



## PLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 19:30.**

**Present:** Cllr N Beaumont – Chair (Cllr NB), Cllr P Burford (Cllr PB), Cllr P Stevens (Cllr PS), Cllr N Shefras (Cllr NDS), Cllr Jim Brown (Cllr JB), Cllr R Jury (Cllr RJ), Cllr Nick Satchell (Cllr NS), Cllr A Gardiner (Cllr AG) and District Councillor R Banks (Cllr RB).

**Absent:** County Councillor S Osborne (Cllr SO), Zenna Needham.

**Also present, Anita Emery (Clerk & RFO).**

**MOP's: 0**

Signed Anita Emery

Anita Emery (Clerk to Plumpton Parish Council)

**The AGENDA is as follows:**

282. To accept apologies for absence
- Cllr Sarah Osborne tendered her apologies which were duly noted.
283. To co-opt Zenna Needham (being deferred to January 2022 meeting)
- Noted by Council. It was also noted that if the co-option didn't happen in January then the vacancy would be readvertised.
284. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.
- None
285. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November
- Unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November were an accurate account of that meeting.
286. Clerk's Report and discuss any Matters Arising from previous meeting.
- Clerk still to sort calculation the number of grass cuts at the playing field and will report back.
287. Brief Report from the County and District Councillor on matters affecting this Parish.
- Cllr SO had sent her report see appendix.
  - Cllr RB reported on the unanimous decision to refuse the Nolands planning application and thanked PPC and all those that wrote to LDC objecting. Ringmer application was also refused.
  - LPP1 – expecting to hear more from LAA on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>.



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- Cllr NB asked about councillor substitutions on the LDC planning committee. Cllr RB advised they have a pool of substitutions with planning training so planning meetings proceed in the absence of a member.

288. Questions from Members of the Public – limited to a maximum of 15 minutes in total

- None

289. Update from members who attended the ESALC Conference/AGM

- Cllr AG attending the ESALC conference and reported the AGM was procedural. The conference had a presentation from highways – with complaints about their poor customer service. Session from the Police regarding Sussex speed management plan which is in draft at the moment and will be available soon and finally a presentation about Climate change.

290. To discuss EV charging point email received from LDC

- Clerk advised she had received an email from ESCC regarding EV charging point scheme proposal. At this stage it is an expression of interest which the Clerk has put the village hall car park site forward. Clerk to report back as and when information is received.

291. To ratify planning decision made over email after site visit on 19<sup>th</sup> November by Cllrs NDS and Cllr NB.

**SDNP/21/05106/TPO**

**The Eugh, Plumpton Lane, BN7 3AJ**

Felling of Sycamores (T1-2, T4-9) due to overcrowding and Holly (T4).

**SDNP/21/05105/TCA**

**The Eugh, Plumpton Lane, BN7 3AJ**

To fell due to die back Ash (T1). Allow maple (T6) to fill gap

Ash (T3) fell due to die back allow cherry and hazel to fill gap

Cherry (T4) – reduction will be circa 5 m to balance. Large cherry leaning northwards.

Reduce weight of north-side branches to reduce risk of toppling.

- Cllr NDS and NB visited the site and believed the applicant was acting in good faith. It was therefore agreed to ratify the decision to support the application. Unanimously agreed. SDNP had, since meeting, approved 05105. Duly noted.

292. Planning applications:

**LW/21/0855**

**Land adjoining Oakfield House, Station Road**

Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) relating to application LW/18/0953

**LW/21/0866**

**17 West Gate, Plumpton Green, BN7 3BQ**

Garage conversion & first floor extension.

- It was unanimously agreed to leave a no comment for both applications 0855 & 0866.



## Decisions to note:

**Inholmes Farm. – Approved.** Duly noted.

293. Correspondence

- Clerk updated Council on the giant hogweed situation at the playing field. Clerk advised it had been inspected by a professional and as the weather is cold and wet the weed is currently dormant. It will be treated in June as that is the only time in which the weed will react to the treatment. Council requested if an ecology treatment could be used. Clerk to speak with contractor. **Clerk to action.**

294. To adopt Recruitment Policy and Equality and Diversity Policy

- Unanimously agreed to adopt the Recruitment and Equality and Diversity Policy.

295. Update on recruitment of pavilion cleaner

- Clerk advised one application was received who had cleaned the pavilion many times before and it was agreed for the applicant to start on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Contract had been sent out. Duly noted.

296. To approve 2022/2023 budgets for PPC, VH and PF.

- Unanimously agreed to approve the 2022/2023 budgets for PPC, VH and PF.

297. To approve precept request for 2022/2023 at a 2.76% rise by £1713.

- It was unanimously agreed to approved the precept rise of £1713 from £62,172 to £63,885 a 2.76% rise. It was noted that LDC had just sent through the tax base figure and this had increased to 677.7 a 1.83% increase on previous year and therefore reducing the tax band D precept increase to 0.89%. Clerk was unsure if the council tax bill % rate indicated the precept rise percentage or the households tax band rise %. **Clerk to speak with LDC.**

298. Finance Committee

- Cllr PB reported on the finance meeting. He advised there were two extra expenditure items: PPC £89.91 Viking Direct and £41.95 CJS Portsmouth. Cllr PB wished it be noted that the £599.50 was non budgeted expenditure for the deposit for the band for the Jubilee celebrations.

a. To ratify the Finance Committee minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- Unanimously agreed to ratify FC minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

b. To adopt expenditure as itemised on the schedules

- Unanimously agreed to adopt the expenditure as itemised on the schedule.



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- c. To adopt year to date accounts
- d. To adopt combined bank balances
- It was unanimously agreed to adopted the YTD and combined bank balances. It was noted that Cllr NS would circulate the projected income for the VH on a monthly basis up to year end. Current projection was £11,500 expected income.
- e. To note and accept the interim internal auditors report by Mulberry and Co
- It was unanimously agreed to accept the interim internal auditors report and to note that the Village Hall may be subject to an audit if its income exceeds £25k. Clerks efforts were appreciated.
- f. Potential Community Infrastructure Levy Projects
- Cllrs PS reported that himself and the Clerk attended the CIL training provided by LDC. CIL annual process is; expression of interest (EOI) by January, plans provided by March and the decision in June. It was therefore suggested the target for the pavilion be 2023 which will allow more CIL funds to be collected, PPC cannot bid for more funding until match funding available. It was put forward that the plans needed to be in place by September 2022.

### 299. Neighbourhood Plan Update

- Cllr NB had a response from Sigma re the shared access. Sigma declined with Millwood. Cllr RB reported Oakfield Lane site timetable was delayed as communications with residents had been poor on certain areas of development.
- Cllr PS advised Millwood need to get their permissions in place for hoardings and to have a clear management plan.

### 300. To note and action if necessary monthly RA reports.

- Cllr RJ advised nothing to report.

### 301. To discuss broadband fibre optic community scheme

- Cllr NB advised at the moment collecting expressions of interest. Cllr PS is working with David Brown and an extensive note had gone into the parish mag. Clerk advised EOI's had calmed down. An update would be sent out next months parish mag. Cllr PS advised fibre optics can be delivered overhead. A company would need to be created outside of the Parish Council in order for Openreach to deal with you. 18 months ago Openreach advised that Plumpton were on the rollout – this in fact was Plumpton in Lancashire not Sussex.

### 302. Committee/Working Group Reports

- a. Transport and Environment/Footpaths/Policing
- Cllr NB advised SLR meeting took place but Ian Johnson wasn't available. Waiting on feedback of vehicle activated signs. T&E to meet regarding community energy in order to create own power. You would have to become a power company – something to discuss in the new year. Potential open day at the VH or climate changes.



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- i. Allotments update
    - Cllr RJ reported not much change –allotments flooded and the pipe and hose that runs to the water butt to be removed in winter – Cllr JB hopefully will assist.
  - ii. Community Orchard Update.
    - Cllr NB reported the pocket park is very overgrown and is a huge area to clear. Would need a groundwork company to clear and it may still then not be suitable. Cllr NB to ask the company who looked at the playing field to come back and review that area to suitability. Another suggestion was to invite landowners who may want to have an orchard?
  - iii. Update on the registering of the Fountain Inn as a community asset.
    - Cllr PS cannot pursue at the moment as the current landlords aren't yet fixed due to the sale from Ram to Punch Taverns. Paperwork would be rejected if currently submitted.
- b. Village Hall
- Cllr NS reported the pigeon work starts on 21<sup>st</sup> December
  - Disabled toilet has been fixed due to leak.
  - Cllr JB has started to clear the wooded area for Queens Jubilee tree.
  - Heaters at the hall have failed. 1 out of the 3 existing quotes came back amended other 2 failed to respond. Quote has gone up by 50% on equipment only. Quote to replace all broken heaters is £4500 + VAT. It was recommended to repair in two phases. The first being entrance, VH managers office and committee room at £2500 and phase two the toilets. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with phase one at £2500 + VAT. Cllr NS to action.
- i. Management of pond – vegetation and wild area between pond and footpath.
    - Cllr NS had been in contact with the college and has submitted works that needed doing – college have committed to look in January. The drainage of the pond, one quote received £3500 so will wait to hear from the college.
- c. Playing Field/Pavilion
- Cllr RJ reported roof at the pavilion is secure and watertight but needs to be finished. Contractor incurred a CV-19 outbreak and currently unsure when it will be completed.
  - Lock broken to gate on track – Jane to investigate as new lock and could be a faulty lock.
  - Cllr RJ reported on the pitches after bad weather and the football club were looking to play 3 matches on same pitch which would have left the ground in a bad state. They sensibly agreed to play two. Their contract states it is down to clubs discretion after pitch inspections.



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- Cllr RJ met with chair of the tennis club as north courts flooding which is coming off the stream. Cllr PS asked the Clerk to speak with the Environmental Agency who may be able to clear the silt etc. **Clerk to action.**
  
- i. To note playpark & skatepark inspection and action where necessary
  - Nothing to report and noted.
  
- ii. Update on path installation
  - Cllr JB advised concrete groundwork completed along with fencing and gateposts – hope to complete after Christmas – volunteers have fallen by the wayside. Cllr JB reported another £2500 to spend on the project bringing the total spend to £4300.
  
- iii. To discuss hedge relaying near playpark.
  - Clerk to forward G Wells original letter and agreed to take off the agenda for time being.
  
- iv. To consider removal/repair of dilapidated shed at KGV
  - Owner has been found and will be repairing in the Christmas break.
  
- v. Tennis Club lease
  - Clerk advised the new lease still hasn't been fully approved. Solicitor advised will take a few hours to change some detail regarding the substation now this isn't going ahead. Clerk to forward lease to Cllr PS to see how much needs to be taken out. The current lease isn't legal as not filed with HM Land Registry and needs to be finalised.
  
- d. Events Committee
  - i. Jubilee Celebrations update.
    - Cllr AG reported the band contract had been signed and deposit paid. Next meeting to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> January.
  
- 303. Interaction with Plumpton Primary School
  - Nothing to report
  
- 304. Communications/Website
  - Nothing to report.



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305. Items to be reported by Parish Councillors and/or to be included in future meetings

- Cllr JB asked about PPC having a Christmas tree on the green. It was a lovely idea and VH committee to discuss for next year.
- Cllr RJ asked about a new laptop for VH manager as her current one was working on a very old processor. Clerk to speak with VH Manager as both laptops need replacing. **Clerk to action.**
- Clerk advised PC office will be closed from 21<sup>st</sup> December returning 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.

306. Expiry of LDC Local Plan Part 1

(i) Planning Liaison Working Group update

- Cllr NB reported a letter from a group of councils in Wealden had been sent to Gove the Minister for Levelling up regarding how the standard method is crippling local areas. Cllr NB is putting together their own letter along with local parish councils.

Cllr NB thanked all councillors for their hard work and efforts over the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Meeting closed: 21:20

### Dates of next meetings:

11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Parish Council Finance Committee meeting 19.00

11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Parish Council Meeting 19:45

Anita Emery | Parish Clerk 20/12/2021