

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM
ON ZOOM

Present: Chris Davies
Phil Heneghan
Mike Willis
Andy Young
Ailsa Summers
Lisa Spivey (District Councillor)
Sean Parsons (County Councillor)
Heather Harris (Clerk)

1 member of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence.

None received.

Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2020 were approved and signed on behalf of the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

District Councillor's Report.

Report sent to the Council by Cllr. Spivey:

Council and Cabinet Meetings

Since we last met there has been:

1. a Full Council meeting to discuss continued funding to keep our leisure centres and the Corinium Museum open. The benefits to users of the leisure centres across the district was felt to be worth the continued underwriting of losses incurred due to the pandemic and the resolution was unanimously agreed on. Unfortunately, the leisure centre and museum then had to close again, but they are now open again allowing residents to benefit from the facilities on offer.

Cabinet on the 2nd November saw reports and recommendations on:

1. Partial Update on the Adopted Local Plan – A Planning Reform Update – It was decided to carry on with what work would always be need, but to await the findings on the government White Paper on Planning Reform before carrying out any more extensive work. If the recommendations in the White Paper are drafted into legislation, there will be many areas where it will require working from scratch.
2. Infrastructure funding Statement – this report outlines where s106 money has bene collected and what it has been spent on.
3. Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership
4. Improvement works to Environmental services depot at Packer’s Leaze – making it much safer especially in adverse weather conditions
5. Safety Improvements to Memorials at Council cemeteries- including a recommendation to enhance biodiversity
6. Validation of Procurement exercise to renew the framework of flood defence contractors

Full Council on the 18th November saw:

1. A review of the Planning Protocol and Scheme of Delegation. This report formalised the protocol of speakers at the planning meeting and timings allocated to each person and also looked at the scheme of delegation and how applications were referred to the committee.
2. Motion to review the current practise of letting houses in the Cotswolds for large gatherings and/or parties and how that impacts local residents and how it might be controlled so as to avoid adverse effects. A working group is being set up to look at this issue which is prevalent in many wards across the District.

And Cabinet on the 7th December saw:

1. The results of the consultation on the Green Economic Growth Strategy
2. Financial, Council Priority and Service Performance report for Q2
3. A report on Election Count review
4. An updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
5. A review of parking charges in the Rissington Road carpark, Bourton-on-the-water
6. A contribution secured for the Gloucestershire wide P3 leasing scheme
7. Covid -19 Deferral Policy for Council Commercial tenants

Since we last met there has obviously been a 2nd lockdown and the Council once again stepped up to the plate in its role in protecting the Clinically extremely Vulnerable (this lockdown’s “shielded” cohort) and made over 4000 contacts with CEV residents to make sure they had the help and support they needed. This was a mammoth job as no contact was allowed to go unspoken to, and as a result of those call, a number of people were given the extra support they needed, showing what a necessary service, it was.

This kind of operation puts a huge amount of strain on the existing services, but I am pleased to say that frontline staff worked very hard to get the job done.

In good news, the Corinium museum re-opened this week. The museum director also managed to secure £121,000 from the government's culture sector grant announced in October which is a real lifeline in these very uncertain times and the newly refurbished galleries, welcome desk and shop are looking absolutely amazing. Please support this great asset if you can.

The Barn Theatre also received almost £350,000 of grant funding from the government and has been putting on shows in the theatre as well as opening the much-anticipated cinema. I have been to all of their shows recently (all excellent) and have admired their initiative in making the experience as Covid safe as possible. Another local enterprise to support during the winter if you can.

Local businesses continue to be supported as much as possible and as we begin the final run up to Christmas, I would encourage everyone to continue to shop locally and support our market towns and their traders. In my experience, shops and hospitality venues across the district have worked very hard to make their venues as Covid safe as possible and really rely on our trade to survive.

Parking figures indicate that people are still heading into our towns and that is going to be very important over the winter as the pandemic continues.

It was decided in the November Council meeting to defer the introduction of cashless parking until 2022 as this had caused some concern amongst residents. Figures also show that the amount of people using contactless, Chip and PIN and the PaybyPhone App are not as high as anticipated, so until those numbers increase, paying with cash will remain an option.

I met with our local PCSO's just after our last meeting and had a very good discussion on a wide range of topics. I was pleased to hear that the service will see some new recruits into the district which will help with covering such a large area. We talked about the Covid response and concerns over policing the ever-changing restrictions rules and guidelines. Our local police have been trying as much as possible to work with residents and visitors to the area to encourage compliance and this has been mostly successful. There has been an increase in neighbour disputes due to everyone being at home a lot more, but again police have been trying to resolve any issues in an amicable fashion.

I asked them to get out with their speed gun to get the message across that speeding through our villages is not acceptable, which they have said they will do.

They also reminded me of the "what 3 words" app which is very useful in rural areas like ours if you need a rapid response. Details can be found here:

www.what3words.com

Finally, a note about the waste collection consultation which was due to be carried out this winter. The ongoing response to the pandemic has meant that there is currently no capacity to deal with that on top of everything else, so this has been put on hold. I know how important this issue is for residents in this ward, so I have been continuing to push for this to happen. And not just because I know how strong the feeling is regarding the garden waste service, but also because the "new normal" has meant that the waste service designed over 2 years ago and put into action this year as we went into national lockdown has had to adapt from the start and it may be that elements across the whole service need altering. Of course, the mantra is still Reduce, Re-use, recycle in that order,

but given many, many more people are working from home, the waste service will need to be able to cope with that in the longer term.

The District Councillor reported to the meeting that Covid vaccinations will commence in the district soon and systems are in place to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine. The public should wait to be called.

Cllr. Young said that renting out properties in the village is causing concern. Several houses are for holiday rental in the village including larger groups which are causing noise disturbance. Cllr. Spivey said that the District Council has a working group on this matter and Cllr. Parsons said that it is a cross party issue. The Chairman asked about Council Tax for second homes as Wales now has a 100% surcharge. Cllr. Spivey said that the District Council have no power to do that, but central Government could legislate.

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Parsons said that there had been an increase in cases in Gloucestershire and we were comfortable in Tier 2.

Bell Lane-Cllr. Parsons had spoken to Richard Gray regarding the mud on the road. He said the Wigram's have now sold the site to Rivar who are in the process of constructing the housing development. The Chairman said that the drains and verges are wrecked by construction in Bell Lane. Cllr. Young said that Rivar have a reparations budget for damage sustained.

Falcon Hill-site meeting needed with Richard Gray.

ANPR cameras-under consideration as there are several issues to be considered. He said that issuing an encrypted notice to the police would protect people's privacy. There is also a high vandalism rate.

Gloucestershire County Council budget-there will be a 5% increase on the Council Tax as 3% is needed for Social Services in the County.

Financial Report.

Payments made from the Current account:

British Legion (wreaths)	£62.50
A Buse (repairs to wall)	£114.00
Willow Gardening Services (grass and hedge cutting for 2020)	£2500.00

Balances:

Current account	£3989.43
Deposit account	£4777.02
Cemetery account	£6171.46

Setting the Precept for 2021/22

Cllr Heneghan previously presented a budget to the Council for 2021/22. The Councillors discussed the precept and the need for annual maintenance of the playground and the need to prepare for the cemetery expenses.

The Council resolved to set the precept for the financial year 2021/22 at £8000. (141220/1)

Update on defibrillator.

The defibrillator will be delivered imminently. Cllr. Summers said that the Council should wait for the delivery before ordering a case to ensure the correct sizing. Cllr. Willis will connect the defibrillator and the Chairman insisted that Cllr. Willis invoice the Council for his work.

ANPR Speed cameras update.

Cllr. Young provided the Council with the following precis:

Poulton's Initial enquiry :-

- Solar powered cameras via AutoSpeedwatch so limited operational time in deep winter.
- Apparently no data capture in dark/night hours
- Cameras each at £549, but including first year data transfer
- Annual data transfer fee thereafter ~£150 per camera
- Not an ANPR or Enforcement camera per se, but data can go to participating police (claim Stroud), and hotspot mapping can be created to assist police to monitor efficiently.



Down Ampney alternative Review

Project leader is Antony Matthews

- **Likely cost of installing a single fixed ANPR camera nr. School - ~8k + installation up to £2k**
- **Annual Maintenance cost Network cost and data transfer - £1k**
- **Apparently operates both day and night, but requires location with permanent power.**
- **Appears still awaiting official backing from Gloucestershire Police (Somerset & Wilts OK'd)**

Overall Cost appears beyond Poulton precept feasibility....

The two options for the speed camera were discussed with information provided previously by Cllr. Young. The costs being either £8,500 or £1100 dependent on requirements. The Council will discuss further when information regarding GDPR is available.

Watercourse/Bridge update.

Cllr. Young has spoken to Mr Buse regarding work needed. He can clear the bridge when the water level is low at a cost of £70-140.

Falcon Hill update.

Due to the central nature of the land opposite the Falcon and its current very unattractive state, the Councillors discussed improvements and costs involved. It was felt that posts on the corners and troughs of shrubs would be a good alternative to the £4-7000 required for kerbstones.

Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th March on Zoom.