

Poslingford Parish Council



Minutes of Poslingford Parish Council Meeting

Date 4 December 2024 18:30

Meeting held at Stansfield Village Hall

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Martin England, Marc Allison, June Mansfield, Kathy Priestley, Rachel Stebbings and Annie Jones.

Parish Clerk: Chris Turner.

County Councillor: Bobby Bennett.

District Councillors: Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook.

Jonathan Skermer and one other member of the public.

Parish Council Meeting

Welcome and apologies for absence. The Chair welcomed councillors to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

The meeting was then closed for County and District Councillor reports and comments from the Parishioners.

1. County Councillor Bobby Bennett reported that some work has been carried out on potholes within the village. The road at Hillside has been resurfaced. Further areas remain to be completed. Residents should continue reporting Highway issues on the reporting tool on the County Council website. Devolution is in its early stages and little known at present, but it will affect District Councils more than County Councils. The posts being sourced by SCC for the Speed Indicator Device has been delayed since the Chair has received a complaint from one villager about the plethora of signs in the village which he has had to report to SCC. We await developments. County Councillor Bennett remains willing to help funding of the sign if it goes ahead. There has been correspondence about the earlier flooding in the village. We are looking to obtain some advice as to what can be done to alleviate the situation. Councillor Allison is dealing with this matter.

District Councillors Karen Richardson and Marion Rucklidge reported that following the change in leadership at West Suffolk, there was not much to report. New refuse bins will be introduced shortly with a "food bin" being the first to appear followed by others including glass collection. This will require new lorries etc with extra costs to the WSDC. Regarding the changes to be made to the political landscape in Suffolk with Unitary authorities a white paper setting out the proposals is awaited. We will be kept up to date. The proposed wind turbine at Chipley Abbey was discussed. The Public Meeting in Clare on Wednesday 20th November gave the opportunity for the public to see the proposals. There is no timetable yet, but we hope to have a meeting with developers to

ascertain more details about its impact on Poslingford.

Meeting reopened for Parish Council Meeting

Councillors confirmed that they had no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

Jonathan Skermer, a resident of The Street, Poslingford agreed to be co-opted as a Councillor onto the Parish Council bringing us back to our full quota of seven councillors. It was put to a vote, after being proposed by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Mansfield and all Councillors were in favour. We welcome Jonathan to the Parish Council accordingly. Paperwork is currently being finalised.

2. Minutes of our last meeting held on 3rd September 2024. These were discussed in some detail and a discussion on a couple of issues made before being signed off with a proviso (see 3 below).
3. Matters arising from minutes. Item 5 (re overgrown roadside bank) at Spindlewood has not been resolved. A letter was sent to the residents, but no action has been taken and the Parish Council needs to follow this up. Item 10 (Website domain purchase) there had been a failure in the Council's payment authorisation process. This prompted a discussion as to whether the Parish Council's financial controls were adequate and how they might be improved. It was agreed that, in future, a vote must be taken and minuted at PC meetings before any payment to be authorised.
4. Financial Report.
 - (a) It was agreed that the current system of payment is acceptable subject to amendment noted above.
 - (b) Internal Auditors Report. This was delayed as RFO/Clerk was unwell and not present at the September meeting. The Internal Auditors Report was discussed. It was agreed that little amendment was needed, and the RFO/Clerk would prepare a plan of action.
 - (c) The accounts to 30th November 2024 were agreed.
 - (d) Precept and Budget 2025. The RFO/Clerk had prepared a schedule detailing estimated expenditure for final quarter of this financial year ending 31st March 2025 together with a budget for the financial year 2025/26. Estimated expenditure for 2025/26 is £4580. This does not include expenditure on the Speed Indicator Device(SID) and replacement of equipment for the Clerk, estimated at £3500 total. The schedule drawn up suggested £3000 to be paid out of capital but would mean an increase in precept of 12.5%. After discussion it was agreed we needed to limit the increase with more being taken out of capital reserves to keep within a 3% rise. Therefore, we need to increase our earmarked reserves. New application forms to be completed and distributed to Councillors before being signed by Chair. All agreed with the 3% limit.
5. Purchase of speed indicator device. See above in County Councillor Report
6. Outstanding items update.
 - (a). Flooding following Storm Babet in October 2023. Councillor Allison is dealing with this and is liaising with Suffolk County Council via Councillor Bennett.
 - (b). Poslingford Allotments as an Asset of Community Value. The proposal will be submitted in early 2025.
 - (c). Wind Turbine at Chipley Abbey. Councillor England is dealing with this. He will try to arrange a meeting with Octopus Energy so that we can question them about, amongst other things, projected time scale, traffic, noise, impact on the village etc.

Need to advertise once meeting arranged to inform villagers.

7. Trees in the Churchyard and Cemetery. Councillor Allison has been liaising with the Church Warden as an ash tree needs attention (this subsequently fell in recent high winds and has now been disposed of). Various other trees need looking at.
8. Any other business.
 - (a). Councillor Mansfield had purchased a wreath for Remembrance Sunday from the British Legion for £25, all agreed it would be reimbursed.
 - (b). We are to purchase some signs for the phone box housing the defibrillator. These will cost £37.20 and these costs were agreed.

Meeting Closed at 8pm

Date of next meeting 19th March 2025. Further meetings are scheduled for 4th June 2025, 17th September 2025 and 3rd December 2025.

C Turner, Clerk to Poslingford Parish Council

Accounts of Poslingford Parish Council as of 30 November 2024

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| Lloyds Bank current account on 31 Augusts 2024 | £10166.95 |
| | |
| Income for period 12 June 2024 to 31 August 2024 | £0.00 |
| TOTAL Income in period | £0.00 |
| | |
| Payments for period 1 September 2024 to 30 November 2024 | |
| 4 October 24 Grass cutting Martin Savine (ECOMOW) 2 nd Instalment | £462.50 |
| 4 October 24 Payment to HMRC (Clerk's PAYE) | £65.60 |
| 4 October 24 Clerk's Pay | £282.00 |
| 4 October 24 SALC Audit Fee | £144.00 |
| 4 October 24 Reimbursement of barbeque costs to Councillor England | £85.29 |
| 6 November 24 SALC Payroll Fee | £22.80 |
| 6 November 24 Zurich Annual Parish Insurance Policy | £277.00 |
| 6 November 24 CAS Website hosting costs | £60.00 |
| 6 November 24 CAS New .gov.uk domain names (2years) & 7 mailboxes (1 year) | £186.00 |
| TOTAL Payments in period | £1585.19 |
| | |
| Lloyds Bank current account on 30 November 2024 | £8581.76 |
| | |
| Payments Due in Current Quarter | |
| HMRC Clerk's PAYE to 31 December 2024 | tbc |
| Clerk's Wages to 31 December 2024 | tbc |
| Reimbursement to wreath costs to Councillor Mansfield | £25.00 |
| Defibrillator signage | £37.20 |