

MINUTES POUGHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held in the Village Hall at 7.15pm on Thursday 20th May 2021

Parish Clerk: Wendy Baldwin Phone: 01363 866742 E-mail: poughillparishclerk@gmail.com

Attendees: Karen Wellerd (Chair), Julian Wild, Paul Mapp, James Clark, Wendy Baldwin (Clerk)

Members of the public: Mr & Mrs Rogers

- 1) **Apologies** – Cllr P Colthorpe, Cllr. M Squires
- 2) **Chairman's Report** – The Chair read the following report:

The start of the year saw us in the first of the 'national lockdowns' introduced by the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislation was introduced which allowed local authorities to meet virtually rather than in person for the first time and as a result all of our meetings last year were held online. In fact, this Annual Parish Meeting is the first time the Parish Council has met in person since our meeting in January 2020.

In response to the COVID-19 situation the Parish Council set up a Community Support Self Help Register. We were extremely grateful to everyone who volunteered their help and would like to express our thanks once again.

We have been lucky to have been joined by two new councillors, Julian Wild and James Clark. On the other hand, one of our longest standing councillors and Vice-Chair, April Williams, stepped down from the Parish Council in May.

Our Parish Clerk, Jackie Taylor, left at the end of December and Wendy Baldwin joined us in January as her replacement.

In September we invited all residents to take part in our Budget Survey. A total of 86 questionnaires were delivered, one to each household in the Parish. 25 forms were returned, a response rate of 29%. This was a very valuable exercise for us and the time people spent in responding was much appreciated.

On a more practical front your councillors have been busy carrying out various maintenance tasks around the parish throughout the year. Tasks undertaken include treating the bench, community garden fence and Poughill sign planters with wood preserver, cutting back vegetation around the grit bins, cleaning the highway signs, carrying out footpath and street light audits, weeding the church paths, cutting back brambles in the churchyard, and cleaning the litter bin and noticeboard Perspex.

In response to concerns raised by residents we installed a new 'No Parking' sign on the grit bin at Poughill Cross. This is to remind drivers not to park too close to the corner, where they cause an obstruction for large vehicles trying to make the turn up or down the hill.

In February we planted a new oak tree sapling in the recreation ground. This was donated to the Council by Devon Wildlife Trust as part of their Saving Devon's Treescapes initiative.

We have continued to publish and deliver the quarterly newsletter to all households in Poughill. Our thanks go out to all the regular contributors that make this possible, we really couldn't do it without you.

The last 12 months have been very different for us all, but we have learned to adapt, cope and get on with business as usual. Here's to the next 12 months, whatever it may bring.

3) **Open Session** – There was nothing raised for discussion

Meeting closed at 7.30pm