carried MH instructed the Clerk to pursue the matter with the relevant authorities. Clerk to progress. JD suggested that a 30mph area be created between the Raven and Sillington lane, and MH suggested that the council awaited feedback from the authorities.

ii. Grass Triangle by the Church

MH reported that the triangle had been landscaped by Wessex, however despite watering by himself, and Mrs Brothers, the grass turf had died. NH expressed the view that the turf was probably too thin to survive. The Clerk informed the meeting that Wessex had been informed and that they were a little frustrated. He also informed the meeting that Wessex had contributed £20 towards watering. MH suggested that the triangle could be reseeded but it would be better if this could be left until September. He expressed is sorrow for those who would have to suffer the situation for the next few months, but that the best result would be obtained later in the year. The Clerk suggested that he get some seed in preparation and contact Wessex regarding borrowing some barriers in order to protect the area when seeding takes place. Clerk to progress.

iii. Youth

The Clerk reported that Mr Tim Nixon had volunteered for this onerous duty and that he was intending to contact YAW shortly. He expected that Mr Nixon would report at the next meeting. The Council would then be guided by him as to the need for grants etc. and what village events would be possible. MH counselled against voluntary transport schemes not only from an insurance standpoint but also for the safety of individuals and security of children. The Clerk suggested that Mr Nixon could give a progress report at the next meeting.

iv. Public Consultation

The clerk reported that the notice board was receiving increased attention and that the website was also being used. He was happy to see the editor of the village magazine present and hoped that the continued reporting of the councils actions would be of benefit.

v. Council Insurance

MH reported he had received a quotation from WALC and that Cornhill had also quoted. Of the two The WALC quotation seemed to be of better value. The clerk was therefore instructed to renew with them. *Clerk to administer.*

vi. Web Pages

The Clerk reported the web pages would be turned over to his control in the next two weeks. He also repeated a request for photographic and other contributions towards the web site. *Clerk to progress.*

vii. Village Pond

MH repeated the report from DEFRA, and suggested that the Clerk should contact the local conservation officer in order to obtain grants for a JCB to be used in September. Half of the main pond and half of the secondary pond on the green would be cleared. *Clerk to Progress.*

viii. Play Area

SA was not present; however the Council was not aware of any problems. The Clerk stated that Mr T Nixon had cleaned the area, but as yet had not submitted an invoice. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

ix. Car Parking.

The Clerk reported that a meeting between Sarsen, and its tenants had taken place; a report from Sarsen had been received and circulated to the Council. The next step would be to arrange a meeting between Sarsen and the Council. The Clerk was able to report that a vehicle that had been causing a nuisance outside No. 17 Poulshot road had been removed by the Council. MH referred to the public part of the meeting and

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reiterated his statements regarding Parking on the green and on verges. *Clerk to arrange a meeting.*

x. Foot Path status

The Clerk reported that no further progress had been made, but that now might be an opportune time to chase the situation. *Clerk to progress.*

xi. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that he had attended one of the Clerks meetings, and would report back as further progress is made. *Clerk to report.*

xii. Sewerage Problems.

Nothing further had been reported to the Council. *Clerk to monitor.*

xiii. Best Kept village

The Clerk reported that there had been no news.

xiv. Lengths mans report

MN referred to the item in the public meeting and reiterated the points. He felt that at least a weeks full work be the lengths men would be required to bring the standard to an acceptable level. *MN to report at the next meeting.*

xv. General Repairs

The Clerk reported that one application had been received for the post. The Council felt that this part time role could be useful but that the council should meet the applicant and discuss the possibilities. NH stated that the position should not attract a retainer, and that the work practices should be agreed at a meeting. MH pointed out that spraying could be an issue as a license and training would be required. The Clerk stated that existing insurance would cover this person's employment. *Clerk to progress.*

xvi. Village Design Guide

The Clerk explained that this document could prove a useful method of controlling the type of development within the village, and that he would encourage the Council to consider the matter. This would now become a permanent item on the agenda. *Whole Council to consider.*

7. Plans

No Plans were considered at the meeting but there had been various plans presented in the interim, the status of which was reported in the agenda to the meeting. MN asked if there had been any significant change in the resubmitted plans for No 30 Poulshot rd. TC suggested that she could investigate and report back. JD suggested that in some cases it would be a good idea if a site meeting took place, and it was decided that any councillor who wanted a site meeting should contact the Clerk who would arrange the same. JD also expressed concerns over the safety of plans at No 134 Poulshot Rd. there were issues involved in cars parking close to the blind bend, and also the effect of this new entrance. He stated that at certain times the parking was causing problems. MN drew the attention of the Council to Foxhangers and reminded all that there was a small area on the other side of the A361 that was also in the Parish and that it shouldn't be forgotten.

- Townsend Farm, Cow Shed. Approved
- 30 Poulshot rd, an extension. Refused (Modified plans resubmitted)
- 1 Lodge Cottage, Extension. Approved
- 27 Poulshot Rd, Extension. Approved
- 134 Poulshot rd, Access. Pending
- Foxhangers, New Marina. Pending

8. Accounts

- i. The Clerk presented the current financial position which was in fact the end of the Financial year. During which the council had spent £1,650 more than its income, but that the bank balance at the end of year stood at £3,300. During the year there had been £1,550 expenditure on capital items, and that the Clerks salary had been increased. Maintenance of the Play area had also caused an increase in outgoings, but overall the financial status of the council was sound. However he did warn that with the expected expenditure of £2000 on the village hall, the precept for 2000/7 would have to increase.
- ii. The accounts were then presented to the Council, MN asked for a vote to accept the 2004/5 accounts, MN seconded and the accounts were accepted unanimously. The Clerk then drew the Councils attention to the statutory questions regarding the accounts and asked if it was the councils wish that the appropriate answers be entered on the form. This was again carried unanimously. The

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Chairman and the Clerk then signed the accounts in view of the meeting.

iii. Payable.

1. Several accounts were payable; One cheque was signed at the meeting;
 - a. Return of cheque from WALC (Training Course) made out for the incorrect figure by the Clerk.
 - b. To Re-issue a cheque for £76.38 to WALC.
2. In the interim between meetings one cheque had been signed by Councillors;
 - a. WALC, annual subscription, £89.97.

9. Any Other Business.

15 Barley Hill lane.

MH stated that some concern had been expressed regarding N0 15 Barley Hill lane, and the boundary thereof. After a short discussion the Clerk suggested that this might be an appropriate subject for a site meeting. JC offered to clarify the situation before a meeting was called.

Wiltshire Hopper

MN stated that an excellent bus service to the RUH was being operated from Seend & Bulkington Details will appear in the Magazine and the Notice Board. The Clerk said that he would be happy to put a link onto the web site. <http://www.west-wiltshire-dc.gov.uk/transport/index.php>

Litter & Refuse

MH pointed out that the pond by the green was being used to dump lawn trimmings, and asked that the Clerk send out a notice regarding this matter. *Clerk to action.*

Kennet Contact Centre.

TC pointed out that there had been a big improvement in the contact centre and that she hoped that the Council was finding it effective. The Clerk was able to report that he had been impressed with the service.

MH thanked all those for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

10. Next meeting.

Tuesday 12/7/05 at 19:30 Poulshot village hall.

DRAFT

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