

Poulshot Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held at Poulshot Village Hall
At 19:30 on Tuesday 9th January 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 T Carr (Kennet District Council)
Mr Michael Wilson (MW) Parish Clerk

Apologies -

Judy Edwards (Neighbourhood watch Coordinator)
Mr Michael Hues (MH) Chairman
Mr Joe Dyke (JD) Councillor (resigned at last meeting)
Mrs P Rugg (Wiltshire County Council)

Absent -

None

Visitors -

There were 12 members of the public in attendance. Ed White from Kennet District Council attended also.

2. Public meeting

The MN opened the meeting, he explained that MH was away and as such he would be acting as Chairman for this meeting. He then asked for any comments from the floor. None were forthcoming; he therefore introduced Ed White from Kennet District Council.

The village design statement puts flesh on the bones of the local plan created by KDC. The local plan is a general outline only, the design statement deals with specific issues within the village; it is voluntary and created by the villagers. There are benefits to having a design statement and help is available in the form of grants and support from KDC and the Country side Commission. Aerial photographs and other resources can also be provided. The creation of the statement requires a group of volunteers from the village, preferably not all the parish council, and all villagers are consulted and the document produced and approved. It is then adopted as supplementary planning information by KDC after a sustainability appraisal. It gets the parishioners to work together, and defines what makes our village special; it addresses the concerns of the residents and what they would like to see in the future. The conservation statement only covers a very small part of the parish, whereas the design statement covers the whole parish it deals with all the physical aspects of the village. It should not be seen as a charter to prevent development but as a document to control development. All developments or changes within the village would have to conform to the design statement, although large scale development is unlikely in Poulshot the statement can be used to help small developments fit into the village. The creation of the statement in other villages has significantly to village life and cooperation.

The Chairman thanked Mr White.

The Chairman introduced Inspector Caroline Evely from Wiltshire Constabulary. She stated that there had been three reported crimes in the village, theft of cash, theft from a vehicle, and a domestic issue. She urged all to report suspicious vehicles in the village.

As there had been numerous calls to problems at 31 Poulshot rd, the police had decided to take a different approach, all incidents would be prosecuted and no consideration would be given to mental health issues would be given. The RSPCA had removed a dog again and were also prosecuting. The community ASBO team were also reviewing the situation.

The neighbour hood policing team would be in place as planned in April, despite funding cuts. She will let the Parish Council have the names of officers when appointed. The Chairman asked for questions, and made the point that a boisterous family had been causing disruption in the village; Inspector Evely stated that those experiencing problems should keep a nuisance log and noise nuisance should be reported to Kennet. There were no other questions; therefore the chairman thanked Inspector Evely.

Approved By Chairman _____ on _____

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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 but that she expected them before the end of the month.

The Chairman thanked those participating and closed the public meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of last meeting 7/11/06, were reviewed and no comments were received. The minutes were then approved by the council and signed by MN in the presence of the council.

4. Matters arising

4.1. Cooption of Councillor

The chairman explained that Mr Joe Dyke (JD) had resigned as a councillor stating that pressure of work would not allow him to give the best to the council. The council felt that it was important to maintain the body of the council whole and in particular to have a representative from the south of the village. Several parishioners had been approached and Mrs Mary-Grace Brothers had agreed to serve as a council. Without further ado the chairman asked for vote. SA proposed and NH seconded, the vote was unanimous and therefore MG Brothers (MGB) was co-opted to the council. The Clerk reported that he was in possession of the new councillors details and that she had signed all the statutory declarations.

4.2. Speed & Weight Limits

The Clerk reported that the speed limit would become law from the 22/1/07, and signs were expected in the next week. *Clerk to progress.*

4.3. Play Area

SA reported that all seemed well with the play area. *SA to report at the next meeting.*

4.4. Quality Parish Councils

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

4.5. Lengths mans report

GC reported that the Parish steward had been clearing brambles and opening gutters close to Manor farm; arrangements were being made to paint the railings by the pond there and on the green.

The problems with the drainage channels cut into the verges had been recognised and in future cuts would not drain into utility services. The footpath at Lodge farm had been referred back to highways, but the steward had requested the council to write as well. The Clerk was tasked with this letter. *GC to report at the next meeting.*

4.6. Litter and Refuse.

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

4.7. Village Green

MN reported that some hedge cutting at the green gardens had taken place. The Clerk reported that the south track still needed work, but that the hold up had been the result of residents discussing the quotation from Browns. It was likely that a new quotation would be required as prices have increased and the track had degraded. The Clerk reported that he had not been able to find information on grazing rights. *MH to report at next meeting.*

4.8. Village Design Guide

As per Public meeting. *NH to progress.*

4.9. 72 The Green

The Clerk reported that a reply had been received and circulated to the council. MN criticised the tone of the reply but felt that there had been a break down of communications. The Clerk reminded the council of its ownership and responsibility towards the green. JB pointed out that a long time ago there was essentially two accesses to 72. In light of that and with due attention to aerial photographs and the communications at the time of planning permission MN felt that a compromise should be reached. The meeting felt that the Clerk should write to Mr Brown and ask him to formally ask for access over the green for the second entrance at the front of the property. Should that request be received it would be considered favourably. *Clerk to write.*

4.10. 74 The Green

The Clerk reported the owner was in the process of writing to the land registry. *Clerk to Progress.*

4.11. Green Gardens

GC reported that hedge trimming was awaiting better weather. *MH to report.*

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4.12. Sewers on the Green

Awaiting better weather and MN stated that rolling and seeding would be required. *Clerk to progress*

4.13. 138 Poulshot Rd.

The Clerk reported that the stones had been removed. *Item closed*

4.14. Townsend Footpath

The Clerk reported that a site meeting had taken place at Townsend with Mr Postlethwaite an engineer from WCC. After some discussion at that meeting Mr Postlethwaite was able to agree that the Barrier to the north of the path would be removed, and the barrier at the southern end to be replaced by an Oak post. This will allow access by wheel chair and push chair. He also agreed that the footpath sign posts will be removed and smaller signs of a more rural nature will be attached to vertical surfaces already available, e.g. The wall.
Clerk to progress.

4.15. Pond on the Green

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

5. Plans

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

- Change of use at Holme close – approved.
- Tree Felling at 23 Poulshot rd – approved.
- Tree works at Walnut house – approved.
- Tree works at 68 the green – approved.
- Tree works at the old Rectory - approved
- 6 The green extension – approved
- Higher green farm – pending

Applications had been received as follows:

- A change of use at Ravenscroft had been received, as this had already been approved for Holme close, the Clerk asked if the council would approve this application. A vote was taken and all approved.
- An application had been received from MN to increase the size of access at Wayside cottage. MN then declared his interest in this matter and took no further part in the discussion. The Clerk stated that the application had arrived to late for the statutory notification period, therefore he would circulate the application as normal.

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 £4900.

6.2. MN called for a vote on the reappointment of the Clerk and responsible financial officer, M Wilson was reappointed. A vote was then taken to reappoint internal and external auditors. Mazars and JS Weeks were appointed.

6.3. Payable.

1. Several accounts were payable; the following cheques were signed at the meeting;
 - a. SJ Franklin Grass cutting £129.25
2. In the interim between meetings several cheques had been signed by Councillors.
 - a. Hawes Macleod Tree work £125.00
 - b. Walc councillor packs £28.20
 - c. Wessex water green gardens £105.58 – the Clerk pointed out that this was far higher than previous, GC said that the tap was now off and he was investigating a leak.

7. Any Other Business.

7.1. Tracks on and state of the green

The Clerk reported that as a result of numerous complaints he had circulated an idea which involved the Parish Council taking over responsibility for the tracks and their maintenance. Costs would then be allocated to Parishioners using the tracks. He had also suggested a modest ditching program in order to prevent vehicle incursion onto the green, improving drainage yet still allowing full access to the green. MN

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acknowledged the proposal but he and others felt that it was unnecessary as there had been a lot of rain recently and the state of the green was nothing new. He stated that work was expected on the southern track, but the middle and north tracks were acceptable apart from the splays onto the road. Perhaps these splays could be tarmac covered for a short distance onto the green he noted that these splays were getting far too large. The east track is in poor condition and vehicles are cutting the corners. He deplored the use of stones to prevent incursions by parishioners, but he could understand it. Whilst it might be tolerable during the winter, they must be removed for the summer. Care should be taken because if delivery vehicles were to slide into a ditch the residents on the green might lose their deliveries and collections. He also felt that ditching was an overkill as the green was only wet for 6 weeks a year. GC felt that the radius of the bends could be reduced by robbing from the outside of the curve and filling on the inside, some drainage could also be applied in the very wet patch on the east track. JB outlined some of the historic drainage on the green and felt that there was no major problem. SA felt that if there were to be changes on the green all parishioners should be invited to that meeting. GC wondered if there were other forms of barrier that could be erected during the winter months. Various members of the public felt that stones on the green were an acceptable practice. MN suggested a review at the next meeting. *Clerk to action.*

7.2. Guest speakers

There was a request from the audience for someone from RAF Lyneham to attend and explain the noise at night. *Clerk to progress.*

7.3. Water in the Green Gardens.

An earlier item made mention of a possible leak. *GC to report*

7.4. SKY Aerial at Clover Cottage

The owners of clover cottage had asked if the council would have any objection to a sky aerial on their property as it was in the conservation area. The Clerk had put the owners in touch with the planning authority as there were certain rules to be abided by. He had thanked the owners for their courtesy in consulting with the Parish. The meeting had no objections. *Item closed.*

7.5. Over 60's Meal

MN reported that a letter had been received from Kate Hunloke asking for the annual contribution. A request had also been received for £25 towards the cost of welcome packs. The Clerk stated that as the statutory notice had not been given, this could not be considered. However he would circulate the request in the usual way. *Clerk to further.*

7.6. Memorial Tree

JB reported that he had received a request for the planting of a memorial tree for David Bowden to be planted in the Green Garden. MN said that there were no objections but that the type of tree should be carefully considered and that the final decision should lie with the Village Trust. *NH to further.*

7.7. Dog Mess on the green

A member of the audience complained about mess in the playing areas on the green. MN deplored that this was happening and SA also felt it should be stopped. A request was made for dog mess bins to be provided and the Clerk was asked to follow up. The Clerk pointed out that several notices had been placed in the parish magazine and that this activity was illegal, should the parish council wish they could be allowed to issue spot fines. *Clerk to further*

7.8. Football on the green

A match was held on New Year's Day, and several members of the audience were interested in more organised matches. MN put them in touch with other interested parties.

7.9. White paper on Local Government

The Clerk was asked to explain what changes would result from this white paper, he stated that it was his understanding that further powers would be devolved to the parish with the possibility that some district authorities will disappear. TC stated that Kennet would be one to go, but that this was early days and further consultations were taking place.

7.10. Regional spatial strategy

TC explained that this group met in Taunton and was the overall body responsible for planning in the south west. It set goals, for example the need for 3000 additional houses in Kennet. Several councillors and Ed White attend the meetings.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 6/3/07 at 19:30 Poulshot village hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

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