

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 19:30 on Tuesday 6th March 2007.

Parish Council Meeting

1. Attendance

Attending -

Mrs Sue Aldridge (SA) Councillor
Mr Geoffrey Collett (GC) Councillor
Mr Nicky Hunloke (NH) Councillor
Mr Malcolm Nixon (MN) Vice Chairman
Mr Joe Baber (JB) Councillor
Mrs P Rugg (Wiltshire County Council)
Mr Michael Hues (MH) Chairman
Mrs M-G Brothers (MG)
Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Apologies -

Judy Edwards (Neighbourhood watch Coordinator)
Caroline Evely (Wiltshire Police)
Mrs T Carr (Kennet District Council)

Absent -

None

Visitors -

There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

2. Public meeting

MH opened the meeting he commented on the excellent turnout. He opened the meeting to the public and welcomed Wing Commander Brailsford.

Wing Commander Brailsford is serving at RAF Lyneham, He has been there on and off for 23 years he is in charge of planning training missions. Although He cannot promise to provide free travel He would like to organize a visit for the Parish at some point.

Low flying is a problem and it is important for all flight crew to be properly trained in this important aspect of the job. Lack of training can lead to accidents and also to danger in the theatre of war. After all in the UK people complain by telephone but in Afghanistan they start shooting at us. Most of the training takes place at night, prior to this, simulators are used at Lyneham to bring the crews up to a basic level of training. At the moment is at a minimum because most of the aircraft are deployed in theatres of war at the moment. Aircraft are also limited to how much flying they can do before maintenance, thus keeping transit times as short as possible is important. This means that Keevil is an ideal airfield to use as it is close to Lyneham. It also allows the RAF to bring in other units of the Armed services into play creating a complete operational scenario. Most of the time Keevil is used for special operational exercises, and not circuits and bumps. Other UK airfields are used as well as beaches, however Keevil will always remain an important facility. Sometimes foreign facilities are used but these create large logistical problems. Approximately 15 different military units use Keevil as well as a gliding club, a model aircraft club and a motorcycle club. Keevil will be used for at least 12 to 15 days per month, with more during the summer, usually the night work is accomplished at times of full moon, and of course this is more annoying in the summer as the nights are later and thus the nuisance of noise is later in the evening. If operations are to be extended into what might be called unsocial hours, a strict system of approval is followed. The benefit of this intense training is shown by an excellent accident record. Mention of a low flying incident was made by one parishioner was made, and the Wing Commander promised to follow up on this. He mentioned that by the end of 2012 operations will cease at Lyneham, but operations will move to Brize Norton, this will affect Keevil's use. He did mention that if parishioners were particularly disturbed they could ask for a red avoid, in which case the RAF would attempt to avoid their property. The problem with this is that if ever one did this, the RAF could not train.

The Chairman thanked WgCmr Brailsford, and stated that the mood in the village was one of support and the village was pleased that the RAF were protecting us.

The Chairman reported that Inspector Caroline Evely from Wiltshire Constabulary was unavailable. But that an incident of vandalism at the village hall had been referred to the Police.

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The Chairman then informed the meeting that Judy Edwards was unavailable.

The Chairman thanked those participating and closed the public meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 9/1/07, 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. Speed & Weight Limits

The Clerk reported that the speed limit seemed to be having an effect he warned that the police would be monitoring speeds throughout the village in the next few months. It would seem that this matter was now at a Close.

4.2. Play Area

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area, but that a green moss had appeared. She had asked Mr Nixon to clean the area. The Clerk reported that he was awaiting Mr Nixon's invoice. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

4.3. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that he had made no progress, although there was some evidence from recent government documentation that this issue was going to become very important. *Clerk to report.*

4.4. Lengths mans report

GC reported that a weed spraying program had now been agreed and this should control the weeds this year. Highways have no funds at present for footpath repair. The Clerk explained that he had been having no luck with Rod Gibbs at highways, and had asked for a meeting with Peter Hanson to which Parish Councillors were invited. He hoped that by meeting with the boss some attention to Poulshot would be forthcoming. *GC to report at the next meeting.*

4.5. Litter and Refuse.

SA reported that all seems well. *SA to report.*

4.6. Village Green

MN reported the green is saturated and that it will be rolled and chain harrowed when the weather is better. *MH to report at next meeting.*

4.7. Sewers on the Green

MH stated that better weather was required, but Wessex Water had agreed to do the work. The Clerk stated that he had been in touch with Wessex and asked them to attend a meeting with MH on the green. This was to agree a time schedule and also to discuss a proud manhole cover. He had also suggested that the Parish might do the work and charge Wessex. MN pointed out that the work that Wessex had done on the green and at Townsend had been successful and he felt that this had prevented flooding during the wet weather this winter. As all felt the same the Clerk was asked to write to Wessex and express its thanks. *MH to progress.*

4.8. Tracks on the Green

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the splays onto the road were in poor state and widening all the time. MN suggested that all the splays be tarmac covered as some had been successfully been covered. MH asked if the council should spend money on this. The Clerk reminded the council of its duty to protect the green. GC noted that the refuse truck had recently driven on the green. MH stated that in general the green heals itself, but that repairs to damage could be beneficial. *Clerk to report further.*

4.9. Stones on the Green

The Clerk once again stated that these stones were not allowed, but as had been agreed at the last meeting no action would be taken until the issues of controlling access on the tracks had been undertaken.

4.10. Dog Mess on the Green

The Clerk stated that he had circulated details of dog mess bins to the council, however he had been unable to source and collection and disposal service in Wiltshire. Kennet do not undertake this, however West Wiltshire do. As such the issue of dog mess disposal is a dead issue. However he had contacted the dog warden who would be patrolling from time to time. *Item closed.*

4.11. Village Design Guide

NH stated that 7 replies had been received form the article in the Parish magazine, 3 included offers of help and all were in favour. However he felt it was a poor response from the village overall. He was not sure if

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the higher authorities would take any notice of a statement, but on balance we were probably better with it than without it. He noted that the responses were to J Quinn the magazine editor.

A member of the public stated that the village needs a consistent voice and if you care about the village you should stand up and be counted.

MN said that he was initially sceptical but now supported it.

NH pointed out that we could choose our own format and that some results by other villages were very professional.

MH said that the future is important, and we do not get a lot of help from WCC, if they take over Kennet the design statement might protect us. Perhaps we should ask for volunteers at a separate meeting.

NH stated that the design statement might carry more weight than the conservation statement, and that a meeting should be organised. He will contact the magazine to suggest a meeting in the village hall on a separate occasion he also agreed that quite a big team might be required.

MH said that it is something that we should go ahead with. *NH to arrange meeting.*

4.12.72 The Green

The Clerk reported that he had written to the owner as the council requested, a reply had been received but did not specifically ask for a second access. He then read the letter to the meeting. MH felt that the letter was unworthy of comment and that the owner was uncooperative. The meeting felt that it was not worth taking the matter further, and asked the Clerk not to take any further action.

4.13.74 The Green

The Clerk reported the owner was in the process of writing to the land registry. No progress at the moment *Clerk to Progress.*

4.14. Green Gardens Hedge Trimming

MH reported this as complete. The Clerk reported that some tree work had also been completed here and in the plantation. *Item closed*

4.15. Townsend Footpath

The Clerk reported that a site meeting had taken place at Townsend with Mr Postlethwaite an engineer from WCC. Since that time he had been unable to obtain a written response from WCC, he was finding it very frustrating. *Clerk to progress.*

4.16. Pond on the Green

GC reported no further action at this time. *GC to follow up.*

4.17. Guest speakers

At the next meeting the chairman of WCC will be explaining the proposed Unitary Status.

4.18. Water in Green Gardens

GC reported that the water was turned off and he was awaiting dryer weather to determine if a leak had occurred. *GC to follow up*

4.19. Elections 3rd May

The Clerk reported that election nominations had been distributed to all showing an interest. He had further copies if anyone else would like to stand.

5. Plans

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

- Higher green farm – Approved
- Access for Wayside Cottage – approved
- Change of use Ravenscroft – approved
- Extension 60 the green – refused
- Trees at Townsend – approved
- Trees at lower green farm – pending
- Office at Manor Farm – pending
- Tents at Belle Vue farm – pending

Applications had been received as follows:

- A member of the audience expressed their disquiet regarding the proposed development at Manor Farm. They felt that it was the start of a larger development, they also felt that there is enough empty office accommodation in the village and surrounds. Therefore further offices are not required. MH pointed out that the Parish Council was not aware of any larger development. The audience member pointed out that KDC had received a letter from the developer. Again MH pointed out that the council was unaware of this, but

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commented that these units are currently unused and falling into disrepair, surely it is better that existing facilities are used. The current development was for just one office. MN pointed out that this might be the sort of issue best dealt with in a Village Design statement.

- The Tented holiday accommodation at Belle Vue farm was also raised from the floor. MN described the nature of the application and applauded its idea and benefit for the village. MG pointed out that the development was sympathetic to the area, and that several people had raised concerns regarding further development and also increased traffic along Mill Lane. She had met with the owner and had received reassurances on both these counts. GC pointed out that the accommodation was for a maximum of 12 people and the tents are removed in the winter. MH thought the plan laudable and far preferable to a caravan park.

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 £4200.

6.2. Payable.

1. Several accounts were payable; the following cheques were signed at the meeting;
 - a. none
2. In the interim between meetings several cheques had been signed by Councillors.
 - a. Over 60s meal £ 200.00
 - b. Welcome Pack £25.00
 - c. Clerks Wages £450.00
 - d. Clerks Expenses £77.92

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Footpath Signs.

The Clerk reminded the council that about 18months ago it applied for restriction signs on the tracks within the village. This had been refused by WCC on the grounds that all access right were being reviewed. SA had asked the Clerk to review the situation and he had accordingly written to WCC again. SA noted that there had been incidents of motorcycles being used in Hay Lane. MG said that this was annoying, and MH said that it should be monitored.

7.2. Ditches

MH reported that he had cleared the ditch to the north of the green gardens in Hay Lane. This problem had now been solved; however the ditch along side the main road by Sillington lane was still blocked. The problem seemed to be with a collapsed culvert. The Clerk said that he was in touch with WCC estates who would undertake remedial work shortly.

7.3. Football.

MH had met with Jan Winters and had come to an informal agreement as to maintaining the football pitch area. He is keen to support any such activity in the village, but setting out permanent markings or increasing the pitch size at this time seems a little premature until the group grew a little. SA reported that the cricket club were thinking of re-forming. MN was not in favour of permanent markings and also felt that regular events might damage the green.

7.4. Reorganisation of Local Government

PR explained that the WCC bid for unitary status was being reviewed in March. She also stated that the bid was as a result of KDC not cooperating with the pathways for change scheme. She stated that 80% of all work was done by WCC and that services at Parish level will stay the same. The bid was as a result of 18 months work and was supported by PCTs and the Police. The Clerk asked how much the bid had cost, PR did not know. MH felt that it was all a waste of time and would end up costing the tax payer more. MN felt that the Parish Council should write to the Secretary of State.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 1/5/07 at 18:30 Poulshot village hall. (this is also the AGM)

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

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