



# PLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Doc No 232409

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Pavilion on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 19:45.

**Present:** Cllr N Beaumont – Chair (Cllr NB), Cllr Jim Brown (Cllr JB), Cllr Paul Burford (Cllr PB), Cllr N Shefras (Cllr NDS), Cllr G Peacock (Cllr GP), Cllr Nick Satchell (Cllr NS), Cllr J Morecroft (Cllr JM) and DCllr D Stewart-Roberts

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

**Absent:** CCllr S Osborne

### MOP's: 4 (3 from Plumpton Racecourse)

1. To accept apologies for absence
  - County Councillor Sarah Osborne tendered her apologies.
2. To co-opt Joe Morecroft
  - Unanimously agreed – Cllr Morecroft signed the Declaration of Office and witnessed by the Clerk.
3. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.
  - None
4. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024
  - Cllr NDS – agenda item 6 third bullet – Daniel met with Jay Smith not Cllr NDS. Duly noted and amended.
  - Unanimously approved.
5. Clerk's Report and discuss any Matters Arising from previous meeting.
  - Clerk read out report attached as supporting paper. Duly noted.
6. Brief Report from the County and District Councillor on matters affecting this Parish.
  - District Cllr D Stewar Roberts reported;
  - LDC – Many councils are suffering financial distress – however a presentation from LDC finance team stated Lewes District is in fact doing ok.
  - Trying to get resolution on the Nolands access and Riddens SUDS issues. Planning officer hasn't been available.
  - Cllr NDS asked that residents had been asking her about potential works starting in a couple of months on Riddens. Developer not coming back with specific answers to the specific questions.



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- Nolands: struggling with applying change to the access. Developer would have to apply for change on planning application which is highly unlikely to happen.
- National Park Parish Priority Statement – now up to 40 responses. PPC decided not to submit a response.
- Fly tipping incident – hoping being sorted today.
- Cllr JB – new black bin has been received? Health and safety driven by LDC that bins needed to attach to back of the truck some residents didn't have them, so LDC rolled out to all.
  
- Country Report received from Sarah Osborne. See appendix 1.

### 7. Update from Racecourse management

- Craig Staddon CEO of the Racecourse – presented plans to PPC for sale of land on the north west corner of their land for a developer to build 9 houses.  
Nancy - planning consultant  
Paul – works for majority shareholder in Ireland
- Presentation sent across to PPC. Land is selling not the houses, still working on 9 dwellings due to traffic flow. Owners never take a dividend out all goes back into the business.
- Previous consultant put in a pre application for 13 which was sent back by LDC. Taken comments from officer at that time. Based application on previous 2021 call for sites not the current call for sites.
- No right of way across the station platform but under railways act it has to stay open all while trains are running, probably safest route as lit and has CCTV.
- Racecourse looking at land to sell and leave to developer to decide what they want to do.
- Planning on building business to add to the 17 days racing a year Will look at holding music events for example.
- If access granted for 9 houses – does that open up the site for further development? Cannot guarantee it does not open up to further development but number will likely be limited by traffic generated (a cap on number of traffic movements a day).
- Applying ideally by the end of this month and would like to have support of PPC – although PPC noted they are just consultees.

### 7a. To consider using the Racecourse as the venue for the Annual Parish Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May and confirm agenda.

- Racecourse happy to hold Annual Parish Meeting at there. Clerk to be in touch. Agenda to be drawn up at April meeting. **Clerk to action.**

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

- None



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9. Planning applications and consider further applications submitted after agenda publication:

**SDNP/24/00699/HOUS**

**Merriedown, Plumpton Lane, Plumpton BN7 3AH**

Single storey front extension including replacement of front porch

- No comment – unanimously agreed

**LW/24/0132**

**Tanglewood, Beresford Lane Plumpton Green BN8 4EN**

To confirm that the use of the land and the existing building on that land is lawful (residential amenity)

- No comment – unanimously agreed

To note approved/refused applications from local authority.

10. Correspondence

- Nothing to note.

11. Finance Committee

- a. PPC Expenditure – Cllr PB noted £1543.22 for Foster Landscapes for playpark repairs had been taken from CIL, £40,000 has been transferred to her Cambridge Building Society and 3 payments made tidying up after Barclays account closure.
- b. VH Expenditure – Cllr PB noted Opus Energy payment of £2367.77 to the budget line over by 38%.
- c. PF Expenditure - Cllr PB noted Opus Energy payment of £2326.13 to the budget line over by 5.6%.

a. To adopt expenditure as itemised on the schedules. It was noted the following;

- PPC - £47939.90 plus £2456 additional payment to AiRS for remaining Housing Needs Survey
- VH - £3470.49 plus £100 additional payment for dep return & £196 Ace Alarms
- PF - £3016.74

Unanimously agreed to adopt the expenditure noted by the finance committee.

- b. To adopt year to date accounts. – little to note – spent a just under £20k from CIL money playpark/passing places etc. Unanimously agreed.
- c. To adopt combined bank reconciliations - All agreed. No bank reconciliation for Cambridge Building Society of £40k awaiting for statement from them, but does show on combined bank reconciliation. Unanimously agreed to adopt.



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### 12. Neighbourhood Plan Update

- Cllr NB – Housing needs survey is out for the public to comment on. Had an opening evening with a no show from residents. Graham Maunders from AiRS also attended. Usually get between 25-30% response rate. Unsure what our response rate is currently. Can be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- (i) Planning Liaison Working Group update
- (ii) Orchard planning at the Plumpton Hub. – No update to report – next stage is S106 that developer has to put together.

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

- Nothing to report

### 14. Update on broadband fibre optic community scheme and actions.

- Update had been received from P Stevens – nothing positive to report.

### 15. To consider first draft of the Community Emergency Plan

- Cllr PB - Need to decide who will be first point of contact. Its there to give PPC some time to start thinking about provision. A few risks have been put down. Cllr PB to relook. Clerk to send updated document. **Clerk to action.**

### 16. To adopt the Honorary Freedom of the Parish policy

- Unanimously adopted. **Clerk to put nomination on April agenda** and presentation to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting.

### 17. Committee/Working Group Reports

#### i. Transport and Environment/Footpaths/Policing

- Nothing to report. Nothing from highways re Nolands access. Going to have to do a road traffic order to do the yellow lines at which point residents can object.

#### ii. Allotments update

- Nothing to report

#### d. Village Hall Report

Cllr NS reported – contacted Malcolm Beard re repainting (now retired) so waiting for other quotes.



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Gutters leaking - £300 to clean – approved by finance committee.

Small steps purchased for children to be able to reach the sinks in the WC

Bandstand electrics failed and now has a watertight box

5 emergency lights failed now repaired

2<sup>nd</sup> lifebuoy to be ordered at the beginning of April.

Turning Pointe who contribute a third of the earnings to the hall. Had mirrors installed in the hall which are hidden by curtains when not in use.

Six monthly fire alarm check has been done

Back fire doors failing – finance committee approved quote for repair/replace

Jane made the point that we don't have many weddings booked in for the new year need to make more prominent on website (see below re website).

Apple day will be held alongside the Horticultural Society day.

WW1 Pediment – Lee Stevens looking into getting it repaired. PPC feel best way is to leave it up and to get a restorer to look at it before it comes down.

Handyperson – advertise amongst fellow Clerks/councils in the area. **Clerk to action.**

i. Update on path reinstatement from UKPN

- Photos have been sent of the before and after to UKPN – **Clerk to chase.**

e. Playing Field/Pavilion Report

i. To note playpark inspection and action where necessary.

- Defer next month as report just received.

ii. Pavilion Working Group update

Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Clerk gave an update on current research having spoken to 8 companies of which 4 responded.

18. Interaction with Plumpton Primary School

- Clerk emailed primary school requesting a report for the Annual Parish Meeting booklet.

19. Communications/Website

- Website administrator is researching on costings to rebuild website at some point during the next financial year, which will include making the village hall more prominent for weddings etc.



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

- Cllr NB report on Network Rail meeting
- Agreed signal box needed repainting and repairs. Walked down the track and noted the hedge infringes on the path towards the track. **Clerk to chase in a month.**
- Cllr GP - Plumpton Cross sign – wooden frame has broken. Clerk to contact National Park. **Clerk to action.**

21. Confidential item: All press and public to be excluded from the meeting in accordance with schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

a. To receive report from Personnel Committee

- Cllr PB updated Council on the appraisals and salary reviews. **Unanimously agreed.**

**Meeting Closed: 21.44**

**Dates of next meetings:**

16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Finance Committee 19:00 – PPC 19:45

7<sup>th</sup> May VH Committee – 19:00

14<sup>th</sup> May PPC Annual Meeting 19:45 followed by full council (inc finance) meeting

21<sup>st</sup> May Annual Parish Meeting – 19:30

Anita Emery | Parish Clerk 13/3/2024

Appendix 1

### **County Council Report February 2024**

#### **Budget**

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2024/25 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 6 February 2024. Councillors approved a £538m net revenue budget for 2024/25 with no new cuts to services. The decision not to reduce services was taken despite the rising cost of providing them and funding not keeping pace. In setting a balanced budget, Councillors agreed to use £14.3m of the Council's limited financial reserves to meet the shortfall and to increase council tax by 4.99%.



### **Older People's Housing**

In my role as Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board at the Local Government Association I chaired a session at the National Conference for Children's Services and Adult Social Care into Older Persons Housing. In this session some vital work (and of particular importance in our area given the aging demographics in East Sussex) by The Older People's Housing Taskforce was presented. Their aim was to investigate and understand the existing housing market for older people in England and look at options for the provision of greater choice, quality and security of housing for older people. I am hopeful that this will provide the evidence and ideas to improve and provide much needed housing for our residents in the future.

### **More Homes for Ukrainians needed**

With Ukrainians still being forced to flee their homes, and those already in the county looking for settled accommodation, residents are being asked to consider becoming a host family for those seeking refuge.

Since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, more than 800 host families have welcomed over 1800 guests to the county, with local groups and organisations providing support and services to help them settle and achieve independence. Hosts have played an invaluable role in helping Ukrainian guests to build an independent life in this country.

More information about the scheme can be found

at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/supporting-refugees/ukraine/could-you-provide-a-safe-home-for-ukrainian-guests>, alternatively residents wanting to find out more can email [ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk) or call the advice line between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday on 01273 337010.

Ends.

Contact Information

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