

MINUTES POUGHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Village Hall at 7:30 pm on Thursday 16th January 2025

Attendees: Cllr Wellerd (Chair), Cllr Clark, Cllr English, DCllr Colthorpe.

Members of Public: None

2. Apologies – Cllr Wild, Cllr Squires.

3. Declaration of Interests – Cllr Wellerd declared an interest in 5.4.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

4.1 Minutes from the meeting held on 07th November 2024 were approved.

5. Finance.

5.1 Notification of payments and receipts since the last meeting and current financial status.

The Current Account balance at 02/01/2025 is £3,031.90, plus £1,671.01 in the Instant Access Savings Account.

Date	Details	Interest	Receipt	Payment	Savings Balance	Balance
04-Nov	Balance bought forward				£1,668.22	£3,449.89
11-Nov	Interest	£1.51				
13-Nov	Mr S Gibbons			£41.45		
18-Nov	D Kingdon			£168.45		
04-Dec	Hedgerow Print			£86.00		
09-Dec	Interest	£1.28				
02-Jan	D Kingdon			£122.09		
					£1,671.01	£3,031.90

5.2 To approve the 2025/26 Budget and Precept – Budget approved; the precept was set at £3547.00.

5.3 Changes to Lloyds current account, including introduction of monthly fee – Charges noted.

5.4 Poughill Village Hall Trust – Funding for redecoration of the hall – A grant of £100.00 was approved.

6. Governance.

6.1 To approve Assets & Amenities Working Group Terms of Reference V1.1 – Approved.

6.2 To approve Finance & Risk Working Group Terms of Reference V1.1 – Approved.

6.3 To approve Governance Working Group Terms of Reference V1.1 – Approved.

6.4 To note that Generic Working Group Terms of Reference V1 has been reviewed and remains unchanged – Noted.

6.5 Dates for Parish Council Meetings 25-26 – Dates Agreed – First Thursday of the month.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Poughill speed limits and signs – It was decided to put signs up rather than 20 is plenty – Please drive carefully through the village.

7.2 Potential enforcement issue at field on road between Poughill Village Cross and Crediton Cross – No reply from the enforcement officer.

District Councillor/County Councillor report.

7.1 District – Mid Devon held an extraordinary meeting on Thursday 9th January regarding local government reorganisation, the idea is to do away with district councils, central government is going to insist that people become unitary, combined county authorities, mid devon has been working with the county and all other districts for 6 years, towards more devolved powers from Westminster without the mayor. County

had to decide what they were going to do by 06th January 2025, they decided to go with what the government wants and asked if the elections be delayed. Mid Devons attitude was quite different from the counties, District Council and City Council issued a joint statement basically to the effect that while they are supportive of devolution of powers from Whitehall, they don't much like the look of what is being proposed, nor do they like what Devon County is thinking to do, they don't support delaying the elections, they recognise the governments white paper sets a clear direction of travel, as a body they are happy to work collaboratively with others but any changes must be carefully considered, transparent and inclusive ensuring residents and businesses are fully engaged in shaping the future government of Devon.

Recommendations the leaders report put forward: -

1. Write to minister in partnership with the other council leaders to reaffirm our opposition to a single devon wide unitary authority and the postponing of the county council elections.
 2. We fully endorse the joint statement issued by devons district council emphasising our position to a single unitary authority, the importance of a consultation of which there is none or any time for it in the timetable and evidence-based reform making clear stance against delaying the scheduled election.
 3. To continue to work collaboratively with councils across devon including Torbay to explore options for simplification as outlined in the English devolution white paper with a focus on improving collaboration, efficiency and shared services rather than pursuing disruptive structural reforms.
 4. To commission legal advice and independent evidence-based analysis to underpin any future proposals ensuring they are credible, transparent and robust, to ensure the ministerial deadlines are met with well-prepared facts driven and securitised submissions.
 5. To commit to comprehensive public consultation in advance of any business case submission and to lobby government on the importance of a devon wide referendum to ensure that any revised local government structure meet the principals of devolved powers to the local communities rather than being imposed by Whitehall.
 6. Any proposal for renewal authorities should advocate to a change to proportional representation.
- 7.2 County – None.

9. Chair's Report – None.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Next meeting – **06th March 2025.**

Future dates for the diary.

Parish Council Meetings:

01.05.25, 03.07.25, 04.09.25, 06.11.25, 08.01.26, 05.03.26.