

DRAFT POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th JULY 2026
AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr. Simon Collyer-Bristow (Chair)
Cllr. Tom Gillibrand (late arrival)
Cllr. Chris Davies
Cllr. Robin Cartwright
Mrs. Heather Harris (Clerk)

Five members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for late arrival received from Cllr. Gillibrand and apologies for absence from Cllr. Hyslop was accepted by the Council.

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th May 2026.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Report by County Councillor.

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

4. Report by District Councillor.

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

5. Financial Report.

Payments made from the Current account:

Lloyds Bank (monthly fee for May)	4.25	
Zurich Insurance	534.00	
S G Dillon (internal auditor)	75.00	
Playsafety (RoSPA Inspection)		133.20
Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils	133.20	
Lloyds Bank (monthly fee for June)	4.25	

Balances as of 13th July 2026:

Current account	6463.96
Deposit #1	16342.85
Deposit #2	7052.67

6. Report by Poulton Gardening Club on The Falcon Green Project.

Helen Haresign and Ed Pigott represented the Club and talked the Councillors through the project.

The project, which is the first phase, will consist of a low maintenance solution to bring colour in the darker months of the year. The planting scheme will be low level and drought tolerant. The Gardening Club will commence planting in October and will be a one-off project with on-going maintenance being the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Proposal

After consultation the Garden Club considers these sites are best suited for spring bulbs. These will flower before the tree is in leaf and will die down naturally, minimising any need for ongoing maintenance. We propose planting a naturalising bulb collection, that is low growing and drought tolerant, and that will flower in succession between January and May. This will allow grass cutting from mid-June onwards until the end of November.

Budget

The combined area is around 80 square metres. RHS guidance for the development of a spring bulb green suggests a planting density of between 100 and 150 bulbs per square metre. This would mean we will need 8,000 bulbs as a minimum. At an average price of 12.5 pence per bulb this requires a budget of £1,000. A reduced planting density would enable a lower budget if needed.

The bulbs will need to be ordered by early Autumn for planting around October.

Other Issues for consideration

The Garden Club will need to conduct a risk assessment in conjunction with the Parish Council for when the work is undertaken.

A number of villagers have suggested a circular tree bench which the Parish Council may wish to consider as part of this project. The Garden Club felt that this might be a hazardous location given the site is a busy road junction.

An extension of the concept could be that the central zone of grass on the Large Area is left unmown throughout the summer to allow grasses and other native wildflowers to colonise it.

Decision requested

The Parish Council is requested to approve a budget of £1,000 to enable Poulton Garden Club to buy bulbs for planting on Falcon Green in the Autumn.

The Parish Councillors discussed the plans with the representatives of the Poulton Gardening Club and confirmed that no tree surgery for the copper beech was planned. The Councillors thanked the Gardening Club for taking on the project and confirmed that the costs would be covered by the Parish Council.

7. Report on Playground refurbishment and RoSPA Inspection.

Cllr. Hyslop, although absent, sent a report on the playground refurbishment:

"I have agreed with Sovereign in principle that they will complete the renovation works on the old play equipment on a "shared cost" basis, as we agreed at the last PPC meeting. In essence, what this means is they will do the restoration according to the list which was agreed 2 years ago (approx. cost £2,500), but that the Parish Council will supplement this to ensure any subsequent requirements are covered (to be quantified, but probably another £2,000 cost to us).

While they have agreed to the above principle, they are insisting on making another inspection to finalise the requirements before we nail down the numbers. I have also sent them the most recent ROSPA report, which will need to be part of the brief. This Sovereign inspection is booked for Friday 7th August. I am not sure if I will be available on that day, so would appreciate another councillor volunteering to be available on site if I'm not around?

As soon as the above is complete, we can hopefully see the works completed this Autumn."

The Chair said that he was not happy with prevaricating over important issues. He said that the Council needs to push forwards and complete current projects.

Cllr. Gillibrand said that agreeing to refurbish the under 5's play equipment should unlock the project.

Cllr. Davies said that the RoSPA Inspection cited moderate repairs to the space net, seat and bench.

Sovereign are due to be in Poulton for a site visit on Friday 7th August – the Chair said he would attend.

8. Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Report.

This group advise farmers on flooding. The report discussed was out of date, but a parishioner wanted it to be brought to the Council's attention.

Cllr. Cartwright said that a reassessment of the area was needed as there was a huge flood risk to the village.

A parishioner asked if the Environment Agency had an up to date report. Cllr. Davies said that he and Mr Maxwell probably had a better understanding of the issues. He said that FWAG is focussed on water quality and had been helpful regarding the installation of the bund to the west of the village. He said that Ranbury bridge is still a bottleneck and the attenuation tanks at Wheelers Rise had made no difference. Across the village, sewage was an issue for many.

Cllr. Cartwright asked if an up to date survey would be of benefit to the Council. Cllr. Davies said that the 2007 plan had increased capacity at Ampney St Peter. Cllr. Cartwright felt that there might be better leverage to improve things with an up to date survey. Cllr. Davies said that any development to the west of the village would exacerbate the situation. The Chair said that he would speak to Jenny Phelps from FWAG and asked for an up to date report. Cllr. Davies said that he had attended all the flooding meetings and written to the MP and Cllr. Spivey regarding the issue but, the bridge needed increased capacity. He said that the rate of water had increased since the building of the houses at Wheelers Rise and eroded the base of the stream. A

further letter will be sent to riparian owners regarding obligations to keep the stream clear of debris. Cllr. Davies said that the bridge needed to be cleared and asked the Clerk to phone Mr Buse regarding this.

A parishioner asked if the Local Plan would be used to inform development of sites. It was noted that the land to the rear of Bell Lane had been visited by a development company and tests on water levels had been carried out during the heatwave. It was felt that attenuation tanks would be needed instead of water sitting on the site for 3 or 4 days. Historical data showed that there would be a flooding risk and Wheelers Rise's planning restrictions had been eroded.

9. Update on the village website.

www.poultoncotswolds.co.uk

Mr Ashley, who has kindly agreed to build and update the site, said that more content was needed. There had been no takers for the advertising and costs of the site would be around £200 per year. Mr Ashley will put a small piece in the PoultonEye with a survey. All back issues of the PoultonEye are on the website.

10. Report on Speeding and Traffic.

Cllr. Hyslop sent a report to update the Council:

"1. West End of village (A417 Ranbury) Current VAS unit (currently inactive) to be upgraded to new state of the art unit at same location (i.e. same as in Down Ampney). This may require a taller post with a solar panel - waiting for supplier to confirm. See below. Previous ANPR camera was vandalised and stolen. Replacement has been ordered, but installation is pending other proposed camera installations in village (see below).

2. Middle of village - outside Old Forge This camera is still active but rarely catches isolated offenders because it is on the steep bend. Its crucial role is for the average speed check but can only work when the Ranbury Camera is also active. It will be reactivated as soon as rest of plan is implemented.

3. The Butts We have already decided this camera is not helpful, and so we have made the decision to relocate to the East-end of village

4. East end of village - East-bound (out towards Fairford) I think we should have a VAS halfway along the straight going Eastbound (actually as close to the village as possible after the 40mph - Glos Police to advise). This is the biggest concern for villagers who live on the A417 Eastbound (e.g. Ian). It will slow speeders, who would otherwise be pressing the accelerator as they move up the stretch.

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5. East end of village - West-bound (into village) I believe we need to have a new VAS as close as we are allowed to the village "gateway" (New generation as per above). This could be 50m closer than the current VAS to slow speeders as soon as they enter village. Then we relocate the Butts ANPR camera to further along the straight towards the 30mph. Hopefully most speeders will have slowed due to VAS signage but, any still speeding will get caught at this point.

6. Cost 3 x new VAS approx. £10,000 (TBC). Replacement and relocation of ANPRs approx. £2,000. Annual costs estimated at £1,000 pa plus say £1,000 pa Glos Police letters to offenders.”

The Chair apologised that the Council had taken so long to get this project completed. A parishioner asked if there had been any responses to letters sent. Cllr. Davies said his letter to the Police Commissioner had the response of “not my remit”. The Chair said the '20 is plenty' campaign was going ahead in Cheltenham and Gloucester but would be some considerable time before the villages were included. It was agreed that this project had taken too long and needed to be completed in a timely manner. The Chair said he would write to Councillors about how best to resource the traffic initiatives.

11. Any Other Business.

Tree on the Playground – Cllr. Davies said this memorial tree for Jim Nunn had unfortunately died. Cllr. Davies will contact Ann Jones to see if a more suitable tree for the climate can be found.

The Butts - The Clerk was asked to contact Willow Gardening Services regarding cutting the grass by the Butts.

Information Board – Cllr. Davies said this board needed to be repaired.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th October at 7 pm in the Village Hall.