**POULTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th JULY 2024**

**AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr. Ed Hyslop (Vice Chair)

Cllr. Chris Davies

Cllr. Tom Gillibrand

Mrs. Heather Harris (Clerk)

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Collyer-Bristow and Cllr. Spivey and accepted by the Council. Cllr. Hyslop chaired the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 were approved and signed by the Vice-Chair.

1. **District Councillor’s Report.**

The District Councillor did not attend the meeting or send a report.

1. **County Councillor’s Report.**

The County Councillor did not attend this meeting or send a report.

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

Payments into the Current account as at 7/7/24:

Three private donations to the Playground project totaling £8,631 were received into the Current account. A transfer of £5,108.30 was made from the Current account to the long-term deposit account.

Two cheques were signed at the meeting:

Sovereign Design Play £10,657.42 (deposit for the playground refurbishment)

Spacehive - £5,531 (donation monies transferred to crowdfunding from direct contribution)

Balances as at 7/7/24:

Current account 22,737.67

Deposit 4,838.79

Long term Deposit 13,643.66

1. **Speeding & Traffic Report.**

Cllr. Hyslop reported that the end of the data collecting period has been reached. The Council will now select ten offenders per week for the Police letter. Persistent offenders will be targeted as a priority. One vehicle, a black Tesla, has been recorded fifteen times travelling considerably over the speed limit and without an MOT. ANPR recognises 80% of the number plates correctly with AI matching the misread licence plates with vehicle information for the 20%. Cllr. Gillibrand asked if early morning speeders could be prioritised before the winter.

The sitings of the posts have been approved for Nurses Cottage/Pedmore Cottage on the London Road in both directions and The Butts. The installation date is currently being negotiated. The Councillors discussed the merits of putting a camera in the centre of the village perhaps, outside the bus shelter. The idea will be discussed again once the additional cameras are up and running.

Cllr. Hyslop said that the official speed camera signs 2’ x 2’ in size will be used and will be installed by September. Cllr. Davies said that the Police conducted a speed enforcement exercise recently in Ranbury.

The Clerk was asked to contact Gloucestershire Highways regarding reinstatement of the lorry weight limit sign by Springbank Cottage. This sign had been damaged, along with the dry-stone wall of the garden, when a stolen vehicle crashed into the wall one night recently whilst overtaking a transporter lorry. The vehicle did not have any lights on. The signpost will possibly be used for one of the new speed camera signs.

1. **Report on Flooding Meeting.**

Cllr. Davies reported that he had attended the meeting. Lawrence King had confirmed that the bund will be increased in size ‘before the winter’, the Clerk was asked to email Cllr. Spivey to give him a gentle reminder. Charles Horton, the landowner, is reported to be happy with the works behind the Old Packhorse Inn.

Cllr. Davies said that the sewer is still overflowing in Priory Lane and is being reported each time as requested by Thames Water. Cllr. Davies had received an email response within 24 hours, but not about the sewage overspill.

1. **Report on Playground Refurbishment.**

Following the Crowdfunding success, with 182 villagers contributing, the new playground equipment has now been ordered. Cllr. Hyslop has negotiated with the company to ensure that it is installed by the August Bank Holiday weekend. The works will include a new basketball net and all-weather surface at the furthest point away from the bungalows, replacement tower system and agility trail and repairs to all existing equipment. The new equipment will be under warranty.

1. **Any Other Business.**

Cllr. Davies reported that Joan Nunn, who was a previous Clerk, has passed away.

Graffiti – Cllr. Davies reported that this has been seen on both the village noticeboard and the defibrillator. It has been cleaned with the hope that it will not be a recurring incident.

Phone box – The Clerk reported that the phone box has now been repainted by BT and the Council thanked villagers who had taken the time to clean the phone box recently.

Burglaries - Cllr. Gillibrand made the Council aware that there have been burglaries within the village recently.

1. **Playground Plaque.**

A Villager had suggested that a plaque be placed on the playground in memory of Mr Hutchinson, who was a previous Vice Chairman, however, after consulting Mrs. Hutchinson, it was felt that he would not have wanted a plaque and definitely not without the names of all those who helped with the previous playground project.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 14th October at 7pm in the village hall.