

**POULTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025  
AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr. Simon Collyer-Bristow (Chair)  
Cllr. Ed Hyslop (Vice Chair)  
Cllr. Chris Davies  
Mrs. Heather Harris (Clerk)

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Gillibrand and Cllr. Spivey and accepted by the Council.

**2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

**3. County & District Councillor's Reports.**

The County & District Councillor did not attend the meeting but sent the following reports:

New Chief Executive

CDC-Wide Updates New Interim Chief Executive Jane Portman has joined CDC as Interim CEO, following Robert Weaver's departure. Jane brings deep experience as a council leader and has a strong track record in change management and staff engagement. I look forward to working with her to continue our delivery agenda. <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/jane-portman-appointed-as-interimceo-at-cotswold-district-council>

Shared Prosperity Fund Awards

Nine community projects have received over £120,000 in new funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. I'm particularly pleased to see grants supporting solar, biodiversity, and inclusive facilities in villages across the district. <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/local-initiatives-across-the-cotswoldsto-receive-over-gbp-120k-in-funding>

Local Plan Update

The May Housing Land Supply Report confirms CDC's five-year housing land supply is now just 1.8 years under the new national methodology. This underlines the urgency of progressing our new Local Plan. Public consultation closed in April and

call for land supply late 2024, officers are now analysing responses. Further consultation is expected in Autumn

#### Climate Action Scorecard

CDC made one of the largest improvements in the country in the updated 2025 UK Climate Action Scorecard, rising from 24% in 2023 to 45%— moving from the lower third to the top sixth of district councils nationally. This progress reflects targeted action across governance, buildings, waste, biodiversity, and community engagement. Notable achievements include retrofitting our leisure centres and council buildings, installing EV chargers, improving recycling and food waste services, eliminating peat use, and adopting wildlife-friendly management on council land. We also launched the Cotswold Climate Action Network and published a SMART-targeted action plan. While our Transport and Planning scores have risen, there remains scope to go further—particularly by embedding stronger climate policies in the new Local Plan and deepening resident engagement. The scorecard is a powerful endorsement of our practical, whole-council approach to climate leadership.

#### Waste Fleet Decarbonisation

We've begun work on a transition plan for moving our Ubico-operated waste fleet from diesel to electric vehicles by the next fleet replacement cycle. Options for depot charging infrastructure, solar power, and HVO interim fuels are being explored. This is likely to be the biggest single contributor to cutting the council's own carbon footprint.

#### Home Energy Efficiency

We'll be holding a major public event on home energy efficiency in the evening of 18 September. It will offer guidance on insulation, clean heating solutions such as heat pumps, solar panels, battery storage, and how to access grants. Alongside practical advice, we'll also highlight the benefits of energy efficiency—lower energy bills, warmer and healthier homes, reduced emissions, and increased property value.

#### GCC Report

##### Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

Work continues apace with various workstreams looking at different aspects of the process. This includes, Vision and Ambition, Devolution Options, Locality Model, Council Tax Equalisation, and Democracy.

GCC is working in partnership with all of the district, borough and city councils on all 3 of the options put to government in the interim proposals in March.

In the end the decision on which option will be implemented in Gloucestershire is one which will be made by Ministers in Westminster, so the council leaders of Gloucestershire are closely aligned on making sure that any option chosen by government is implementable and will allow for the continued delivery of services across the county.

As part of the data gathering process, there is an engagement piece of work being carried out on behalf of all 7 councils at the moment and is live until the 9th August. You can take part in the survey here: [County-wide local government reorganisation survey | Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#)

#### Fairer Funding Review

Government published its consultation on the proposed Fairer Funding Review. For Gloucestershire early modelling suggests that the council could lose up to 10% of its overall budget as government attempts to move money from the South, up to the North of the country where there are areas of deeper deprivation. This means that as the council begins its budget setting process for the next financial year, we are looking at potentially looking at finding up to £50million of savings in order to balance our budget.

#### Community 20s

One of the priorities I set out in my opening speech to council on the 21st May was beginning the process of consulting with town and parish councils on their support or otherwise for speed reductions in their area. A letter was sent out to town and parish councils across the county, and we will be using that to inform the next steps. Please bear in mind that this will be a lengthy process, but there is commitment to get it done where the community wants it.

#### Ofsted

There was a full Ofsted inspection of Children's services, held over 3 weeks in June. Results will be published at the end of this month.

### **4. Financial Report.**

The following payments were made from the Current account:

Playsafety (RoSPA Inspection)	129.60
Zurich (Insurance)	534.00
S G Dillon (Internal Audit)	75.00
GAPTC (membership)	135.98
Lloyds Bank (monthly fee)	4.25
Humphrey's Electrical (batteries)	178.80
Lloyds Bank (monthly fee)	4.25

Balances as of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025:

Current account	6438.12
Deposit account #1	12504.03
Deposit account #2	7012.60

## **5. Request for Donation.**

The Clerk reported that a request had been made for a further donation to the PoultonEye for running costs. The Councillors discussed this and decided that as the PoultonEye was fully funded, it would not be pertinent to contribute this financial year. It was also noted that the Council does not, as a rule, contribute to local groups from public funds.

## **6. Report on Flooding Meeting.**

Cllr. Davies reported that Ros Savage MP and Gill Portlock had attended a productive meeting. Cllr. Davies has walked the Ashbrook and noted that Julian Jackson has completed an extensive clearance of debris from the brook by the Priory Estate to the small bridge.

Lawrence King has said that he intends to make sure the bund is extended this summer, and this has been approved by Charles Horton.

Planning Enforcement still needs to ensure that the attenuation tank at Wheelers Rise is connected properly.

Thames Water have indicated that they will be doing a survey in July and August of the foul sewer network.

Gloucestershire Highways are planning a new drain on the London Road and the lowering of other drains.

## **7. Any Other Business.**

Churchyard: The Chair said that the Church Sexton has confirmed that there are now twenty burial places left in the churchyard and plenty of space for internments.

Playground: Cllr. Hyslop said that the Company used to do the playground work had tried to renege on the agreement to repair existing equipment, after some discussion, they have now said they will do the work at the end of the summer.

The Councillors discussed the removal of the dead tree on the playground by the Hall, and this will be dealt with.

Speeding & Traffic: Cllr. Hyslop reported that there has been a 50% reduction in speeding vehicles since the signage was put in place. The main culprits are largely commercial vehicles and Range/Land Rover drivers. The Chair said he has seen less lorries speeding through the village over the bridge. The Chair will put an update in the PoultonEye.

The Councillors discussed putting in a further camera and pole on the 40 mph road towards Fairford and agreed to go ahead with this as a deterrent and felt it would aid the whole village to slow traffic down.

Road signs – Cllr. Davies will email regarding road signs which have been left in the village.

War Memorial – The Chair will write to Mr. Wood regarding overhanging branches, and the Clerk will contact CDC regarding a new bin lid.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7pm.