

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 18:30 on Tuesday 13th September 2005.

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 Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

1. Apologies

Mr Joe Baber (JB) Councillor
Mrs T Carr (Kennet District Council)
Mrs P Rugg (Wiltshire County Council)
WPC Anne Deuchars

Absent - None

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 Sandra Long of The Kennet Citizens Advice Bureau to give a presentation. She introduced herself as the manager of this completely charitable organisation, it survived solely on donation, and no Government money is used. The CAB organisation came about after the 2nd world war, and although the Kennet group is affiliated to the organisation, it is completely autonomous. It is intended to answer Legal, Money and Family issues; it has 5 million enquiries per year and is completely confidential. There is a wide range of advice available, however Housing, Benefits, Employment (both employers and employees), Debt, Immigration, Consumer and Court issues are all dealt with. It provides information, advice and also participates in negotiation. It also has a Social Policy which involves it in Justice, Transport and Community issues. Kennet District Council provides £150,000 per annum in funding with many other Parish Councils contributing, including Poulshot. The service is audited regularly and the Volunteers are fully trained, which can take up to two years. Email advice is also available, and to give an idea of how local its scope is, 14 enquiries were received from Poulshot in August alone. The chairman asked for any other comments from the floor, and as there were none thanked Sandra and then he closed the public portion of the meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 12/07/05, 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

MH reported that the Council had met with Mr Harris of WCC that afternoon; during the meeting the issues of a reduced speed limit in the village were discussed. Mr Harris was able to confirm that he had been in a position to look at the situation already. He believed that a 30mph limit replacing the current 40mph limit would be appropriate. This would also include Mill Lane, Barley Hill Lane, Church Lane and Sillington Lane. He had also observed that although there was some limited lighting in the Village, where it existed, repeater signs could be legally removed in the 30mph limit. The Council had decided that the absolute minimum of signs should be employed in the Village, and wherever possible be removed. As to the section of road between the A361 and Sillington Lane, he felt that a 40mph limit would be more appropriate. The Council accepted this as a compromise. However Mr Harris reported that the allocation of funds had already been made for 2005/6, and that there would be new allocations in March 2006. He informed the Council that the cost involved would be about £5000, and that there was likely to be a more favourable outcome in

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2006/7 if the Parish could contribute towards the cost. He suggested that the District Council could also be approached for a grant on the basis of public benefit. Therefore the Parish could be expected to contribute between £1000 and £1500. MH put this proposal to the meeting and in general all councillors present were in favour. The Clerk reported that there had been no further progress on Weight restrictions. *Clerk to write to Councillor Rugg, and Councillor Carr requesting support and enquiring as to the availability of grants. Clerk to write to respond to Mr Harris's proposals.*

4.2. Grass Triangle by the Church

MH reported that the triangle had been weeded by Mr Franklin, NH volunteered to try a cut when he next cuts the church yard. Mrs M-G Brothers also volunteered to attempt a cut. MH also reported that the triangle should be kept tidy.

4.3. Youth

The Clerk reported that Mr Tim Nixon was unable to attend this evening; there had been no progress reported. *Clerk to progress grant application.*

4.4. Public Consultation

No further information was reported.

4.5. Web Pages

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

4.6. Village Pond

MH reported that he had met with Will Harley from Kennet that morning. Will agreed that the pond needed cleaning. But that the pond in the South west corner of the Green needed no action. MH passed the Clerk a Grant application form which he should complete and return to Kennet. This would go some way towards the cost of the work. A consultant would provide detailed instructions on the work required and the method of working. The work should be carried out between November and the end of January. The meeting agreed that Poulshot Green is unique and the pond on the Green must be preserved. The initial report was expected to cost about £230 + VAT. *MH to contact the Consultant and also to involve Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Clerk to complete Grant application.*

4.7. Play Area

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area. The Clerk pointed out that he had not yet received an invoice for work done by Mr T Nixon. He also stated that he had ordered a safety report and expected it before the next meeting. He had noticed a small hole in the safety surface. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

4.8. Sarsen (car parking & General maintenance)

The Clerk reported that a meeting had taken place between MH, himself and representatives from Sarsen, and that the Clerk had then met a senior manager from Sarsen when progress had not been forthcoming. The items being discussed were the state of the Garden at No. 17 Poulshot Rd, the State of the verge and hedge at the Terraces and also No. 43 Poulshot Rd. eventually agreement was reached and promises were obtained that the work would be completed. The Clerk was pleased to report that the only outstanding item was No. 17 at the time of the meeting. No progress was made regarding combined refuse collections. Sarsen have committed to providing at least 1 extra parking space at the Terraces, they expect to start in November. *Clerk to report.*

4.9. Foot Path status

The Clerk reported that no further communications had been received, but that he had been given details of an organisation called GLEAM whose aims were to protect footpaths and bridleways. MH made the comment that the off road vehicle associations do not like paved tracks, and as such the recent paving of Hay lane would discourage them, it might be possible to adopt the same idea on some of the other lanes. *Clerk to contact GLEAM.*

4.10. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that he had attended another Clerks meeting, he still had to attend a further 45 in order to complete the course. *Clerk to report.*

4.11. Lengths mans report

MN reported that the lengths men had been given a list of work at the beginning of the year; however as they only attended in April and October, most of the growing season had been missed. JD noted that the gutters near Belle Vue Farm were full of weeds; MH commented that because of environmental legislation spraying against weeds had stopped some time ago. MH stated that hedges along side the road could and should be cut to allow pedestrian access and for safety reasons. He also noted that the verges had not been cut and that Barley Hill Lane was particularly bad. The Clerk pointed out that cutting the hedges is the responsibility of the land owner and the verges are the responsibility of highways. The Clerk asked if it was practical for the Parish Council to undertake the cutting of hedges and then to share the costs among the

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local landowners, the meeting felt that this was not practical. MN pointed out that when the road was resurfaced, the gutters and weeds were not cleared before the new tarmac was applied. MN pointed out that farmers were restricted to cutting general hedges to once per two years, and that a cut could not take place between March and July. SA pointed out that the path from Belle Vue to the Church was being overgrown by the hedge; JD acknowledged that this was his responsibility and would attend to the matter. MN pointed out that the path outside Poulshot Lodge farm had been due for repair 2 years ago, and we are still waiting. The meeting felt that it would be a good idea for Highways to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain the workings. *Clerk to contact Highways for a meeting and for the works to be done.*

4.12. General Repairs

The Clerk reported that there had been no progress on this matter. *Clerk to progress.*

4.13. Village Design Guide

The Clerk reported that the matter had been referred to the Village Trust; NH acknowledged that it would be raised at their next meeting. MH reminded the Council of the unique nature of this Village, with its working farms, and that Kennet also acknowledged this and all would strive to preserve it. MN was concerned that many design guides seemed to be the work of a very few people, or the Council. He felt that it was more important that such a document came from all the Parishioners. *NH to report.*

4.14. Litter and Refuse on the Green

SA reported that garden waste was still being dumped on the Green and up one of the lanes, despite the recent notices. MH suggested that a site visit should be made, the Clerk would then be requested to write to the District authority. A note was made that one person was creating a compost heap on the Green. MN suggested that perhaps if the lane was cleared and tidied it might encourage those dumping to stop. The Clerk also reported that there was a continual nuisance of posters being placed on and around the Green by Seend, he had already written to the Parish Council, but intended to write to the PCC and the Council. *Clerk to arrange meeting and to contact Seend PCC / Council.*

4.15. Fencing in the Village

The Clerk reported that he had circulated the reply from Kennet regarding fencing along side the highway. He could not remember the limitations but would add them at a later time to the minutes. (A maximum height of 1m). This made several of the recently erected fences subject to planning laws. MH asked where the line should be drawn, and that although it is important to retain the rural nature of the Village, he felt that it was not the Councils place to regulate the Parishioners choice of fencing. The Council concurred. *No further action at this time.*

4.16. Village Green

MH stated that the Green looked good in general and had seen good use during the summer. He asked what the feeling of the meeting was, and after some discussion it was decided that a further cut would be made before the winter.

4.17. Trees by the Play Area

The Clerk reported that the Council had accepted the quotation by Hawes Macleod during the interim. He had therefore instructed them to proceed and that the necessary planning application had been circulated.

4.18. Allotment Application

Item closed

4.19. Bridge in Hay Lane

SA reported that temporary repairs had been made by the Highways authority, and at the moment it is safe. She did however wonder when the refurbishment would be complete. *Clerk to progress.*

5. 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.

- Barley Hill Lane, Approved.
- 14 Poulshot Road, Approved.
- 136 Poulshot rd, Access. Approved.
- Foxhangers, New Marina. Pending

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 £2,100. He also stated that the Audit fee had increased because the expenditure in the last financial year had increased above £5000.

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6.2. The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2006/7, reported that he would be presenting a draft budget for 2006/7 at the next meeting; all contributions from the members would be helpful. He stated that expenditure for 2005/6 was ahead of income, just as it had been for 2004/5. This was due to capital expenditure; he had made the assumption that the same level of capital expenditure will occur in future years. He had also allowed for inflation, additional Green cuts and costs of youth activities. In addition the cost of the 30mph speed limit could be substituted for capital expenditure. He circulated details of the proposed budget, and noted that he recommended that the precept be increased to £5,000, and increase of £1,500.

6.3. Payable.

1. Several accounts were payable; three cheques were signed at the meeting;
 - a. Clerks expenses £34.08.
 - b. Clerks Salary, £450.00.
 - c. Mazars Audit Fee, £141.00.
2. In the interim between meetings no cheques had been signed by Councillors.

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Sewerage

The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with Wessex Water; they had confirmed that a consultation over any work would take place. He had directly requested that they attend the next Parish Council meeting. He stated that Plans for the work at Townsend have been produced and that they were being circulated to land owners. Wessex expected that the work would begin before Christmas. He also reported that Mrs Ireson had raised several issues regarding the Worton rising main adjacent to her property. These involved noise and smell; she has requested that the main be re-routed during the forthcoming work. The Clerk had made representations on her behalf to Wessex, and awaited a response. *Clerk to progress.*

7.2. 72 The Green

The Clerk reported that he had received several complaints regarding the parking of vehicles and the storage of materials on the Green during the building work. This had been expressly forbidden in the planning approval. He had visited the site and also noticed that the boundary ditch had been unfilled with hard core and it was not possible to easily determine the boundary. He had contacted Mr Brown, who had already had the vehicles and material removed at the time of the contact. Mr Brown also undertook to make good the boundary and make good the area once work had finished. MH suggested that the site should be reviewed during the forthcoming site meeting regarding dumping; he also suggested that the planning approvals should be reviewed once work had been completed.

7.3. Fox Hangers, Marina based Parishioners.

The Clerk wished to establish if there were any Parishioners being excluded from the Parish activities at Fox Hangers. The Council were unaware of any. *Clerk to contact Kennet, and the editor of the Magazine.*

7.4. Neighbourhood watch.

The Clerk stated that he had received some interest in the post of Coordinator, he was not prepared to put any pressure on anyone, but he would contact those interested before the next meeting. *Clerk to progress.*

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 15/11/05 at 19:30 Poulshot village hall.

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