

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall

At 19:30 on Tuesday 8th March 2005.

1. Attending

Mr Michael Hues (MH) Chairman
Mrs Sue Aldridge (SA) Councillor
Mr Nicky Hunloke (NH) Councillor
Mr Joe Dyke (JD) Councillor

Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Apologies

Mr Malcolm Nixon (MN) Vice Chairman
Mrs T Carr (Kennet District Council)

Absent

Mr Geoffrey Collett (GC) Councillor
Mr Joe Baber (JB) Councillor

Visitors

PC Anne Deuchars
Councillor John Booth (Chairman Kennet regulatory Committee)
Mr Ted Howles (Kennet Planning Department)
There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman opened the Public meeting and welcomed visitors.

2. Public Comment

a. A presentation By Ted Howles regarding Planning Regulations in Kennet.
Mr Howles explained the organisation of the department for Planning in Kennet.

- Development Control & Conservation
- Forward Planning & Transportation
- Building Control & Property Management

He explained the implications of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase act of 2005, and how this would give the Council powers to purchase where ground or buildings had been deliberately left derelict in order to provide public amenity. The Wiltshire County structure plan was being replaced by a Regional Spatial Strategy which would be the responsibility of the South West Regional Assembly. However due to recent political events the planned assembly might be powerless for some time He was pleased to inform the meeting that the current structure plan was reasonably up to date and therefore would be accepted as the basis for the Regional Strategy. KDC has one representative on the Assembly and the Strategy from the Assembly will form the basis for a Local Plan.

The Local plan will be a very important document as it will be the main guidance as to approval of planning in the future, however it is possible for the Government or an individual to overrule the Local Authority should "Material Considerations" apply. Emphasis will in future rest upon Local sourcing, Community involvement, and public consultation. Plans will only be valid for 3 years, (five at the moment).

Any comments upon planning applications should make reference to or be in line with the Local Plan. Only a "Material Consideration" can be used to overrule a Local Plan. Planning considerations include.

- Settlement Banding.
- Allocated Sites.
- Highways
- Safety
- Conservation
- External Design

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- Trees
- Over development
- Over Looking
- Noise & smell
- Organisations

It is most important that Parish Councils produce a "Village Design Guide". This document should define the acceptable forms and styles of development within a village. It defines the character of the village, and would include photographs etc. This can then be used to raise objections to plans, and can also be used by architects to ensure that their plans meet with the local requirements. It can include the need to provide some social benefits to the village if development were to be approved. *(Clerk to raise the matter at the next meeting)*

A discussion regarding Travellers and the implications for planning law then took place. Mr Howles explained that the apparent reason for retrospective planning approval to be granted was on the basis of the European Human Rights legislation. This applies where the government or local authority have not provided ethnic minorities the facilities to settle. It is Government policy to allow settlement on the basis that a settled community will become a responsible part of society. However several sites exist within Kennet and therefore it could be argued that such development should not be approved within Kennet. However vigilance is counselled and at the first sign of settlement parishioners should contact the Parish Council and use the Kennet District Council Emergency telephone number.

b. WPC Anne Deuchars kindly spoke to the floor.

She reported on the speed survey figures as previously reported at the last meeting. In general she felt that there were no major speeding issues regarding the 40 mph. indeed although she did patrol the village and had used a radar speed trap, she still had no violations. She did point out that during these exercises she was parked in a very prominent position, and that any speeding car driver would have been very unobservant. She was asked by JD to comment upon a possible 30 mph speed limit. Although she was personally in favour of a 30 mph speed limit in all villages. There is no doubt that speed kills and that a reduction to 30 mph saves lives, her personal view is that Poulshot is a very active village with children playing, horse riding, and farm animals; the green is an open area where cars adopt a speed appropriate to an open area, and that they do not necessarily slow down when the road becomes narrower.

She reported that there have been a series of thefts in villages around Poulshot, vigilance is called for, and parishioners should take strange car numbers.

Neighbour hood watch should be encouraged and she suggested contacting the police liaison officer for assistance. MH suggested that we advertise in the magazine for a coordinator. *Clerk to advertise.*

The Chairman thanked the visitors and the speakers and closed the public meeting. A short refreshment break allowed those who wished to leave to do so.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 11/1/05, were approved by the council and signed by MH in the presence of the council.

4. Matters arising

Speed Limits

MH introduced the item, and regretted that only 4 councillors had attended for this important meeting. SA stated that she and MN had conducted the door to door census as suggested in the last meeting and they had passed the results to JC. She reported that the large majority had been in favour of a 30 mph limit. SA also reported that having discussed the matter with JC after he had taken a census of Barley Hill Close, that the large majority there also were in favour. MH reported that from the Lodge Farm end of the village there was also a majority in favour, but that some comments were received as to the practical implementation. JD was surprised that MN and SA had canvassed his end of the village, and felt that this was insensitive. NH stated that the people he had talked to showed indifference, but all

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stated that they wanted no more signs. MH noted that it was a pity that JC was not at the meeting to present the census results. However it was apparent that the large majority of the village were in favour of a 30 mph speed limit, and as such he proposed a motion in favour. SA seconded. The vote taken SA & MH in favour, JD & NH against. The vote being split the motion died. MH suggested that the issue being so important it should be raised at the next meeting.

Village Notice Board

The Clerk reported that the notice board had arrived, and that a decision as to position was required. MH proposed the previously discussed position opposite the Raven. SA seconded, and all voted in favour. *Clerk to arrange a working part.*

Goal Posts

MH stated that the goal posts seemed to be a great success, and it would seem that the village children and others were benefiting. The Clerk stated that the posts had been added to the list of village assets, to be written off over a 5 year period.

Grass Triangle by the Church

The Clerk had been in touch with Wessex, and had obtained a response stating that reseeding and landscaping would take place within the next two weeks. He also relayed the problems experienced by Mrs Butts, and by Mr Bremner-Milne as a result of a burst sewerage pipe shortly after the last meeting. The Clerk stated that he was in constant communication with Wessex and had obtained guarantees from them regarding these problems and making good. He also stated that compensation would also be awarded by Wessex. Wessex had made good the road after initially making a very poor repair. He stated that he had agreement from Wessex that any future work in the village (apart from emergency work) would be planned in conjunction with the council in order to minimise disruption. *Clerk to monitor.*

Youth

The Clerk reported that despite advertising for a Youth Champion, no one had come forward. This is a very sad state of affairs and the village is losing the opportunity to obtain grants. *Council to action.*

Public Consultation

MH was disappointed in the turn out for the meeting, but was pleased with the general interest being taken in the councils business. The Clerk reported that the Chairman had written to the Parish in the magazine, and that the web site and recent census regarding 30 mph were both examples of public involvement.

Council Insurance

MH reported he had received a quotation from WALC that was very competitive, and that also included additional coverage. In particular the play area and the football posts would be covered. He suggested that the policy be placed with them in June when it was due. *Clerk to administer.*

Web Pages

The Clerk reported the web pages were up and running, the magazine and some other local information was available at this time. Kennet are at the moment administering the site but hopefully the Clerk will be taking it over in April. He called for any photographs or business adverts in order that he could place them on the site. He stated that he had asked the village trust if its collections of material could be placed on the web also. All are welcome to visit www.poulshot.org.uk *Clerk to progress.*

Village Pond

MH stated that he had been passed back to Kennet by DEFRA. He had arranged a meeting on 23/3/05 at 14:00 with Mr Steve Morrel. He would be discussing the future of both ponds on the green and all are encouraged to attend. However due to the wildlife in the ponds no work can be undertaken until the autumn. He stated that several grants might be available. *MH to report.*

Charity Administration

The Clerk reported that the Charities commission had accepted that the Poulshot Parish Consuls, and Poulshot Parish allotments were both defunct charities. They accepted the trustees proposal that they should be discontinued and that their "assets" if any be transferred to the Poulshot Green gardens charity. *The Clerk to report.*

Play Area

SA stated that the wall had been repaired and that the leaves had been removed. She also stated that the dangerous trees had been cut back and that the play area was in good condition. She stated that the high pressure cleaning had not yet taken place, and that she would progress the matter with Tim Nixon. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

Car Parking.

The Clerk reported that the promised proposal from Sarsen had not been received, nor had the proposal

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of hard standing been accepted. He pointed out that this very morning the Hedge at the Terraces had been cut, but none of the other maintenance had been completed. He understood that the consultation with the tenants had not taken place and in general Sarsen were very slow in responding to repeated requests for progress. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to write to Sarsen again, expressing the Councils dissatisfaction with the response so far, considering the first approach had been made in July 2004. The Clerk also stated that he was in the process of establishing ownership of the damaged verges.

Clerk to pursue.

Foot Path status

The Clerk reported that he had applied for the restriction notices as requested by the council, however as all of the tracks, byways and bridleways are currently under review in Wiltshire, the County authority could not proceed at the moment. The Clerk further reported that the County Council had received several requests under the new guidelines to have bridle paths in Poulshot upgraded to tracks. This has been done by off road vehicle associations, and the only good news is that Poulshot Parish Council should be involved in the consultations. *Clerk to monitor.*

Village Hall

MH gave a brief background to this request from the Village Hall Committee, the Clerk reported that a formal request for funds had now been received complete with estimates. He also reported that these details had been circulated. MH then introduced Penny Telling (Treasurer of the Village Hall), and asked her to take the floor.

The following information was passed. The village hall committee had been in existence for 31 years, since the ending of the village school. The village hall is a high profile in the village, occupying a prominent position on the green, and provided a venue for village activities. However other organisations also used the venue and private lettings were encouraged. The Hall provides a centre for major village events such as the annual fete. The village hall is administered by a committee formed from the regular users groups and some villagers; it is a registered charity and therefore does not pay council tax. The trustees of the charity are at this time a little unclear and a process of registering the trustees is underway at this time. Financing of the hall comes from the Hundred club (founded in 1970 by Niel and Shirley Taplin) £1400 pa. Lettings £1500 pa. and fundraising events £200 pa. Outgoings are in the form of hundred club prizes, heating, lighting, insurance, and cleaning. In the last year Income was £3540, Expenditure £2500, and the bank stood at £2000. The hall was last decorated 8 years ago, and the committee felt that a redecoration, together with new tables, chairs and crockery would provide more lettings. The Committee is actively pursuing grant aid, but would like the support of the Council for the initial redecoration to the tune of £2000.

MH thanked Penny Telling, and congratulated her on the concise report she had given. He reiterated the importance of the hall, and a general discussion confirmed this view by the whole council. MN proposed a motion that the Village Hall Committee be awarded a £2000 grant, SA seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour. *The Clerk to write to the Committee offering the grant.*

Byelaws

No further action.

Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that he had entered his name for a course on Local Council administration, he had purchased a small book and had registered his name with the professional body as part of the process of recognition. *Clerk to report.*

Parish Assets.

The Clerk reported that there are currently two items on the register, the goal posts and the notice board. The play equipment had already been written off. A 5 year "write off" was currently being operated.

Sewerage Problems.

Item discussed under an item earlier in the meeting. *Clerk to monitor.*

5. Plans

No Plans were considered at the meeting but there had been various plans presented in the interim, the status of which was reported in the notice to the meeting. MH reported that there had been some concern over the planning application at Townsend but that with the help of JC a successful outcome had occurred.

- The Old Rectory, tree pollarding. Approved
- 41 the Green, a Balcony. Approved
- Home Close, an extension. Approved

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- Townsend Farm, Cow Shed.
- 30 Poulshot rd, an extension.
- Home Close + the Raven, a linking path. (request to the Parish) (Approved)

6. Accounts

The Clerk presented the current financial position and pointed out that roughly £4,500 remained on deposit at the bank. The Clerk also explained that he had undertaken the councils request to donate £100 to Marie Curie charity, but that the council must be aware that charitable donations should be specifically aimed towards the benefit of the Parishioners.

The Clerk explained that as the precept had been capped for 2005/6 he expected a significant reduction in monies on deposit at the bank by the end of 2006. However the accounting year 2004/5 was nearly at an end and the bank balance was still healthy despite having undertaken the purchase of several capital items.

Payable.

Several accounts were payable;

One cheque was signed at the meeting;

- Insignia, Village Notice Board, £1068.08

In the interim between meetings several cheques had been signed by Councillors;

- Youth action Wiltshire, £50.00
- WALC, clerks course, £146.38
- Clerks expenses, £62.09
- Clerks Salary, £450.00
- Marie Curie, £100.00
- Philip Ireson, £528.75
- Clerks Certificate Registration, £70.00

7. Any Other Business.

Freedom of Information Act

The Clerk reported that the relevant information had been circulated and accepted by the Council. It now formed part of the working practice of the council. The Clerk pointed out that there was one exception, that being "any inspection of records would not take place at the Clerks Home". He suggested that should any person want to inspect the records, an appointment would be made and the Village hall hired for the purpose. *No further action.*

Best Kept Village Competition.

The Clerk reported that he had entered the competition on behalf of the Village at the request of the Council. However he understood that the Judging would take place in May and June. Perhaps it would be a good idea to get a working party together in order to pick up litter etc. After discussion it was resolved that a notice be placed in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk also had informed the Village Trust. *Clerk to monitor.*

Lengths Man Report.

The Clerk reported that unfortunately MN was on holiday, and so the report would rest until the next meeting. However the details of Lengths Men work by Kennet has been circulated. The Clerk also reported that he had suggested to MN that a group of volunteers could be created to monitor their own areas of the village. They would then report any problems to MN, the Clerk could then action any request for work. *MN to report.*

General repairs.

The Clerk reported that there were several small repairs required in the village, and it had been suggested that this could provide a small amount of work for a handy man. After a short discussion it was decided to advertise for a handy Man/Woman in the village magazine. *Clerk to advertise.*

MH thanked all those for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

8. Next meeting.

Tuesday 10/5/05 at 18:30 Poulshot village hall.

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