

MINUTES POUGHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held in the Village Hall at 7.15pm on Thursday 19 May 2022

Parish Clerk: poughillparishclerk@gmail.com

Attendees: Karen Wellerd (Chair/Minutes), Paul Mapp, Polly Colthorpe

Members of the public: Paul Rossiter

- 1) **Apologies** – Julian Wild, James Clark
- 2) **Chairman's Report** – The Chair read the following report:

I'm happy to be able to report that your councillors have been very busy on your behalf yet again over the last 12 months. Our biggest achievement has been the purchase of a public access defibrillator for the village. We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and support which helped us reach our funding target of £2,500 so quickly. We couldn't have done it without you. A special mention goes to the Village Hall Committee and the Pyncombe Trust who have kindly given permission for the defibrillator to be located under the porch on the front of the hall where it can be accessed easily. The defibrillator has been installed and is now 'rescue ready'. We have arranged a free training session, which will take place at the Village Hall on 6th June.

It has been all change once again on the personnel front as our Parish Clerk, Wendy Baldwin, left at the end of August and Keeley Wells joined us in September as her replacement. However, Keeley subsequently left us at the end of April. Unfortunately, we have been unable to fill her vacancy so far but are still looking. We wish both Wendy and Keeley all the best for the future.

As in previous years your councillors have carried out a number of regular maintenance tasks around the parish. Tasks undertaken include treating the bench, community garden fence and bus shelter 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 and cleaning the litter bin. We have also refurbished the Noticeboard, repointed the churchyard wall which was damaged by the ash tree and repaired the handrail by the steps at the entrance to the churchyard. We would like to thank the residents who helped us plant around 200 daffodil bulbs in the churchyard and Ashley Cheriton, our churchyard maintenance contractor, who did a fantastic job of tidying up the boundary between the Churchyard and St. Michael's House which had become very overgrown. I'm pleased to report that the oak tree sapling we planted in the recreation ground last year is doing well. 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. Although the rate of inflation is currently around 9%, we are happy to report that we have actually been able to reduce the Poughill precept element of your Council Tax by 5% for 2022/23.

Finally, we would like to thank those residents who have attended our council meetings and contacted us with their concerns. We hope we have been of some help. We are looking forward to continuing to represent our residents and doing what we can to improve the well-being of our community over the coming year.

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

Meeting closed at 7.25pm