

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 19:30 on Tuesday 4th July 2006.

Parish Council Meeting

1. Attendance

Attending -

Mr Michael Hues (MH) Chairman
Mrs Sue Aldridge (SA) Councillor
Mr Joe Dyke (JD) Councillor
Mr Malcolm Nixon (MN) Vice Chairman
Mrs T Carr (Kennet District Council)
Mr Joe Baber (JB) Councillor
Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Apologies -

WPC Anne Deuchars
Judy Edwards (Neighbourhood watch Coordinator)
Mr Nicky Hunloke (NH) Councillor
Mrs P Rugg (Wiltshire County Council)

Absent -

Mr Geoffrey Collett (GC) Councillor

Visitors -

There were 5 members of the public in attendance. Inspector Carline Evely of Wiltshire Police attended also.

2. Public meeting

The Chairmen opened the meeting, he asked for any comments from the floor.

The issue of Dog Mess was raised and in particular it was noted that although most dog owners are well behaved, some are cleaning up the mess, but are throwing the bag full of mess into the hedges. This is a matter of public nuisance and can be dealt with if any one witnesses this anti social activity. Any one witnessing this or dogs fouling public places should report it to the Clerk. It was asked if signs and collection bins could be placed around the green, this might stop the fouling of the football pitch. The Clerk was asked to enquire about this service. He was also asked to publicise the matter in the Parish News.

Goal posts on the green, has anyone been nominated to repair them? The Posts are in good condition, but the holes are a bit loose so the posts are wobbling a bit. The Council has no maintenance program, but has installed a series of parallel post holders and parishioners using the posts are welcome to move them over to other holes and straighten the posts. This also helps prevent the grass from wearing in front of the goals.

A comment was made regarding dogs chasing cars on the green, and that this might cause an accident. This is the responsibility of the owners and not a matter for the Parish Council.

Complaints were repeated about the activities of Mrs Johnson in the Terraces, her anti-social behaviour is now regarded as unacceptable by most that have come in contact with her. The Council has frequently referred the matter to the Police, Kennet and to Sarsen over the last few years. Inspector Evely was able to enlighten the meeting regarding the procedures that were being followed and that the Police were aware of Mrs Johnsons long history of nuisance. She explained that a new protocol was being developed and that John Galbally was now in charge of Anti-Social behaviour and that she was meeting with him the next day and would be referring the matter. All in the meeting were aware that Mrs Johnson actually needed help, but were at a loss as to what that might be or where it should come from. The body of the meeting felt that a ASBO was appropriate because of the repeated nature of Mrs Johnsons behaviour.

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions, and as there were none, he introduced Inspector Evely. She explained her position as the Devizes area inspector and that she was newly arrived. She praised the work that Anne Deuchars had done and explained that she had moved to the control room at HQ Devizes. She also apologised that Anne had been unable to attend many parish meetings due to pressure of work. The system was now changing and that temporarily we would have three dedicated beat officers to cover our area, which of course included several other villages. Crime in the area and in the whole country is actually decreasing, but the public perception is that it is increasing. Because of this the Police are responding by changing the way they deal with communities. By April 2007 there will be a beat manager with dedicated community support officers, their job will be to get to know the villages intimately, they will visit all parishioners and find out what is troubling them. Actions will then be taken to address the "perceived" problems of that community. She cited several trials

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of the new system that had been extremely successful and gave examples of how the new community policing had improved situations. She also stated that the community officers have the ability to operate with other agencies to give an overall response to problems. Officers that are assigned these duties will remain for at least two years allowing a consistent approach to be developed. From this time all Parish Council meetings should be attended by the officers concerned. Response times to emergencies will not suffer but this new approach will allow officers to deal with the annoying minor issues of every day life in the community. Our neighbourhood watch coordinator should also start to receive weekly emails of "intelligence" from Patrick Soother which will allow her to make the village aware of any local problems.

In response to her asking for questions, the floor asked about speeding through the village. She asked that those observing speeding vehicles should let the Clerk have the numbers, he would forward them to the Police and these motorists would then be targeted. The accident black spot at the Worton junction was mentioned and Inspector Evelyn agreed to look into the problem.

The Chairman thanked the Inspector.

The Chairman thanked those participating and closed the public meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 2/05/06, 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 the notices of change had been placed in the newspaper and on poles in the village. JD asked what was going to be done about enforcement as there was not a speeding problem when the last measurements were taken. MH suggested that a period of time after the introduction of the new speed limits should elapse before the matter was reviewed. *Clerk to progress.*

4.2. Play Area

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area. There are no problems. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

4.3. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that he had now received the complete set of information from Community First, and would be completing the course work when he had time. *Clerk to report.*

4.4. Lengths mans report

GC being absent, no report was given. *GC to report at the next meeting.*

4.5. Litter and Refuse.

JD reported that grass cuttings in bin liners had started to appear at the bend in Mill lane, MH was at a loss to understand why people were so determined to fly tip they were expending petrol in doing so. SA pointed out that grass cuttings were also being dumped. JD and MH both expected to see an increase in fly tipping with the change to Kennet refuse collection policy. *SA to report.*

4.6. Village Green

SA noted that the grass around the pond was too high, MH agreed to attend to the matter. As the pond was now almost dry some action should be taken. MH reported that a site meeting at the pond had taken place and it had been decided to repair the damaged drain pipe and to dam up the outflow. This was in an attempt to increase the water level in the pond. GC had volunteered for the work, and MH would ask him to proceed. MH also agreed to have the football pitch rolled during the winter, in an attempt to flatten it. *MH to introduce at next meeting.*

4.7. Bridge in Hay Lane

SA reported that the bridge was now unsafe, and the rails had been secured with bailer twine. She also reported that a truck had tried to get down the lane to repair the bridge but it was unsuitable for the job. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways urgently. The Clerk pointed out that the other bridge in question near Lodge farm had been repaired successfully. MH agreed. *Clerk to progress.*

4.8. Village Design Guide

The Clerk reported unfortunately he had been forced to reschedule the presentation by Marion Rayner and that it would now take place in November. *NH to progress.*

4.9. 72/74 The Green

The Clerk reported that there was no progress at present. *Clerk to Progress.*

4.10. Church Triangle

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MH reported that a site meeting the members found the triangle area satisfactory, but that some regressing should take place later in the year.

5. Plans

There had been various plans presented in the interim, the status of which was reported in the agenda to the meeting.

- Tree Felling at 23 Poulshot rd – under consideration.

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, as required under law, then proceeded to read out the statutory obligations under the Local Government Finance act. He had previously provided copies to the members attending. He then asked the Council if it was in agreement with the obligations and that it was agreed that the financial statement and obligations were signed on its behalf by the Clerk and the Chairman. All voted in favour and the documents were duly signed in the presence of the meeting.

6.3. Payable.

1. Several accounts were payable; no cheques were signed at the meeting;
2. In the interim between meetings several cheques had been signed by Councillors.
 - a. Wessex Water £69.07 (green gardens)
 - b. Rowde School £250.00 (grant)
 - c. WALC insurance £360.50

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Refuse Collection on the Green

MH stated that a change in collection policy on the Green by Kennet District Council had caused great anguish to those effected residents. In essence this would mean that aged parishioners might have to move heavy bins some considerable distance. However he was happy to report that after considerable work by SA on behalf of the council and residents she had arranged for site meetings and the Kennet officials had now agreed that the current system would comply with health and safety requirements and so could continue.

7.2. Pond on the Green.

MN pointed out that GC was not in attendance and that the matter had been dealt with under a previous item.

7.3. Farm Sale.

MN reported that he was having a farm sale on the 25th of July and asked if permission would be granted for temporary parking on the green. MN asked those present and all approved.

7.4. Rowde School.

MH asked that the Clerk arrange a meeting at Rowde School in order that the council could see the improvements being made. *Clerk to arrange#*

7.5. Village Green.

The Clerk asked to make a statement, MH agreed. The Clerk stated that he was most upset with various activities on the green. Particularly as the council is so keen on preventing litter and fly tipping. He pointed out that residents around the green were variously, dumping piles of hard core and grass cuttings. Some residents were delineating areas outside their properties with large stones and cut logs, essentially enclosing areas of the green, an activity specifically mentioned as illegal in the byelaws. This area is the pride of the village and belongs to the whole village and not just those living around it. SA pointed out that the stones had been placed to prevent large vehicles from crossing over a low area in the green and before damage had occurred to a water main. MH felt that a heavy handed approach would not be fruitful, and therefore volunteered to meet those responsible and ask them to desist. SA offered to remove the stones outside her property forthwith, MN also agreed to do the same. *MH to progress.*

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 5/9/06 at 18:30 Poulshot village hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

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