



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 7.30pm in Plumpton Village Hall.

1. Welcome and to accept apologies for absence

In attendance: Cllr N Beaumont (Chair), Cllr P Morgan, County Councillor Sarah Osborne, District Councillor Rob Banks and Anita Emery (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 10

Apologies: It was noted that Cllr P Stevens, Cllr C Thompson, Cllr F Foreman and Cllr N Satchell had tendered their apologies.

2. To accept minutes for 2018 meeting

PPC APM Resolution 004. It was wished to be noted that item 6.4 of the minutes should have included Des Lambert alongside Emma Elford who obtained the grant from Leader. This was duly noted.

- **It was RESOLVED and AGREED** by majority that the APM Minutes of the meeting 15th May 2018 are an accurate record of that meeting, subject to the above change.

3. Update from Cllr Sarah Osborne (Cllr SO) and District Councillor Rob Banks (Cllr RB)

Cllr SO reported on the year for both County and District as Cllr RB was newly elected DC for LDC.

Main achievements for LDC

Gained funding for the following;

- £10k for citizen science project to monitor air.
- £28k on recycling to go bins – one of which is outside the village shop
- £10k to start a biodiversity improvement project
- £25k for the creation of trade in investment which is an account manager to support businesses to grow
- £450k to fund pop up flexible business space in order to give business start-ups ability to grow.
- £30k in short term funding for universal credit issues – it is hopeful to roll this out more permanently to cushion the issue between the wait between applying and funding being received.



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Introducing licensing conditions of Chinese lanterns and balloons. Cllr SO was hopeful SDNP would also come on board.

Hosted the DC Vote 100 event – Cllr SO was keen to increase the number of women in local government. At the County Council only 16% are women – this event was well attended.

County Council Report

The year was spent mainly fighting cuts which have been severe. The worse of the cuts have been delayed till April next year. £3m is to be cut from children's services meaning a potential to lose children centres. Cllr SO will follow this up when more details are available. Cllr SO now sits on the Health View Scrutiny board – they have experienced difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff and has got increasingly worse since the referendum which also mirrors social care.

Cllr SO the vulnerable in the area need support in cold weather and asked to be advised directly on anyone in this position. They are extending the free electric blanket testing again. Cllr SO happy to collect these blankets personally to get tested if required. Cabinet meetings have been cancelled mostly this year.

Cllr SO opened the floor to questions:

MOP asked re connectivity of broadband and what has been done to improve. The government and openreach work together there is 5% which is mainly rural areas that cannot get connection – if connection is under 3 megabites a second the government is to provide funding available to non-connective households.

DC Cllr Rob Banks wished to thank those who supported him in the recent election which was a civilised campaign. Plumpton had the second highest turnout of voters. Cllr RB has been involved in the anti-social behaviour at the playpark and chased LDC inspectors up and wished to thank all those involved in getting the playpark open again so quickly. [Heif](#) will be available to put peoples views across if the Wells Close/Strawlands development goes to committee within LDC. Cllr Banks wished to thank Cllr SO for her work as District Councillor over the last 12 years.

4. Update from Tina Lambert at Honeybees Pre-School

Honeybee's is a charity and committee run, they are open from 8.30am to 5.30pm term time only. They are part of the 30 hour government funded scheme which aims to put parents back into work. The government fund received is £4.10 per hour and to break even the hourly rate is £6.90 and therefore the committee does extensive fundraising throughout the year to make between £4-£7k per annum. Currently have 36 registered children – Ofsted advised max of 30 per session but Honeybees have capped at 26 so ratio levels are available for children with additional needs. Honeybees ethos is play based and majority of the time is outside play. With the help of the Parish Council they have extended the wooded area by the playpark which is maintained by Tina and her husband this extra area is to allow children with additional needs to play. The mental health of children is very important and also make parents feel ok about their



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skills as parents. They provide a parents-based evening which gives information for parents on positive behaviour and transition to school.

They have a Facebook page 'Plumpton Green Pre-School' which gives information on everything the pre-school does.

They have had great success of intergeneration with 2-4 year olds playing with puzzles, games and music with the older generation. A particular success was with two ladies with advance dementia – this is being set as a monthly activity.

They have electronic journals, but parents are wanting all children to be outside, get muddy, learn to sit still and listen.

They have 16 leaving in July with around 12 going to Plumpton Primary School, currently filming a graduation film for the leavers which will be shown in July. They are hosting a fun day on 14th July at the pavilion all are welcome.

September intake is looking to become full.

Honeybee's wished to thank the Parish Council in particular Cllr Stevens and asked Cllr Morgan to read out a report from the head at the Primary School. (see appendix 1)

5. Update from James Honess on Youth Theatre and Camera Club

James is a filmmaker and runs two groups Camera Club on a Monday and Youth Group on a Wednesday. The Youth Group is for ages 11-19 year olds, their first play of Grease will be showing in October half term consisting of 26 children. The group can be found under the name of 'Wings' on Facebook.

The Camera Club meets on a Monday and started as a small group one year ago but are now a formal committee and run by paying members.

6. Presentation from Paul and Carole Nicholson regarding General Environmental Concerns

Mr and Mrs Nicholson gave a presentation on use of plastics, recycling and how to become more environmentally friendly. They were inspired by the recent David Attenborough Our Planet documentary which showed some horrific images of what plastics are doing to our planet. There was a great turnout to their plastics meeting and over 50 ideas on how to reduce plastic use. They urged the community to try and sort the problem and thanked the Parish Council on their new Environmental Policy. Examples were given of what you can use instead of plastic for example bamboo toothbrushes and Vegeo bags to put fruit and veg in and discard the plastic that supermarkets use, the more people discard the plastic at checkout the more the supermarkets will act. Mr and Mrs Nicholson also explained what the recycled signs mean on packaging. For more information on their presentation please click on the PowerPoint presentation on the Parish Council website under Annual Parish Meeting 2019.



7. Annual Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The Parish Council Year

The chair welcomed Cllr Peter Morgan who was co-opted in November and Cllr Frank Foreman who was elected at the uncontested election in May. We say a goodbye and a thank you to Catherine Jackson and Gail Murphy for all their efforts over the 4+ years. There are still 3 vacancies on the Parish Council. The chair wished to thank the Clerk.

8. Parish Reports

8.1 Council Finances

- PPC is in sound financial shape – full details are published every month.
- PPC is under control financially and generally. The external audit to the year end 31/03/19 concluded
- "It is our opinion that the systems and internal procedures at Plumpton Parish Council are well established and followed. The clerk is very experienced and ensures the council follows best practice regulations and has overseen changes to the internal procedures as regulations and technologies have changed to maintain compliance.
- It is clear the council takes governance, policies and procedures very seriously and I am pleased to report that overall the systems and procedures you have in place are fit for purpose. I would like to thank Anita for her assistance and whilst my report contains recommendations to change these are not indicative of any failings, but rather are pointers to improving upon an already well-ordered system."
- Overall, we continue to focus on maximising benefit for the residents, rather than maximising income for the PPC
- We have funded, or agreed to help fund a number of initiatives for local groups and sports clubs, both directly and through the S137 and other grants, including:
 - Extending the outside area for Honeybees
 - Renovating the church Lych Gate
 - WW1 memorial activities
 - Indoor stoolball equipment
 - New play equipment for Ladybirds Playgroup, and a new storage shed.
 - Donations to St Peters and St James Hospice in lieu of hall hire fees
 - Monday Group for the renovation of local stiles



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6.3 The Village Hall and Green

New heating in the small hall. New fob entry system installed.

In line with our Environment policy for the VH the VH manager has been trying Eco products. All worked well except for the floor cleaner. she has reverted to her normal cleaner for the floors. Work to do on sourcing recycling bins. The income from the solar panels remains consistent. 15/01/19 - 12/04/19 income was £964.30.

Fred Symes has had a busy year at the VH. Willows pruned - Thank you Fred for the beautiful bench made from the stump of the oak tree. With the help of volunteers from OART the pond was cleared, and overhanging branches removed. Thank you to them and village volunteers for all their hard work.
Footpath resurfaced between Twitten and VH (with thanks to Monday Group)

Bandstand is in place and looking great. Path should be completed soon. Electricity supply will be fitted.

Plumpton Summer Event 13th July – Grand Opening of Bandstand

The village hall continues to be busy with hiring's. Income remains steady. As ever, a big thank you to Jane Donovan for her continued hard work and dedication as the village hall manager.

6.4 The Playing Field

PC are committed to provide additional and better facilities for sports and play given the national imperative to improve health; PF committee is actively researching improvements to the play park and sports field (including an all-weather pitch) , but if anyone wants to contribute time or ideas to any of the above we would be delighted for additional help.

A great deal of refurbishment has taken place at the pavilion, as well as the external refurb. The interior has now been redecorated and is an excellent venue for small events as well as servicing the need of the many sports clubs that use the space. The various clubs work in a harmonious manner, with much co-operation, making the running of the facility very straight forward.

As with many areas, we have occasional vandalism and dog fouling, which we should all be very vigilant about, the new signage has details of how to contact the Parish Clerk in the event of such occurrences and early reporting would be much appreciated.

6.5 The Neighbourhood Plan

- Oakfield Site awaits with full planning permission
- Outline planning approved for Riddens
- Outline planning pending for Strawlands
- No news on the Glebe

Community Infrastructure Levy.....This is funding collected by LDC from developers to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of the area. The Parish receives 25% of this funding.



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The Parish Council will be keeping a list of possible projects that could be considered as targets for the CIL spend. Examples of infrastructure projects would be:

- a play space/play park if the need is identified;
 - a larger play/sports area, possibly for all-weather use;
 - a cycle path network to connect the railway station and South Downs National Park;
 - additional footpaths at the north and south of the parish to provide safer pedestrian access where there are no pavements;
 - a bridleway network at the north and south of the parish;
 - additional facilities at the King George V playing field.
 - a community orchard;
 - a site for additional allotments
- restoration of Novington Quarry, to provide a local nature reserve.

6.6 Transport and Environment/Footpaths Committee

- New Bench on Lentrige – gift from Resident
- Repaired Bench opposite Wells Chase
- Lobbied hard for EVF Railway bridge painting and completed last month!
- Fantastic new Hedge by the allotments
- New Finger Posts installed at junctions of Station Road₇/South Rd. South Road/St Helena Lane and Plumpton Lane/B2116
- Look out for reprint of Plumpton Walks Book
- Community Speed Watch group has been formed

7 Questions from the Public

MoP questioned about obtaining a movable speed monitor – Chair noted and would speak with relevant authority.

Meeting closed 9.10pm

Anita Emery | Parish Clerk | 4th June 2019



Appendix 1.

Community links with Plumpton Primary School

During this academic year Plumpton Primary School has continued to be involved in the local community through:

- School plays and performances at school or at the village hall.
- The school council leading on an anti-idling campaign. This has just begun and more is planned.
- The school is now writing regular updates for the parish magazine.
- The parish council representatives are now meeting with the school council. ● The school will soon be working with a local Pets As Therapy dog, who will be coming into school to listen to children read.
- The local vicar attends and leads church services at school and at the local church.

I have met with representatives from Sussex Wildlife Trust and the National Park.

A number of plans have been discussed involving the children working with these agencies and I will be updating people soon when plans have been confirmed.

The Parish Council and school council will continue working together on community projects to reduce air pollution.

The school will continue to use Pocket Park and the forest school area at the back of the playing fields for Forest School activities.

If there are any further opportunities for the school and parish council to work together, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Hughes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stewart James