

# **POULTON & PULFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 in Pulford Village Hall

**Present :** Cllr J Ewins (Chair), Cllr Murray, Cllr Franklin, Cllr Douglas, Cllr D Ewins  
5 members of the public attended the meeting including Peter Gosmore and Richard Fair

**1 – Apologies** –Cllr West, Cllr Board, Cllr Evans and Cllr Hynes were unable to attend the meeting

## **2 – Adoptions and Appointments**

Cllr J Ewins explained that the council meeting had been brought forward from January 24<sup>th</sup> following the tragic passing of our clerk Barrie Evans.

2.1 – It was unanimously agreed that Peter Gosmore be appointed as interim parish clerk for a period of 3 months prior to advertisement of post for permanent replacement parish clerk.

2.1.1 – Peter Gosmore and Cllr J. Ewins agreed to sort out the PC bank accounts

2.1.2 – Cllr D.Ewins confirmed he has been in touch with e-mango who host the PC website regarding a replacement webmaster and ongoing website administration. An obituary for Barrie will be posted on the website together with details of his funeral service.

2.2 – It was unanimously decided to co-opt Richard Fair onto the parish council. As a former parish councillor and previous chairman it was agreed Richard would provide invaluable experience to the council.

## **3 – Suspension of Standing Orders**

No comments.

## **4 – Minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council, the extraordinary meeting of November 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 primarily to discuss Planning Application ref 23/03096/FUL – Egg Production Unit off Wrexham Road**

Approved by Cllr D.Ewins, seconded by Cllr Douglas.

## **5 – Finance**

5.1 – Having reviewed the parish council accounts and “Finance and Precept notes” produced by Barrie Evans prior to the October 2023 PC meeting, and due to significant demands on the parish finances over the last year, it was felt necessary to increase the Parish Precept for 2024/25 from the 2023/24 value of £6227 to £7000. The parish council had kept the band D charge unchanged for the previous 3 years (at £18.45), the increase for 2024/25 raises the band D charge to £20.74 per year, an increase of £2.29 (or just 23p per month).

It was also felt prudent to agree in principle to increase the amount of the precept every year going forward to ensure that council funds remained in positive balance.

5.2 - Cllr Franklin updated the parish council on the Infrastructure Improvements Grant for the Community Park. He is still waiting to receive payment from the grant for the recently funded community park improvements.

5.3 – It was agreed that funding received from last year’s Chester Marathon and the anticipated funding from this year’s Elite 10k Marathon would be paid into PC funds rather than go to the Community Park Fund.

## **7 - Any Other Business**

7.1 – Cllr Douglas questioned the progress with the planning applications for the Bell Meadow Solar Farm and the Egg Production Unit off Wrexham Road. Both applications are still awaiting a decision.

7.2 – Cllr Murray commented on the poor state of the pathway on Old Lane beside The Spinney as well as the tendency of The Straight Mile to flood. The poor state of the pathway at the junction of Dodleston Lane and Wrexham Road opposite the church as well as the pathway outside Belgrave Garden Mews were also mentioned. The new clerk to write to Highways regarding these as health and safety issues.

## **8 - Date for future meeting**

It was agreed that the planned meeting for January 24<sup>th</sup>, brought forward to today, was now no longer necessary.

Next meeting planned for **Wednesday April 24th 2024 at 7pm, Pulford Village Hall**

Signed:

Date: