

**POULTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025  
AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr. Simon Collyer-Bristow (Chair)  
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. Spivey and accepted by the Council.

**2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

**3. District Councillor's Report.**

Local Plan/Housing Numbers

I have previously reported that the government has doubled the number of homes that it expects CDC to deliver each year. The leader of the council, Cllr Mike Evemy, wrote to MHCLG asking that this target be revised given that 80% of our district lies within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and therefore only 20% can deliver the housing need. This increase in housing numbers has meant that the district has lost its "5year land supply" meaning that it cannot evidence that it has enough land allocated within the current local plan to deliver the number of homes government has tasked it with delivering.

Unfortunately, the appeal to MHCLG fell on deaf ears and the minister will not revise the housing target. This puts huge pressure on the Planning Authority and means that as we cannot demonstrate the 5-year land supply, we will see a lot of speculative development over the coming years for which will be difficult to refuse planning.

Therefore, we are cracking n with a new Local Plan so that we can try to have plan led development rather than speculative development. Plan led development means that we can say where we want the housing, and ask developers for contributions toward infrastructure, schools, libraries etc. Without an up to made local plan, we cannot make those demands.

The local Plan will go to Reg 18 consultation by the end of this year, Reg 19 in 2026 and will hopefully be "made" and adopted in early 2027.

In the context of Local Government Reorganisation this may seem like a waste of time, but in fact, if we don't get a plan in place now, it would take several years for a

new unitary authority to put together a joint plan, so it is best to have this plan in place for the foreseeable future.

Jane Portman was appointed as Interim CEO in July. Her experience in local government and especially in LGR has been very useful and I hope that she will continue in role.

CDC held a number of retrofit events over the summer and has now partnered with Furnbrow to deliver more support in this important area.

We continue to roll out EV charging across the district with more charging points in the north of the district.

We are actively recruiting to posts with the planning department, in particular Enforcement officers as this is an area which has been very under-resourced for a number of years.

#### **4. County Councillor's Report.**

##### Community 20s/ Safer Roads

When I became the leader of the Council in May, I made road safety and speed limits a key priority. We have created our community 20s offer and have written out to all 269 town and parish councils across Gloucestershire to ask for expressions of interest for reducing speed limits to 20mp and also looking at other speeds within communities e.g. 60mph to 50mph or 40mph to 30mph. This has had an overwhelmingly positive response and now officers will begin mapping the request with accident data. This is not a "blanket" approach, it is about working with communities. The implementation will take several years, but we have allocated in year funding of £300k to begin the process.

##### - Clean Sweep

My second priority was on tidier streets and verges and making sure that signs, barriers, and cones etc are picked up after roadworks are completed. To do this we have enhanced the functionality of Fix my Street so that left over signs and graffiti can be reported. Teams will be focussing on making our streets and verges look tidy again.

##### Fostering

My third priority was on reducing the number of children in care being placed out of county and encouraging fostering. WE have created an information pack with resources to encourage foster carers. WE have also brough forward a motion to support Kinship Carers. The best start for all children is in a loving family environment, and we want to do what we can to promote that.

## Ofsted – Children’s Services

In June, the council had a full Ofsted inspection in its Children’s services. Following a 2017 report saying our services were Inadequate and two subsequent inspections finding the service as Require Improvement, I am delighted to report that the latest inspection found three categories to be Good and two to be Outstanding. This is an excellent result for staff and children and families.

## Fire Service

Following mediation over the summer, avoiding industrial action, the firefighter shift patterns will now change in January 2026. The remaining “Cause for Concern” identified by His Majesty’s Inspectorate has also been removed which is great news for our fire service. Do remember that our fire teams also carry out Safe and Well checks making sure that homes are protected from fire risk. This is especially valuable where people may be vulnerable.

## LGR/Devolution

Local Government Reorganisation is still taking up a huge amount of time. All seven councils in Gloucestershire are currently finalising the business cases for a one unitary option and a two unitary option, and each council will take the options through their council’s decision-making process over the next 2 months before options are submitted to government on the 28th November. Government will then consult on any options they believe are viable. It is important to note that whilst councils may express a preference, the final decision on what model to adopt for Gloucestershire will be a ministerial decision made in Westminster, not a local choice.

For Town and Parish Councils, there will be a dialogue about service delivery and how the “neighbourhood” model will work. All seven councils are committed to ensuring that whatever the decision on options, that the role of town and parish councils is well defined and that the voice of communities is enhanced.

## **5. Cotswold District Council Local Plan Consultation.**

The Councillors discussed the information sent by CDC on the Consultation for the Local Plan in which Poulton had been allocated a new housing target of 30 properties before 2043.

Cllr. Davies commented that this is, of course, purely speculative as no planning applications have been submitted. He has drawn up a draft response to the Consultation for the Council to approve. The Chair said that the numbers are nevertheless indicative of the quantity required by the Government in Poulton. Cllr. Gillibrand said that it is worth bearing in mind the timeframe of nearly 20 years.

Cllr. Davies that that building in Conservation Areas, along with the current flooding issues is difficult and Planners need to listen to local concerns. Thames Water’s consultation strategy which was completed in 2017 had done nothing to alleviate the

problems faced by villagers. He commented that there is neither the infrastructure nor employment needed for people in the village should it adopt a further 30 properties. He said that affordable housing was needed by local young people including rentable homes rather than million-pound houses dotted around. He said that three better centres would be Cirencester, Tetbury and Moreton in Marsh and that the Driffield 'new village' would be better accommodated on the South Cerney aerodrome. It was noted that Meysey Hampton had not been allocated any new housing in the Local Plan.

The Councillors discussed possible sites for development in the village that would not exacerbate the situation with flooding such as, extending London Road housing and the barns at Ranbury however, they reiterated that local people should have input into the local village and any future planning.

Cllr. Gillibrand said that 1100 homes had been initially suggested for villages in the area.

Actions agreed: Clerk to discuss with Cllr. Spivey – meeting regarding Local Plan.

Cllr. Davies to write a draft response to the Consultation.

Chair to write an article for the PoultonEye and link the Local Plan Consultation.

## **6. '20 is plenty' Gloucestershire County Council initiative.**

The Clerk reported that she completed the survey sent by GCC on speeding and traffic issues in the village. Emphasis was placed on the participation by villagers both with the survey and public meetings.

Cllr. Hyslop said that there are very few drivers exceeding the speed limit during the daytime. The Average Speed Camera has only caught three in the last 6 months, and he felt that the signage was the biggest factor in deterring drivers. Letters from Gloucestershire Constabulary are still be sent to persistent offenders.

Cllr. Davies has investigated converting the Vehicle Activated Speed sign to solar, but this would cost over £1000.

## **7. Financial Report.**

Balances as at 13/10/25:

Current account	£7704.37
Deposit #1	£12525.03
Deposit #2	£7024.38

Payments received into the Current account:

CDC Precept	£2500
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Payments made from the Current account:

Lloyds Bank fees four @ £4.25 per month  
PKF Littlejohn (external Auditor) £378.00  
HMRC (PAYE) £168.60  
Clerk's Wages (April to October) £674.40

The budget for 2026/27 will be set next meeting along with the Precept. The Clerk to send relevant information to Cllr. Gillibrand.

### **8. Request for Donation.**

A request for a donation to PoultonEye has been received along with additional information. They have extra technical costs of £1000 to find and have asked for £250 towards these costs. The Village Hall Committee, Church and private donors have also contributed. The Councillors agreed, following this further information being received, to contribute £250 as a one-off donation.

### **9. Update on Playground Repairs.**

Cllr. Hyslop has been in discussions regarding the repairs, and the company are looking at the spring to complete the remedial works. The Councillors felt that a new under 5s rocking horse would be necessary to replace the current broken piece of equipment. The basketball net has been removed by vandals and will not be replaced.

The Councillors thanked the Chair and Mr Andy Young for their work in removing a dead tree and a fallen branch from the playground. This voluntary work has saved the Council a considerable amount of money.

### **10. Village Website.**

The Clerk reported some frustration with the village website's hosting company GoDaddy, she had repeatedly attempted to renew the site, but payment to the US company had been unsuccessful. The website is currently down. Mr Ashley has said that it would be better to use an alternative hosting site now and the Councillors asked the Clerk to approach Mr Ashley and requested his help.

### **11. Any Other Business.**

Remembrance Service – The Chair has sent a card to Mr and Mrs Wood to thank them for their continued support in making sure the War Memorial is kept looking its best. Caroline Allanson has been involved this year with printing the Order of Service and the Parish Council will continue to provide a wreath.

Flooding Meeting – Cllr. Davies will attend the meeting on Saturday.

Poulton Playing Fields & Allotment Charity – a grant has been given to the Cricket Club from monies raised at the Fete of £2400. The Football Club have also been given a grant which they have used to buy materials to build dugouts.

A new protocol has been written regarding third parties using Englands.

Parking on London Road – Cllr. Hyslop said that the corner by the bus shelter is being increasingly abused for parking which obscures visibility for traffic and caused damage to the grass. Cllr. Davies to contact Jill Portlock regarding posts to prevent further misuse.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm.