

POULTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 11th May 2026
AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors – Cllr. Collyer-Bristow, Cllr. Hyslop, Cllr. Gillibrand, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Cartwright.

County & District Councillor – Cllr. Lisa Spivey

Poulton Playing Field & Allotment Charity – Caroline Allanson, Chair

Poulton Village Hall – Hilary Antingham, Chair

Poulton Church – Caroline Maxwell, PCC

Poulton Cricket Club – Heather Baker

Poulton Gardening Club – Ed Pigott, Treasurer

14 members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2025 were signed by the Chair.

2. Poulton Parish Council.

The last year has been much of the same workload wise excepting the relative bombshell of the Local Plan. This has caused much discussion in Poulton and our neighbouring parishes and when, wherever unwanted development happens, it will have a major negative impact on Poulton.

The Parish Council have given our thoughts and the thoughts and comments of our parishioners back to Cotswold District Council (and hopefully further up the chain). All we can now do is await local landowners, developers, Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and national Government. The Parish Council's position is clear – we oppose unnecessary and harmful development simply for numbers. If there is genuine demand we believe it should not impinge on our rural villages where there are inadequate infrastructure, over clogged roads, unsolved flooding and drainage issues, already full village schools and local doctor's surgeries plus little local employment. We believe development, if actually needed, should be adjoining urban areas where desired infrastructure either exists or can be expanded on brownfield not green field sites.

The other main issues that continue to tax Poulton Parish Council and our residents are traffic and speeding. We continue to try and convince the police and highways that speeds are still too high and dangerous and try and divert unnecessary traffic away from our village roads. It continues to be a lengthy and time consuming uphill struggle. Special thanks to Cllr. Hyslop for his lead on this.

There are positives from our labours though, the playground, the areas we manage, and I think the knowledge that the Parish Council will always listen and help if we can. Robin Spiller's clear up day demonstrates that individuals will volunteer to keep our village and surrounding areas clean. I also sense that all of the vibrant bodies, many here this evening, talk and listen more to each other than they used to and I hope this continues. Examples of this are the vibrant social gatherings at the Cricket Club, Poulton Vineyard and the Church. One inclusive community.

Finally, I would like to say a personal big thank you to our Clerk, Heather Harris, and to my fellow Councillors, Ed, Tom, Chris and most recently Robin – especially for keeping me realistic with what is achievable with hardly any money!

We are blessed to live in Poulton and envied by many of our neighbouring villages for getting on and doing stuff. Onwards to next year.

3. Poulton Cricket Club.

The Cricket Club currently has 160 youth members. Almost every child in the village attends. There are also six new people from the village running the bar in the pavilion. There have been considerable cost increases in the past year for the Club. David Dunn has now resigned as Chair, and a new Chair is needed for the registered Charity. A village person would be preferred. Please see the village website for details.

4. County & District Councillor.

Local Plan - CDC are collectively opposing the Local Plan and Cllr. Spivey thanked everyone for their responses to the consultation. The next step is Regulation 19 at the end of July. There will then be a full council meeting to discuss actual sites and allocations. A spatial development strategy for the whole of Gloucestershire is being developed. Cllr. Spivey said that she is vehemently opposed to the Local Plan on the grounds that there is no capacity in the existing infrastructure. Houses will of course need planning permission, but 18,000 homes must be built.

Staverton Airport – Cheltenham Town Council are committed to selling the Airport. Cllr. Spivey felt that a Golden Valley development of 10,000 homes would be appropriate as the infrastructure was in place.

Unitary Council – there is more likelihood that this will not happen. There is a decision in July. There will be elections in May 2027.

Roads – the new '20 is plenty' is 4-year programme rolling out. The Council remains committed to the programme. Potholes – everyone is trying really hard to keep up with the potholes. £18bn is needed nationally. Weather patterns have caused major problems. The potholes can only be repaired during dry weather.

The Council thanked Cllr. Spivey for her time, which is much appreciated.

5. Poulton Playing Fields & Allotment Charity.

Maintenance work has been carried out on Englands: tidying up the meadow, removing the fence and levelling the soil. There has been a reduction in the amount of chicory following regular mowing. The soil pile has been removed, and a new boundary fence has been put in. There has been little in the way of responses from the village regarding a use for the meadow. Policies for the use of the car park have been devised. Dog mess is still the biggest issue. Cllr. Davies said that irresponsible dog owners are to blame and they are same people on the whole. The

Chair asked if the allotments were all taken. Ms. Allanson replied that they were and if anyone wanted an allotment, to contact her via the village website to be put on the waiting list.

6. Poulton Village Hall.

The Chair said that there is a very active team running the village hall. The courtyard outside had been improved with the funding from the old shop. There are regular events: Post Office & Café, Film Night, Books & Biccies which are all well supported. All the information about events can be found on the village website. Cllr. Cartwright asked if there was a desire for more events. Mrs. Antingham said that music and fashion events were a new addition this year. The Councillors commented that it is a fantastic facility and thanked the committee for all their work.

7. Poulton Gardening Club.

The Club has 54 members and runs 7 meetings year. They have masterclasses, speakers and monthly to do lists. They also run trips to see gardens in the area. This year they are doing a community project on Falcon Hill, funded by the Parish Council. Cllr. Cartwright volunteered to be the liaison for this. The Club plans to visit the Cotswold Farm and the National Collection of Rambling Roses. The meetings are held on the third Monday of the month March to October – details are on the village website.

8. Poulton Church.

As Vicar has retired, it may be many years before the position is filled. A retired vicar, Tony Ross, has been helping run services. The Church are active in having a Family Service, Communion with soup and a gathering. They are keen to have events in the church such as music, concerts and talks. The local community contributes with flowers, cleaning and delivery the PoultonEye. The current and back issues of the PoultonEye can be found on the village website.

9. Any Other Business.

Issues around speeding were discussed along with the improvements made by the Council and the successful average speed cameras/signs which have halved the number of speeding vehicles through the village.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.