**DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th JULY 2022**

**AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr. Simon Collyer-Bristow (Chair)

Cllr. Ed Hyslop (Vice-Chair)

Cllr. Carolyn Sleight

Cllr. Chris Davies

Cllr. Lisa Spivey (County & District Councillor)

Mrs. Heather Harris (Clerk)

No members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Spivey said that she would be delayed due to various other Parish Council meetings taking place at the same time. She would endeavour to be at the meeting as soon as practicable. [Cllr. Spivey arrived at 8.25pm]

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May were accepted and signed by the Council. There were no matters arising.

1. **District Councillor’s Report.**

Cotswold District Council (CDC) are holding workshops to investigate transport de-carbonising and accessibility to Cirencester master planning.

At the Local Government Association annual conference in Harrogate, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP committed to a two-year budget setting for councils and devolving powers. The issues raised by Councils were the cost-of-living crisis and finance from central government.

CDC are looking to have the Old Station and cottages back in use through work with Historic England.

CDC have produced a leaflet and webpage with information for people in the area about help with the cost-of-living crisis. <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/lg2pvy1f/final-stroud-and-cotswold-leaflet.pdf>

Planning - there are currently no decisions being made regarding planning within an 8-mile radius of the Cricklade Nature Reserve as it is an Area of Special Scientific Interest with a review currently being undertaken.

1. **County Councillor’s Report.**

Highways – Cllr. Spivey encouraged the Councillors and Parishioners to log and report potholes in the village. Cllr. Davies said that following the Parish Council’s Health & Safety report, there has been a quick response from Gloucestershire Highways in repairing potholes mentioned in the report.

Priory Court & Lot Lane – the Council asked that these roads have the broken white lines at the junctions reinstated and give way signs at the end of Priory Lane.

The Chair asked Cllr. Spivey about the viability of introducing a 30mph speed limit throughout the village. She said that this would possible but would need a Traffic Regulation Order and this would be a costly and slow process. Cllr. Davies asked about installing red hatching on the road to indicate no overtaking in the current 40mph road out of the village to the east. Cllr. Spivey said that this would be more straightforward to implement.

The Chair asked about the purchase of an ANPR camera and if the Police would act on the data collected. Cllr. Spivey said that there is a Highways Fund which could be accessed, and that funding was also available for speed guns.

Cllr. Collyer-Bristow asked if Gloucestershire County Police being placed in special measures had impacted negatively. Cllr. Spivey said this was because of broken manifesto pledges to recruit two hundred new officers, they had not been responding as they should. She said that there are only two PCSO officers who work 12 hours a week.

1. **Financial Report including Account balances.**

Payments made from the Current account:

Refund to Cllr. Hyslop (speed gun) £204.24

GAPTC (membership) £116.74

Payments received into the Current account:

HMRC (VAT refund) £231.38

Account balances:

Current account £6394.79

Deposit account £4778.74

Cemetery account £9458.39

The Clerk confirmed that an amount of £1800 is expect soon from the company Tom Gillibrand works for. Mr Gillibrand applied for the funding which is to be used for new playground equipment.

1. Update on Casual Vacancy.

The Councillors have co-opted Mr Tom Gillibrand onto the Council. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting on this occasion. The Chair said how good it was to have new people in the village who were willing to get involved.

Cllr. Davies is moving house to live in Fairford, as this is within the 3-mile radius stipulation for Councillors, he will continue as a Councillor in Poulton.

1. **Report on Speeding & Traffic.**

Cllr. Hyslop said that following the Village Meeting, the parishioners are keen to support the purchase of a static camera which will cost approximately £4000 however, Mr Hutchinson had indicated that he may be able to provide a more affordable prototype from his company.

Eight sites have been submitted to the Police for conducting the Speedwatch and approval is awaited. Fifteen volunteers have come forward and being trained. All the paperwork has been completed. Cllr. Hyslop conveyed his frustration that the project was taking so long to start due to the bureaucracy involved but, he hoped that it would be able to start in August.

Cllr. Sleight asked if the County Councillor for Highways, Cllr. Morris (who lives locally) might be able to assist with the reduction of the speed limit on the London Road east from 40mph to 30mph. The Chair will write to Cllr. Morris. Cllr. Davies said that the stumbling block was the lack of housing on the other side of London Road east. He said that red hatching may be a way forward. Cllr. Hyslop felt that painting the road would give the illusion of narrowing, which may slow speeding traffic. Cllr. Sleight said that the villagers had given the Council a remit to pursue the reduction in the speed limit at the Village Meeting.

1. **Report on Cemetery.**

Following the Village Meeting, the Council discussed the options already investigated over the past few years. After the land swap next to Englands was rejected by the landowner, other locations were offered as an alternative, firstly land on the junction of Lot Lane and secondly, behind The Paddocks at Ranbury. Land owned by another large landowner at the end of London Road east was also identified. The Chair will put together a questionnaire for the villagers detailing the options and giving an overview of the financial implications.

1. **Repairs to Playground equipment.**

Repairs-a new seat is required on the see saw and the Space net needs weeding. New bark is required to the appropriate depth, this will be approximately £300. The Chair will organise a working party in August.

Development-the Councillors discussed Crowdfunding for new equipment and using the Build Back Better fund. Cllr. Collyer-Bristow said the Council should be investing the children in the village. Cllr. Davies said that the Council needed to take the lead on the playground and provide new equipment that the children will use such as, a basketball net on a soft surface area. The Chair will speak to Cllr. Case in Meysey Hampton to discuss crowdfunding. Cllr. Spivey said that CDC can contribute £10000 to each project. She said that Meysey Hampton had eighty backers for their crowdfund.

1. **Defibrillator Annual Check.**

Cllr. Davies said that the British Heart Foundation advised that the defibrillators do not need an annual check as they are programmed to self-check. The battery has a 5-year lifespan, and the pads need to be replaced in February 2023. A record of checks is required in case of a Coronary Enquiry. The Clerk offered to do a weekly check and keep a notebook in the defibrillator to record the checks. The code C159X will be put in the Poulton Eye regularly to ensure that villagers are aware of it. Training on the use of the defibrillator will be investigated.

**Any Other Business.**

Jubilee – The Chair said a substantial amount was raised for the Cricket Club from the Beer Festival. A donation will be given to the Church and the Village Hall.

Flooding – Cllr. Davies said the bund needs to be extended and he will contact Kevin Jacks regarding this.

The Old Churchyard – The Chair will write a letter of thanks to Julian Jackson for maintaining the Old Churchyard at the The Priory.

House on the Corner – Cllr. Davies said that the peacock hedge was still overhanging the footpath reducing access for pedestrians.

The meeting ended at 9.26pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 10th October at 7pm.