**DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th DECEMBER 2023**

**AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr. Simon Collyer-Bristow (Chair)

Cllr. Ed Hyslop (Vice Chair)

Cllr. Chris Davies

Cllr. Tom Gillibrand

Ms. Caroline Allanson (Trustee, PPF&AC)

Mrs. Heather Harris (Clerk)

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **Apologies for my absence.**

Cllr. Spivey sent her apologies to the Council; she was unable to attend the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2023 were approved and signed.

1. **County Councillor’s Report.**

The County Councillor did not attend the meeting.

1. **District Councillor’s Report.**

The District Councillor did not attend the meeting.

1. **Financial Report including account balances.**

Payments made from the current account:

Poulton Parochial Church Council (PoultonEye) £250.00

Willow Gardening Services (grass & hedge cutting) £2500.00

GoDaddy (domain name – 2 years) £28.78

Royal British Legion (wreaths) £45.00

Poulton Village Hall (hall rental) £88.00

Balances:

Current account £5612.01

Deposit account £4807.91

Long term deposit £15834.09

1. **Budget for 2024/25 including setting of the precept.**

Cllr. Gillibrand presented the Council with the budget for 2024/25. He reported that the current precept of £10000 will cover the annual costs plus provide monies towards the playground refurbishment and the speed cameras. He has allowed for 5% inflation in costs. *The budget and setting of the precept were resolved by the Council. (111223/1)*

1. **Speeding & Traffic Report.**

Cllr. Hyslop reported that Gloucestershire Police had come to meet him in the village and have now approved and authorised the following four locations for static Speedwatch cameras:

The four cameras will be placed at:

London Road, Ranbury Eastbound

London Road opposite Nurses Cottage (40 mph) Eastbound

London Road opposite Pedmore Cottage (30 mph) Westbound

The Butts, Cricklade Street Northbound

The long-term plan to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph needs a substantial amount of data. The proposed reduction in speed limit is hindered due to housing being on only one side of the road.

Bell Lane will have signage for ’20 is plenty’ and the handheld speed camera will be used in this area.

Cllr. Hyslop reported that he is still waiting for a quote from Gloucestershire Highways regarding the costing for erecting poles for the cameras. Hopefully, by mid-January, we should have the full costs involved and fundraising can commence. Villagers have already expressed an interest in funding the cameras. The Chair said that the Police Commissioner had also offered any help required.

1. **Report on Playground Refurbishment.**

Cllr. Hyslop reported that Cllr. Spivey’s help was required with the crowdfunding as there is a frustrating technical problem. He had completed the crowdfunding application online but was unable to send the relevant documentation and had requested a meeting with Cllr. Spivey regarding this.

Cllr. Gillibrand said that two quotes have been obtained to replace the OXO tower and agility trail. He said the Cllr. Spivey’s help was required with the crowdfunding as there is a frustrating technical problem. The Chair will contact Cllr. Spivey and arrange a meeting at the beginning of January. Cllr. Hyslop will inform the Clerk regarding which policies are needed for the Crowdfunding application and she will contact GAPTC regarding these policies. The new policies, if obtained, will be approved by the Council as a whole before being made part of the standing orders.

The Councillors discussed other funding streams which will be investigated.

1. **Appointment of Trustees.**

Mrs. Allanson kindly attended the meeting from the Playing Field & Allotment Charity to give valuable input regarding the current situation with the Charity and the ongoing issues faced.

The current Trustees are as follows:

Freddrick Folkestad (Chair) – resigned due to end of term after many years of service.

Paul Burnip – stepped down due to ill health after many years of service.

Claire Turner – wishes to resign but has agreed to attend meetings until April.

Roger Davies – resigning due to a house move in January.

Caroline Allanson – current Trustee.

Three applications were received by the Council for the positions advertised for Trustees. All candidates presented strong applications and clearly have much to offer the Charity and the village as a whole. It was noted that two the candidates are relatively new to the village, and this was very welcome. The Councillors discussed the applications which were from competent and worthy individuals who are very community minded. The Council felt that the candidates represented a great combination of skillsets and had no conflict of interests. After much debate it was decided that Sanjay Saxena and Jane Davidson would be appointed as Trustees at this stage and the third candidate, whose application was objective and clear and offered excellent background knowledge, would be asked to reapply in January for the position currently held by Roger Davies.

Mrs Allanson said that it would make sense to have a member of the Cricket Club as a Trustee or to attend the Trustee meetings.

Cllr. Davies said that all Trustees should be from the village. The Chair said that Trustees should be consulted on all decisions regarding Englands. Cllr. Davies said that the pavilion is a problem with regard to costs involved. The Chair said that Will Bathurst intends to step down at the AGM of the Cricket Club and the post will be advertised. Cllr. Hyslop asked why a formal lease with a cost of £500 per annum should prove such a problem for the Cricket Club. The Chair said the Cricket Club have been charged a low rate of £50 per annum for 22 years and were unhappy with the increase. Cllr. Davies said that the Cricket Club have misread the village feeling and that many families are involved in the club from the village and support the Club.

The post of Clerk to PPF&AC will be advertised by the Charity.

1. **Any Other Business.**

Cllr. Davies reminded the Councillors that emails regarding Council business should be copied to all Councillors and the Clerk.

Flooding Meeting – The Chair attended the meeting which had Thames Water in attendance, they said that billions of pounds had been committed nationally to alleviate flooding. Cllr. Davies said that the bund to the west of the village needs extending.

Dangerous Hedge – the hedge at Springbank was once again discussed. Another near miss occurred. A mother with a pushchair was unable to walk safely along the footpath as it is blocked by the protruding hedge. The mother approached the owners who were antagonistic. The Councillors said that Gloucestershire Highways should be contacted by villagers to enforce the cutting back of the hedge. The Parish Council have approached the owners on numerous occasions, but the hedge has only had a small trim.

Website – the website needs a volunteer to run it and keep it current.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7pm.