

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 18:30 on Tuesday 4th September 2007.

Parish Council Meeting

1. Attendance

Attending -

Mr Michael Hues (MH) Chairman
Mrs Sue Aldridge (SA) Councillor
Mr Geoffrey Collett (GC) Councillor
Mr Nicky Hunloke (NH) Councillor
Mr Joe Baber (JB) Councillor
Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Mrs P Rugg (PR) (Wiltshire County Council)
Anthony Lake (AL) (Kennet District Councillor)

Apologies - Mr Steve Housby (SH) Councillor
Mr Malcolm Nixon (MN) Vice Chairman

Absent - Wiltshire Police

Visitors - There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

2. Public meeting

The Chairman welcomed the public and introduced Councillor Lake from Kennet District Council. He then asked Councillor Lake to say a few words. Councillor Lake introduced himself as a Conservative, and is interested in the well being of rural life. He informed the meeting that although the Unitary Authority for Wiltshire had been given the go-ahead; Kennet District Council and two other councils were mounting a legal challenge that had a 50% chance of success. He also pointed out that whilst Kennet was cash rich, WCC owed £7,000,000. He informed the meeting that Kennet had taken a strategic decision to suspend its capital projects such as a new computer system and new vehicles. This was because of the uncertain future; it had decided to spend this £2,500,000 on affordable housing (50%) and to allow the other 50% to be available as Grants for local communities, which could provide funding for up to 80% of a project. Possible projects could include village halls. He also understands that there have been issues with planning in the past; unfortunately he cannot go back over old business but in future he will be more than happy to get involved.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lake, and informed the meeting that yet again there was no representative of the Police attending the meeting. The Clerk notified the meeting that due to the number of incidents and lack of response by the police he had written to the Chief Constable reminding him of the promises that had been given at previous meetings. The Chairman made reference to petty vandalism, petty theft and a major theft at Townsend, and as always called for vigilance.

The chairman thanked those participating and closed the public meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 3/07/07, 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. Playground safety

SA reported all is well.

4.2. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that no further action had been taken and he was waiting upon Community First.

4.3. Lengths Man report

GC reported that the steward had not been planned for August, but would be painting railings shortly. He also noted that the path at Belle Vue had been sprayed however this just revealed the poor state of the path.

MH asked if the parish was 100% happy with the steward and his program, GC responded that given the

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poor resources he was.

4.4. Village Green

MH reported that east side of the Green was still full of weeds, however it was felt more time and cuts were needed. He also reported that tenders for cutting in the next season were being sought, but it was still not intended that the green be turned into a lawn. MH reported that he had received a complaint regarding the state of the green, and particularly the football pitch. He asked the meeting if it was being used. SA stated that children were using the pitch. MH said that a suggestion had been made that the football pitch be maintained entirely by those using the football pitch. The Clerk added that he had put those responsible in touch with Simon Franklin, the contractor for cutting. NH suggested that this was a good idea. MH suggested that the Council would support this idea with a contribution towards petrol, as offers of mowers had already been received. MH apologised for any misunderstanding and also for the state of the Green prior to the Motor rally.

4.5. Village Design Guide

NH reported no further progress.

4.6. 74 The green

The Clerk was pleased to report that the matter was now closed and that the land registry had altered its entry.

4.7. Guest speakers

MH asked all for any suggestions for speakers in the future.

4.8. Footpath Signs

SA reminded the meeting that her request for "farm vehicles only" signs had been prompted by misuse of the tracks by 4 wheel vehicles, as there had been no violations for some time she was content to let the matter ride. The Clerk reported that he had sign manufacturers ready should a need occur.

MH reported that highways were in the process of clearing Broadway lane, and may also be going to clear Hooke's lane. GC reported that the engineer had mentioned the possibility of using road rubble to repair the lanes. The Clerk was asked to clarify this with highways.

SA asked MH about a footpath in his field that was impassable. (poul20) MH stated that DEFRA did not permit them to cultivate to within 1.5m of a ditch. NH pointed out that this was not cultivation, but making good a public right of way. MH acknowledged this and agreed to refer the matter back to DEFRA.

4.9. Reorganisation of local government

PR asked the Clerk to supply her with a set of written questions regarding Unitary status, and she would endeavour to get answers.

4.10. Footpath by Lodge Farm

MH reminded the meeting that the footpath was due for work in the next 2 months, but that it would not be finished with Tarmac. The Clerk confirmed that budgetary constraints were the reason. MH asked the Clerk to find out how much the tarmac finish would cost.

4.11. Safety at the C244 junctions.

The Clerk reported that Highways had offered a site meeting regarding the junction with the A361, however it was their opinion that no visibility issues existed and the "give way" sign is appropriate. The Clerk also reported that he had written to Worton Parish Council about the Seend/Worton road junction and was awaiting a reply. He reminded the meeting that this junction was not in Poulshot parish.

5. Plans

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

- Belle Vue Farm – approved
- Tree works 11 Barley Hill. – approved
- 1 Poulshot rd. Extension – approved
- Clover Cottage, tree works – approved
- Barleyfields, Garage extension – approved
- 60 The Green, extension – approved
- Chestnut trees, the green – pending
- 17 Poulshot Rd – driveway, pending

No further discussion of plans took place at the meeting.

6. Accounts

6.1. The Clerk presented the current financial position.

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- 6.2. The Clerk reminded all that the Budget and Precept for 2008/9 was due for review at the November meeting, and asked for contributions.
- 6.3. Payable.
 1. Several accounts were payable; but no cheques were signed at the meeting;
 2. In the interim between meetings several cheques had been signed by Councillors.
 - a. Hawes McLeod - £220.00
 - b. Kennet DC - £522.00
 - c. M Wilson - £450.00

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Moles on the Green.

NH said that he had received complaints that moles were invading gardens from the green.

MH asked if this was a problem, and all agreed that the matter was worth monitoring.

7.2. Plantation fence in Hay Lane.

NH asked if this fence could be removed. The Clerk reminded the meeting that this had been considered at a previous meeting and had been approved.

7.3. Grants.

MH suggested that the village hall trust should apply for a grant from KDC, as suggested by AL. GC supported this idea as the roof was going to need some major work.

7.4. There was no other business.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 6/11/07 at 19:30 Poulshot village hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

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