

MINUTES OF A PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL, POULSHOT

Present: Chairman of the Parish Council and of the Meeting: Cllr Geoff Collett;
and six members of Poulshot Parish Council; and 36 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr J Seed.

Chairman's welcome:

The Chairman set out the purpose of the meeting as being to consult those present on how the proposed Community Fund might be managed and allocation decisions made. The Chairman reported that the Fund would be paid to the Parish Council upon first energisation of the Poulshot Lodge Farm solar park, with this undertaking contained in a signed Deed executed by the landowner and site developer, and held by Wiltshire Council as part of its planning oversight process.

Public Forum:

The Chairman invited the meeting to consider whether it was appropriate for the Parish Council to receive the Fund, and to act as the Accountable Body for its management and thence allocation into the community. A show of hands showed unanimous support for this proposal.

The Chairman then invited discussion on how the more detailed management of the Fund should be run, suggesting that a form of Panel be established under the leadership of the Parish Council, but consisting of a small number of councillors and a range of residents. The ensuing discussion then covered the following:

- That village organisations might be represented on the Panel;
- Terms of Reference should be established first before volunteers are sought;
- The Panel should not be large in number, but must seek views of all through geographical representation;
- An independent leader and panel from outside the village could be found that would not have vested interests;
- The whole village should vote on the options. A decision resting with the Parish Council was not supported;
- A scoring system should be created to impart objectivity in assessing proposals;
- That village organisations should not be represented, needing to avoid lobby groups emerging;
- The Panel needs to consider the proposals made by the Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation;
- The Panel should be supported by a Project Manager with financial management skills;
- The Panel should sift, then offer up viable options for choice;
- Need to define 'community', and how the whole community can be shown as benefitting from proposals made;
- The Fund can be spent on a number of proposals, some or all can be invested, there are no time limits;
- The Panel should produce a template for all proposals to follow;
- Ensure Parish Council is not handed a maintenance legacy unduly impacting on the precept;
- Improve engagement through process being fun – eg 'Dragons' Den'-style presentations by young people;
- Need to establish eligible purposes and set out restrictions;
- Survey every household, then establish majority views, keep process simple;
- One vote per household, not person;
- Proposals already received could be published to improve engagement and prevent duplication;
- No hurry, need to take time, and can invest in short term whilst establishing a scheme;

Discussion also covered other matters related to the site development, including road condition affected by mud. It was noted that a temporary entrance had been in use whilst the permanent site access was constructed, which was now virtually complete. Improvements should be noticeable, with road sweeping and wheel washing equipment already in place. Monitoring will continue.

A further public meeting would be called once the Fund had been received, likely to be end of January or beginning of February 2015. The Parish Council would consider draft Terms of Reference at its next meeting on 4 November, to be drafted by the Clerk assisted by Mr Jalland.

Volunteers were invited to leave their names and contact details with the Vice Chairman at the end of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed (Chairman)