

# **Poulshot Parish Council**

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall  
At 18:30 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

## **Parish Council Meeting**

### **1. Attendance**

#### **Attending -**

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

#### **Apologies -**

Wiltshire Police Representative  
Mr Malcolm Nixon (MN) Vice Chairman  
Mrs T Carr (Kennet District Council)  
Mrs P Rugg (Wiltshire County Council)

#### **Absent -**

Mr Joe Dyke (JD) Councillor

#### **Visitors -**

There were 8 members of the public in attendance. Will Harley from Kennet District Council attended also.

### **2. Public meeting**

The Chairmen opened the meeting, he asked for any comments from the floor. None were forthcoming; he therefore introduced Will Harley from KDC.

Mr Harley introduced himself as the conservation officer for KDC. He is part of a team in the planning office responsible for policy and landscaping matters, there are 4 in the team. Kate Williams is responsible for listed buildings and conservation in Poulshot. He works with Simon Turner who is responsible for trees. Will concentrates on grants and planning matters. The administrative side and first contact is John Fishlock, and almost all information can be found on the website [www.kennet.gov.uk/planning](http://www.kennet.gov.uk/planning). they do not deal with KDC owned land or property, KDC have their own officer for that.

Tree protection is dealt with by them in the form of preservation orders and conservation areas, whilst the large scale plantations are dealt with by the Forestry Commission who issue felling licences. All trees in a conservation area are protected when they reach 75cm diameter or 1.5m high any work on such trees must be notified, but dangerous trees require a shorter notification period. It is up to the owner to prove that trees are dangerous and felling/damaging trees without permission carries severe penalties.

6 trees in Poulshot currently have preservation orders on them, mostly opposite Manor farm, next to Barleyfields. These trees have no value, and it is likely that the order may be rescinded. The office gets roughly 2-300 applications for tree work per year, and unapproved tree work carries a fine of up to £15,000 per tree. Regular work such as pollarding can be dealt with by repeat requests on a more informal basis. The hedge protection act of 1997 protects all field boundaries apart from those adjacent to dwellings. 8 weeks notice is required before any work can be undertaken on any hedge. The high hedge act is essentially an anti social behaviour act, and applies to evergreen hedges above 2m. There is one issue in Poulshot at the moment, and that is being dealt with after arbitration. Arbitration is always the first resort as there is a £300 application cost for resolution by KDC.

Landscape conservation grants are an important part of the work and they have been preserved despite a small reduction in the percentage available to the applicant. All grants and policy stem from the survey that was undertaken of the area and is now enshrined in the conservation statement. They cover conservation, planting, and maintenance. MH then invited questions.

1. There are now restrictions to cutting and maintenance of hedges, what effect is this having? There is no doubt that small well maintained hedges are home to more wildlife, the legislation is self defeating in places.

Approved By Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Can a grant for maintenance in the green garden be obtained? It is not possible to apply for retrospective grants, but if the work is ongoing it may be possible to consider an application.
3. Horse chestnut trees and the current disease? There is some debate as to the cause but we do have the problem in the area, and KDC is discouraging planting of the species, substituting with Hornbeam or London Plane. Wet conditions tend to exacerbate the problem which is evident by a staining on the trunk followed by death in 2-3 years. Basically the root is rotting, and the worst area is Tidworth. Remember Horse Chestnut is not a native species.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harley.

The Chairman introduced Judy Edwards and asked her to update the council on Neighbourhood watch.

Judy was able to confirm that she was receiving regular updates from the police, and that the coordination was good. She had found volunteers to cover the disparate areas of the village but needed a volunteer for Townsend. She is continuing to communicate via the magazine. After some discussion it was decided to erect NW notices at the entrances to the village, and Judy was able to confirm that being in a NW area statistically lowered crime figures and decreased insurance premiums. The Clerk pointed out that although the police had not attended this evening, they had been in touch and relayed that they had no issues to discuss and that no reported crime had taken place in the village. MH reported that a gang of youths had stolen some drinks at Manor farm and had been apprehended by Mr Plank. He also reported a group of 14 year olds walking in the centre of the road, throwing stones at cows, and damaging signs. It was also reported that they had been seen hanging around Townsend.

The Chairman thanked those participating and closed the public meeting.

### **3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of last meeting 4/04/06, 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 change of speed limit in Poulshot had been approved, and would now be implemented. A delay to sign erection had been imposed by the large amount of work caused in Devizes by changes to parking arrangements. He also pointed out that the council were still expecting consultation on the type and positioning of signs before implementation. *Clerk to progress.*

#### **4.2. Play Area**

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area. The annual inspection had taken place and the loose bricks noted therein had been removed. T. Nixon had been informed that some cleaning was required. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

#### **4.3. Quality Parish Councils**

The Clerk reported that he had made no progress. *Clerk to report.*

#### **4.4. Lengths mans report**

GC reported that he was happy to receive any observations or complaints from the parishioners, he would then pass them on. The Clerk reported on the new parish steward scheme and said that he would write a short piece for the magazine. MH pointed out the vast sums being spent on new vehicles for the stewards. The Clerk reported that although our steward was supposed to have been named by the end of August the council had not been informed. *GC to report at the next meeting.*

#### **4.5. Litter and Refuse.**

SA reported that all seems well, although a small amount of grass cuttings had appeared down the lane POUL11 by the side of the green. No report of Dog mess problems had been received. *SA to report.*

#### **4.6. Village Green**

MH reported that all seemed satisfied with the grass cutting, and that he was pleased the residents on the east side of the green had removed the stones from in front of their properties. He thanked them for their cooperation. He also stated that he spoken to the owner of the pile of chippings at the west of the green, the owner had agreed to remove them quickly. MH has yet to speak to those at the west of the green about the grass cuttings and the wooden obstacles. The Clerk had reported that he had received a request that the trees at the south edge of the green have their crowns raised, the meeting agreed and the Clerk will request the work to be completed. *MH to report at next meeting.*

#### **4.7. Bridge in Hay Lane**

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SA reported that the bridge was now safe – in fact it was wonderful, all agreed. The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint regarding the state of POUL20, but that the landowner had put the matter right very quickly. The Clerk had reported a faulty style at the south eastern end of POUL20 to highways. *Clerk to progress.*

## **4.8. Village Design Guide**

NH reported that Marion Ryan of Community First would be speaking on this subject at the next meeting. *NH to progress.*

## **4.9. 74 The Green**

The Clerk reported that a legal opinion had now been received and circulated. It would seem that no “right of way” or “right of access” existed or could be claimed. However it is possible to register a “right of way” across the green under section 68 of the rights of way act 2000. If a property were to do so then the parish would be entitled to levy a charge. As this is obviously a delicate matter the Clerk asked for guidance. The meeting discussed the issues and suggested that as a first step the owners should meet with the Chairman and Clerk. They should seek a mutually beneficial agreement where the owner rescinds the claim of “right of way” and the council grants the access rights in writing as it has done in all other cases. If the Clerk has to write to the land registry to rescinding the claim on behalf of the Parish, he should have the councils solicitors check the wording before it is sent. *Clerk to Progress.*

## **4.10. Pond**

MH reported that he had been to the pond and it was now almost totally dry, he would therefore be arranging for GC and himself to repair the drainage pipes damaged earlier in the year. They would also erect a spill in an effort to try to keep the pond fuller all year round. MH also noted that the bull rushes are easy to pull up at the moment; he therefore proposed to give the pond a good clean at the same time, without the use of mechanical aids. *MH to progress.*

## **4.11. 29 Poulshot Rd**

The Clerk reported that the curb had now been raised but that highways had not put a new drain in. He would chase this, but had also reported that Sarsen had not cleared up after themselves. *Clerk to progress.*

## **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 – Rejected.
- Tree Felling at Middle Green – approved.
- Change of use to land at Holme close. - under consideration.

JD, although not attending had requested that the matter of No 23 Poulshot rd be reviewed, which in light of the attendance of the conservation officer seemed opportune. The Clerk reported that the trees had now been the subject of a preservation order, thus preventing their removal. The original request for felling had been rejected as the trees were healthy and in a conservation area.

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 £2900.

### **6.2. Payable.**

1. Several accounts were payable; the following cheques were signed at the meeting;
  - a. Clerk’s salary. £450.00
  - b. Clerks Expenses. £88.54
  - c. Wicksteed Playground inspection. £47.00
  - d. Franklin Grass cutting. £414.78
2. In the interim between meetings several cheques had been signed by Councillors.
  - a. Bobby Van donation. £50.00
  - b. CAB Donation. £50.00

## **7. Any Other Business.**

### **7.1. Elections May 2007**

The Clerk reported that the elections were due in May 2007, and that he would be keeping the public informed through the magazine. He also pointed out that all members should be up for re-election, and that there would be a statutory payment due to KDC for legal notices etc. he would be budgeting for this in the 2007/8 precept.

Approved By Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **7.2. Police Authority meetings**

MH reported that unfortunately he had been unable to attend and hoped to go next time.

## **7.3. Recycling skips**

The Clerk had circulated the dates for proposed placement of plastic and cardboard recycling skips, and asked that they be confirmed by the meeting. The following dates were confirmed.

Mon 2nd Oct 06 11:30 – 13:30 village hall

Mon 11th Dec 06 11:30 – 13:30 village hall

Mon 5th Feb 07 11:30 – 13:30 village hall

## **7.4. Website**

The Clerk apologised as the website, although fully operational, had disappeared from the Google search listing. He is doing everything he can to rectify the situation.

## **7.5. Mrs Johnson**

The Clerk reported that Sarsen had decided not to pursue the matter of Anti Social behaviour with Mrs Johnson. However he had been approached by Mrs Johnson asking for help in relocation, he has since contacted Sarsen to this end.

## **7.6. Refuse Collection**

MH pointed out that he was dismayed regarding the collection of refuse once per fortnight, he suggested that this was a health risk. Others reported seeing maggots in the bins. The meeting felt that a strong letter should be sent to Kennet requesting that weekly collections be resumed. *Clerk to write.*

## **8. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7/11/06 at 19:30 Poulshot village hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

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