

POUGHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on **Thursday 20th September 2018 at 8pm**

Present: Cllrs. C Crossman (chair), W Hopson (part), A Williams, P Colthorpe plus seven members of the public: Sarah Taragon (Recreation Ground committee), Valerie Lark (Village Hall committee), Robert Taylor (Village Hall committee), Sharon Collingwood (Village Hall committee), Karen Wellerd, Paul Mapp and Liz Rogers.

- 1. Public Questions** – Paul Mapp, also on behalf of his wife Alison, raised three points
 - a. Bus shelter** – urgent maintenance is required to prevent further deterioration. The chairman confirmed this was in hand.
 - b. Stone retaining wall behind the bus shelter** – is collapsing and there is a risk of pedestrians falling over the displaced stones.
Council deemed this to be a Pyncombe-Poughill Trust responsibility
 - c. Erection of fence and hedge** – Mr Mapp informed the Council that the Pyncombe-Poughill Trust have agreed in principle to a fence and hedge being erected to protect Talomme (the Mapps' family home) from vehicle damage. The Council appreciated being informed and confirmed that Mr & Mrs Mapp may proceed without planning permission.
- 2. Apologies** – Devon C Cllr. Mrs M Squire for absence and Cllr A Williams apologised for missing the July meeting due to ill health.
- 3. Declaration of Interest.** None of the Councillors had anything to declare
- 4. Minutes of Meeting held on 12th July 201** – Approved on proposal Cllr Hopson, seconded Cllr Colthorpe
- 5. Matters Arising** –
 - a.** The correct spelling of Wellerd was noted and an apology for the previous mistake accepted
 - b. Website** – the Council was now meeting the compliance required
 - c. Churchyard maintenance** – the Chairman reported that work had commenced
- 6. Finance**
 - 6.1 Reserves Policy** – Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Hopson, that a minimum of £1000 should be retained for contingencies
 - 6.2 Current Account** - £25944.44 at 17 August 2018
 - 6.3 Recreation Ground** – Sarah Taragon reported that quotes ranged from £31k to £71k.
The Tesco token collection yielded £2k and Devon CC support of £1k was promised. The outcome of an application for £10k was awaited along with access to £20k from Pennant which requires a £2k initial deposit.
Work is anticipated within 6 to 8 months.
Cllr Williams was appointed as the Parish Council Trustee to the Recreation Ground committee.
Grass mowing and safety inspection are costs which the Parish Council may be able to assist with on an on-going basis.

6.4 Village Hall – representatives of the Village Hall committee made a presentation which reinforced the significance of the Hall as a focal point of community life for the parish, and identified opportunities to build on this further.

The annual running costs of the Hall are approximately £2k. Essential repairs to the heating system have been completed. However it is beyond the realistic income generation potential of the Hall to fund the additional maintenance required, as described at the Hall EGM in January 2018.

A grant application for £15k awaits a response

6.5 2019 / 2020 Precept – a review of Council reserves and precept income revealed reserves had shrunk by half to approximately £1400 since 2012. Precept income has not changed since 2014 when it was set at £2000 per year.

2015 / 6 Band D precept (most recently published) at Poughill is £24.22 compared with £57.19 at Cheriton Fitzpaine.

The well attended Village Hall EGM requested that precept funds be explored to assist in retaining the Hall for community use. In light of this:

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY on the proposal of Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Crossman, that the precept be increased by £800 (an average of approximately £10 per property) for 2019/ 20.

6.6 Payments were approved on the proposal of Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Crossman:

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| a. | A Cheriton | £85 (Mowing & Churchyard) |
| b. | Hedgerow | £105 (Newsletter Sept 18) |
| c. | R Trehwella | £199.19 (Clerk May / June 18) |
| d. | R Trehwella | £212.41 (Clerk July / Aug 18) |

7. Planning – applications 18/01401 FULL. Notice had been received on 19th September and full details will be circulated as soon as available. Councillors to comment by round-robin email.

8. Correspondence

- a. **7 East End** – Mr Farmer had written to thank the Council. Work has been completed
- b. **MDDC Clerks' Meeting** – the meeting will focus on 2019 Election procedures. The Clerk will attend
- c. **S106 Planning** – Government has tightened the procedure for allocating these funds and MDDC will be working with Parish Councils to identify projects prior to fund collection. The clerk was asked to seek clarification around availability of funds from the solar panel farm in the parish.

9. Other Items

- a. **Dog excrement** – the fb concern centred around escaped sheep rather than dogs.

10. Chairman's Report – The chairman reported that Cllr Tim Collingwood has requested to resign. This was accepted with regret and recognition of the service provided to the Council. Mrs Sharon Collingwood indicated a willingness to be co-opted for the interim term until elections are held in April 2019.

This offer was accepted.

11. Next meeting – The next meeting will be on Thursday 29th November 2018 at 8pm
The meeting closed at 9.20pm