

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 19:30 on Tuesday 7th November 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
Mr Nicky Hunloke (NH) Councillor
Mr Malcolm Nixon (MN) Vice Chairman
Mr Joe Dyke (JD) Councillor
Mrs T Carr (Kennet District Council)
Mrs P Rugg (Wiltshire County Council)
Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Apologies - Judy Edwards (Neighbourhood watch Coordinator)

Absent - Wiltshire Police Representative

Visitors - There were 8 members of the public in attendance. Marian Rayner from Community First attended also.

2. Public meeting

The Chairmen opened the meeting, he asked for any comments from the floor. None were forthcoming; he therefore introduced Marian Rayner from Community First.

There is a difference between a Parish Plan and a Design statement.

A Parish Plan is a Business plan or strategy that tries to define the future of the Parish. It has no formal status but can help to influence Government and Local Government issues. It also deals with social issues and shows that the Parish council is thinking about the future.

A Design statement defines the Village character and is a formal document that the Local Planning authority has to consider. It covers the environment and buildings.

You do not have to have either, but there are disadvantages to not doing one, the conservation statement can be used as a basis but firstly it does not cover the whole village, and secondly it is not a formal statement of design or strategy. Both are important to obtaining Quality Council status, and the documents link into community area plans and area strategies.

The government has given strong hints that further devolvement of power to Parishes will take place. The importance of Councils consulting with Parishioners is vital and is encouraged. The Plan and statement are a part of that consultation process. Grants are available of up to £3500 for the preparation and presentation of Parish plans. Do not underestimate the amount of work involved and generally speaking sub-groups are usually set up of about 8 people, containing at least 2 Parish Councillors. They take between 15 and 18 months and usually funding of £1000 to £3000 is required, the Parish council must pay at least 5%

Even some small villages are taking part, but it would seem that Poulshot may be too small to consider a Parish plan. The Design statement might be more relevant as it defines the character and type of housing in the village, as well as the hedging, fencing, woodlands and many other aspects. Ed White from KDC may be willing to help by discussing these issues at a meeting.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Rayner.

The Chairman then informed the meeting that Judy Edwards was unavailable, and the Clerk then proceeded to read out a statement from her. It seemed that she was still awaiting the neighbourhood watch signs and that she had reported the disruptive youths mentioned at the last meeting to the police.

Approved By Chairman _____ on _____

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The Chairman thanked those participating and closed the public meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 5/09/06, 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 he had now received the plans for signs from Wiltshire. He asked the meeting to decide upon the colour of the "start of restriction" signs. Grey or Yellow. The Grey was chosen unanimously. The Clerk went on to inform the meeting that the speed limit would be imposed early in July and the details would be circulated shortly. He also reported that the number of signs in the current 40mph area would reduce as account was being taken of the street lighting that was in place already. *Clerk to progress.*

4.2. Play Area

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area. *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 had met the Parish Steward and that he had been concentrating on cleaning drains. The steward had also referred Belle Vue and Lodge Farm pavements for extensive remedial work. He stated that spraying was not allowed, JD suggested burning of weeds from pavements, GC will investigate. MH said that the pavement by Lodge farm was very dangerous. JD reported the gutters at Manor farm were bad. *GC to report at the next meeting.*

4.5. Litter and Refuse.

SA reported that all seems well, although the pile of grass cuttings was still in place. The gravel had been removed and the lanes looked ok! Some Parishioners reported that they had received a second wheelie bin. TC reported that Xmas collections would be 1 day late. *SA to report.*

4.6. Village Green

MH reported that perhaps one further cut could be made as the grass was still growing. The hedge around the Green Garden needs attention. *MH to report at next meeting.*

4.7. Village Design Guide

As per Public meeting. *NH to progress.*

4.8. 72 The Green

The Clerk reported a complaint regarding the lack of progress in replanting a hedge alongside the green, and also that two vehicular accesses had been created off the Green. He stated that the original plans had been re-circulated and reviewed. According to the plans only one access was planned and approved. He had referred the matter to KDC and they in turn had referred the matter back to Poulshot. He asked for comments from the Council. MH stated that the overall implementation of the development was blending in with the Green, however only one access is permitted and this could set a dangerous precedent. MN agreed, and said that a letter should be written asking for the single access to be reinstated, SA agreed. The meeting asked the Clerk to write. *Clerk to write.*

4.9. 74 The Green

The Clerk reported he and the Chairman had met with the owners. MH stated that the owners were very pleasant and willing to accept the compromise suggestions of the council. The Clerk stated that the details of a letter to be sent to the owners had been circulated, and the next step would be to review the reply from the owners. *Clerk to Progress.*

4.10. Pond

GC reported that the drainage pipes had been repaired but that the dyke had not yet been implemented. *MH 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 – a new application had been received.
- 39 Poulshot Rd, Hedge height enforcement notice.
- Tree works on the green – approved.

Approved By Chairman _____ on _____

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- Tree works at the old Rectory - approved
 - Change of use to land at Holme close. – refused, and reapplied.
- (The meeting briefly discussed the reapplication with a smaller 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 £5300. The Clerk reported that a good margin was being created to fund the speed limit, and all was in line with reducing the Precept for the year 2008/9.

6.2. The Budget was presented for the next financial year and the precept having being discussed at the previous two meetings was formally voted. MN proposed adoption and SA seconded the meeting was unanimously in favour of the £5000 precept which was signed by the chairman and Clerk.

6.3. 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. Mazars Accounts £152.75.

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Sewers on the Green

The Clerk reported that the work had been successfully completed and that he was still in contact with Wessex Water regarding landscaping. MN reported that the reseeded had been patchy and that the ground had areas of clay exposed which would cause weeds to grow. He also suggested that the area would need rolling when the weather improved. The general feeling was that the contractors had done a good job, but were caught by very poor weather at the end of the project. The Clerk was asked to write to Wessex in order to praise them for a job well done and to request additional landscaping work in the spring, including an application of top soil. *Clerk to action.*

7.2. Planning permission for access to Higher Green Farm from Sillington lane.

The Clerk reported that Higher Green farm has been sold in plots, just before the sale Wiltshire County Council applied to KDC for an agricultural entrance off Sillington lane onto the fields at the rear of Poulshot Rd. This was approved without consultation with Poulshot Parish Council, as is the procedure with Farm applications. The Clerk had written to Ted Howles at KDC asking for a review to this procedure as additional information had been obtained from the estate agents. Whereby they were intending to sell this land as development potential with access to Sillington Lane. KDC assured Poulshot that the entrance could only be used for agricultural purposes and should this be abused the permission would be removed. They also gave assurances that planning permission for housing development on the property would not be forthcoming. Further information was obtained that the agents were claiming that a right of way existed and that Sillington lane was an adopted road along its length – right up to this new entrance. This is not the case as confirmed by rights of way at WCC. MH summed up the feeling of the meeting, stating that KDC should refer all applications to Poulshot as local knowledge was vital for making sound decisions. He also confirmed that Poulshot Parish Council was opposed to any development to the rear of properties on Poulshot rd. on the old Higher Green farm. He did state that it would not be right to leave the farm buildings to rot and that the council would support a limited development for 2/3 nice houses, provided they were well designed. Reference was made to village design guides. JD said that if the Council was to allow such a development there should be something in it for the village – such as a village shop etc. The meeting agreed with this but was unsure what that “something” should be. JD also mentioned that a lot of farms are being sold for development and this would be an area where a parish plan or design guide. NH stated that development was controlled by the conservation statement, MN pointed out that the conservation statement did not cover the whole village. He also summed up the councils views that no large developments should be permitted in the village. MH said that sadly Higher Green farm would never be a farm again. *Clerk to monitor.*

7.3. 138 Poulshot Rd.

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been made about stones that had been placed on the verge outside 138 Poulshot rd. he had applied through Highways to have them removed, and that Highways were in the process of enforcement. *Clerk to monitor.*

7.4. New Footpath at Townsend.

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The Clerk reported that he had received several complaints regarding the new footpath which had been constructed as part of the development at Townsend opposite the Sewerage pumping station. Essentially it was out of character with the village and not in keeping with the conservation area statement. He had re-circulated the original plans which were difficult to interpret and did not show the nature or construction of the path. The Clerk had investigated the issue and had discovered that the developer had been forced by WCC to produce the footpath in this way and he had written to WCC asking for clarification. He then read out a letter from the officer in question, which sought to justify the nature of the design and the lack of consultation with the Parish Council. MH expressed his concern regarding the nature of the design in particular the size and types of sign, and the barriers which prevent access to the disabled and children in push chairs. MN was appalled that the Parish had not been consulted, and felt sorry for the owner and developer as they had been forced into considerable expense by WCC. MH pointed out that had the Parish been consulted a better solution would have resulted. The meeting whilst appreciating the safety benefits of a path at this point, they abhorred the implementation and in particular objected to the barriers and signs. The Clerk was instructed to ask for the barriers and signs to be removed, and to investigate further the lack of communication from WCC. PR expressed her support for the officer concerned. *Clerk to pursue the issue.*

7.5. Guest Speakers

The Clerk reported that he had now completed two years of meetings incorporating guest speakers, he had no plans to ask any future speakers. But if any one had any suggestions for future topics he would organise a speaker. MH said that the programme of speakers had been useful and hoped that it would continue.

7.6. Elections 2007 May.

The Clerk reported that further information was expected in January, and that several parishioners had expressed an interest in joining the council. He had passed these names on to MH. JD then stated that as others seemed willing to join he would be stepping down at the next election in May 2007.

7.7. Track to the south of the Green

MN pointed out that this track was in a very poor state. MH said that he was aware of this and was negotiating with the users. *MH to report.*

7.8. Green Gardens

A member of the audience asked for action to trim back bushes on the inside of the Green Gardens. *MH to action.*

7.9. Drainage on the Green

A member of the audience pointed out that some of the ditching alongside the green was channelling water directly into service access covers. *GC to action.*

7.10. Grazing rights on the Green.

JD asked what the basis for these rights was, since MN was no longer at Higher Green Farm. JB stated that he had no paperwork to support this, MN agreed. The Clerk was asked to investigate. *Clerk to report.*

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 9/1/07 at 18:30 Poulshot village hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

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