

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 19:30 on Tuesday 15th November 2005.

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 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 -

Mr Geoffrey Collett (GC) Councillor

Visitors -

There were 11 members of the public in attendance.

2. Public meeting

The Chairman opened the Public meeting and welcomed visitors. He then invited Mr Graham Davidson-Smith from Wessex Water to give a presentation. He introduced himself as the Area Asset manager and apologised that Mr Mike Oakey had been called away on an emergency.

He apologised on behalf of Wessex Water for the disruption suffered by the Village, and also made reference to the latest burst sewer main last week. He explained that the original µPVC pipe was now nearly 40 years old and that the pipe was failing under the cyclic pumping load. Due to the problems that had occurred, Wessex Water has decided to replace the complete pipe from Townsend Pump station to Potterne sewerage works. Design and costing are complete and the work is expected to start in November and proceed through February, approximately 8 – 10 weeks. He pointed out that the work was originally scheduled for February 2006 but because of the failures he had decided to bring the work forward. The only delay could be due to access to property; however a reduced statutory notice was being sought at the minimum of 41 days. The Council have seen the plans, and Mr Davidson-Smith presented plans to the audience. He pointed out that hedges would be removed and replaced, the hedges would be made good. The ERA had been consulted and had approved the works. As a 6 week notice to close the road is necessary, he was hoping to avoid closing the road and the plans showed a routing that would prevent that. At this point the Chairman invited questions from the floor.

- Concern that the impact of these works should be kept to a minimum? *Wessex will offer a 24hour help line to solve any problems that might occur.*
- What about Generators running all night as per the previous work? *That was not envisaged this time. But if traffic lights are required a local power source will be used.*
- Will we have to live next to a building site again? *No, the impact will be kept to a minimum.*
- Will Mill lane be closed? *It is thought that the section in Mill lane will take 3 – 4 weeks, the pipe itself is not running up Mill lane, and all the properties along Mill Lane will always be accessible.*
- The Plan has been changed to move the pipe away from Mill cottages, is that so? *Yes.*
- Can the Worton Riser be plumbed directly into the Poulshot Riser, in order to avoid the smell and noise nuisance currently experienced by Mill cottages? *It is hoped so, a decision will be made before Christmas and the Village will be informed.*
- How can we be sure that all will be made good? *Wessex will take photographs, before and after.*
- Is there any compensation to be offered? *I am not in a position to negotiate this and this should be referred directly to the legal team at Wessex.*
- Have Wessex been fined for all the pollution they have produced, and if not why not? *The issue of fines is a matter for the ERA and I have no information on this matter.*
- What is the likelihood of further problems occurring after this work? *There are no guarantees in life, however a 6" pipe is being replaced with a 9" pipe constructed of a modern high performance plastic that test indicate will be more resilient.*

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- Could members of the public contact him directly? Yes, *Graham.Davidson-smith@wessexwater.co.uk*

The chairman thanked Mr Davidson-Smith for his presentation and invited him to return after the works are completed.

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 13/09/05, 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. He mentioned that a speed survey report had been conducted by Wiltshire Safety partnership and that the results had been circulated to the Council. JD pointed out that the survey showed that an average speed of 33mph had been recorded by the equipment that had been placed close to the Old Chapel. It would seem that the 40mph limit was adequate. MH pointed out that the Council is committed to a 30mph speed limit; The Clerk noted that he had been contacted by Mrs Carr and that Kennet are unable to offer financial assistance towards the speed limit. MN suggested that the limit should not be dependant upon finance from Kennet. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to progress the matter. *Clerk to progress.*

4.2. Youth

The Clerk reported that Mr Tim Nixon had been contacted and that as Rowde was involving some Poulshot children already it would be better if there was a collaboration between Poulshot Parish Council and Rowde Youth Club. The Council felt that this could be a way forward and 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 he had contacted Gordon Brown about carrying out the work and that he expected the work to start during the next three months. The Clerk reported that a grant of £250 had been allocated for the works. *MH to progress.*

4.6. Play Area

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area but that it could do with a clean, she would contact Mr Nixon. MN reported that he had used the repair compound successfully and had repaired the hole in the safety surface. The Clerk once again pointed out that he had not yet received an invoice for work don by Mr T Nixon, he also stated that he had circulated the safety report for 2005. *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 was due to start in December, and that the garden at 17 Poulshot rd had been tidied. *Clerk to report.*

4.8. Foot Path status

The Clerk reported that no further communications had been received. He stated that the documentation provided by Gleam had been circulated to the Council and that the Council had expressed a wish to become a member of Gleam. MH asked the Council if that was the wish of the Council and it was decided unanimously to join. *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

The Clerk reported that there had been flooding in the front garden of No 29 Poulshot Rd as a result of blocked drains and poor verge design. He had reported the matter to Highways. MN also had noted the problem and deplored the lack of action by Highways. The Clerk has invited Highways to be represented at the next meeting in January. MN noted that the road sweeper had been down the main road, but there had been little effect. MN also stated that he had reported blocked drains to Highways. *Clerk to arrange next*

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meeting.

4.11. Litter and Refuse.

SA reported that garden waste was still being dumped along the track ways and on the green. MH stated that the hedgerows along the tracks were going to be cut back to try to prevent further offence. MN noted that notices had been put in the Parish magazine and that Kennet District Council had written to neighbouring houses warning of the problem. The Council therefore suggested that the Clerk write again to the District Council and to the magazine. *Clerk to progress.*

4.12. Village Green

MH reported that one more cut of the green would occur before the winter. He also pointed out that he had received an informal approach to discuss with the Council the probability of setting up a full size pitch with the potential for a regular Sunday league game. NH asked who would then be responsible for cutting the grass. MN asked what would happen to the cricket pitch, or indeed what about Volleyball in the summer. He did state that at the moment the cricket square still existed if someone wished to use it. JB pointed out, years ago there used to be regular football matches. MH suggested that this be raised at the next meeting. *MH to introduce at next meeting.*

4.13. Bridge in Hay Lane

SA pointed out that the Hay lane bridge repairs remain temporary but safe.

4.14. Village Design Guide

NH reported that the Village Trust was considering the issues involved in a Village design guide. The Trust is interested in incorporating the Conservation statement and had been in touch with Kennet. At present they are awaiting a reply to questions posed. He did not expect an early result.

4.15. Neighbourhood watch

The Clerk reported that Mrs Piper was considering becoming the coordinator, but that he was awaiting her response.

4.16. Trees by the Play Area

MN & NH reported that the trees had been pruned but they were unhappy that the pruning had not been as high as they wished.

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.

- Wessex Water – Rising Main
- 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 £3000.

6.2. The Clerk reminded the Council that he had circulated draft budgets for 2006/7 some time ago and that he had requested that the precept be increased to £5000 for that period. Now had come the time to approve the matter. MH called for a proposal. MN proposed the budget, and NH seconded. The budget was approved unanimously.

6.3. Payable.

1. Several accounts were payable; three cheques were signed at the meeting;
 - a. Clerks expenses, £18.14
 - b. Wickstead Leisure £93.41.
2. In the interim between meetings no cheques had been signed by Councillors.

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Sewerage

This item was covered in the body of the meeting.

7.2. 72/74 The Green

The Clerk reported that he had received information that a Right of Way had been registered with the Land Registry in 1997 for No 74 the Green he had circulated copies of the documents that he had been given and he had requested further information from the registry. MN as a former owner pointed out that to his knowledge no Right of Way existed. TC reminded the meeting of the 12 year rule which would give such a right. MN remembered that the Council had given permission to park a vehicle. MH stated that this was an important matter, and that the Clerk must investigate further and report back. *Clerk to report.*

7.3. Posters

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The Clerk reported that he had now reached an agreement with Seend that no further posters would appear in Poulshot. In future Seend would ask that their posters be placed in the appropriate notice board.

7.4. Xmas trees.

The meeting was informed of the arrangement by Kennet for Christmas tree recycling.

7.5. Police Reorganisation.

The Clerk informed the council about the important meeting taking place on the 21st regarding reorganisation and possible amalgamation of the Wiltshire police force. Councillors were urged to attend.

7.6. Lackham Vintage Society.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Day had again requested to use the Village Green during 2006. The precise date being 21st June. The Council considered that the last meeting was a complete success and that the Clerk should respond in the affirmative.

7.7. Grass Verge outside 43 Poulshot Rd.

The Clerk informed the Council that he had received an enquiry from Sarsen on Behalf of their tenants at No 43 Poulshot rd. They had noted that their Hedge was being damaged by cattle. MH pointed out that the verges and roads have been used in the village by cattle for a lot longer than any houses. Poulshot is a rural working environment and the farming activity is to be encouraged. As far as he was aware no rules, or laws were being broken; and he doubted that the damage was being caused by cattle, but by the age of the hedge and its lack of maintenance. SA asked what had happened to the proposed hard core standing that had been approved for this property; the Clerk replied that the proposal had been withdrawn by the tenants. MN declared his interest in this matter as it was his cattle that were the source of the complaint. JB pointed out that Sarsen should know better and that the position of this property right next to a working farm was bound to incur some disturbance from the farmer in pursuit of his livelihood. JD noted that most of the complaints about farms come from newcomers to the village who have some idyllic idea of how the countryside should be. MN told the meeting that he only moved his cattle during 9 months of the year and they would be inside for the winter shortly. He said that no other neighbours had complained of hedge damage and that his cattle were generally not eating the hedgerows. In this case a dry ditch might also be one of the reasons for the hedgerow dying, as well as the elders that composed it coming to the end of their life. MH asked the Clerk to pass these sentiments back top Sarsen.

7.8. A Letter of Thanks.

The Clerk read a letter of thanks to Mr Guy Fawkes for providing the Bonfire night fireworks.

7.9. Over Sixties Party.

NH passed on the annual request for funding to the Chairman. This was a request from Lady Kate Hunloke for the Over Sixties party. The Clerk would circulate the request during the interim.

7.10. Devizes Town Centre.

TC asked that the councillors and the parishioners make their voices heard regarding the proposed development of Devizes town centre.

7.11. Devizes Hospital.

MN asked that the Council support the need for a community hospital in Devizes and deplored any plans to remove such a valuable resource to this community. PR pointed out that a review was currently underway and the results would be published in the New Year. However the financial deficit of the health authority was huge and growing. MH related a story regarding the lack of local beds threatening the health of patients. TC pointed out that the authority had closed one ward and that it was now being used as an office. MN reminded the meeting that only a few years ago money was realised from voluntary efforts in the local area to keep one ward open and to provide equipment, what happened to that money? It is obvious that there is too many bureaucrats. MH stated that the hospital must remain open!

7.12. Village Hall Lighting.

MN informed the meeting that the Village Hall committee was considering the issue of outside lighting and was considering the lighting of path between the hall and the car park. He suggested that this be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 10/1/06 at 18:30 Poulshot village hall.

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