



PLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Doc No 242508

minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on 10th December 2024 at 19:45.

Present: Cllr N Beaumont – Chair (Cllr NB), Cllr Jim Brown (Cllr JB), Cllr N Satchell (Cllr NS), Cllr Paul Burford (Cllr PB), Cllr G Peacock (Cllr GP) and Cllr N Shefras (Cllr NDS).

Also present: Anita Emery (Clerk & RFO) and District Cllr D Stewart-Roberts

Absent: County Cllr S Osborne.

MOP's:

The AGENDA is as follows:

1. To accept apologies for absence
 - County Cllr S Osborne tendered her apologies.
2. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.
 - None
3. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2024
 - Unanimously approved
4. Clerk's Report and discuss any Matters Arising from previous meeting.
 - Clerk had distributed report. One to note that wasn't on it was graffiti on the skatepark – agreed to leave for the moment.
5. Brief Report from the County and District Councillor on matters affecting this Parish.
 - No County report received.
 - District Cllr Stewart-Roberts reported. Two local plan consultations to respond to. SDNP confirmed National Park Local Plan starting about 17th Jan and Lewes on 6th Jan. Lewes doing main consultation (policies and urban sites and few rural sites mainly). Government not announced changes to NPPF a yet. ESCC dragging feet on transport studies. Rural sites will appear later in the year. LDC are providing a lot more communication about the consultation this time. SDNP doing one round of consultation.



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6. Questions from Members of the Public – limited to a maximum of 15 minutes in total
 - None
7. Planning applications and consider further applications submitted after agenda publication

LW/24/0685

Downs House, St Helena Lane, Plumpton BN7 3DH

Solar panels on roof of equestrian barns with connecting cable for domestic use.

- No Objection. Unanimously agreed.

SDNP/24/04557/FUL

Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Plumpton BN7 3AE

Installation of 2no antennas and ancillary development thereto including 2 no remote radio units.

- No objection. Unanimously agreed.

8. Correspondence

- Nothing to note.

9. Finance Committee

- Cllr PB reported – one small anomaly RBS didn't pick up one account when the Clerk was reconciling – this has been rectified and now shows the balance Clerk to replace on website. **Clerk to action** – it also shows an additional movement of £300 applicable to P Antrobus payment. Spent £713 on Handyman finance committee agreed the improved maintenance around the village justified the spend. VH maintenance line was over budget and have agreed to moved some items to 3-5 year maintenance. Duly noted.
- Four additional expenditure items to add as follows;
 - PF – Pyrotec - £367.97
 - JB expenses - £20.81 (light bulbs for pavilion)

PPC £300 – Handyman payment

VH - £119.49 Cllr JB expenses (new xmas lights and hinges for internal doors)

Total expenditure therefore

PPC - £10,102.51

VH £3424.05

PF £1353.48

- a. To adopt expenditure as itemised on the schedules.



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- b. To adopt year to date accounts.
- c. To adopt combined bank reconciliations
 - Unanimously approved to adopt a-c
- d. To approve the 2025/2026 budgets for PPC, VH and PF and the precept request of £94,525 and increase of 12.10%, £1.20 monthly increase on tax band D. Now amended as tax base received after publication of the agenda 9.54%
 - Cllr PB reported – tax base has increased by 2.34% and therefore lowering the % increase in the precept based on tax band D – 2.5% of the precept is effectively on NI government increase and decrease in NI threshold, plus a salary increase as the Clerk hours have increased due to taking on the pavilion project and playing field.
 - Unanimously approved the precept of £94,525 of 9.54%. **Clerk to action.**
- e. To approve the Charity Commission accounts for Village Hall and Playing Field for year ending March 2024
 - Unanimously approved – Cllr NB signed both documents. **Clerk to action.**
- f. To note the interim audit report by Mulberry & Co
 - Nothing to report a clean audit. Duly Noted

10. Neighbourhood Plan Update

- Cllr NB -visited site at Rectory Meadows whereby Elivia Homes advised they plan to complete early in the new year – Nolands to start thereafter. Not much sale interest in the current site.
- (i) Planning Liaison Working Group update
 - (ii) Update regarding LDC Local Plan and PPC appetite to host a local plan engagement event either LDC led or PPC led to help formulate a response.

Cllr NB reported the next stage of the local plan was approved at LDC cabinet meeting. Consultation to start on 6th January 2025, draft documents list is on the website. One in Plumpton Green which is field further to east of Rectory Meadows which is owned by the Diocese which would approximately be about 20 houses. Curious since site is marked as Not Deliverable or Developable in the SHELAA.

- What will be required by PPC – PPC willing to be at the LDC public drop in consultation in Cooksbridge on 6th February 6.30pm-8pm – PPC requested information boards to be provided by LDC with a contact details on who to contact to be at the village hall – banner. **Clerk to action**

11. To note and action if necessary monthly RA reports.

- Nothing to note



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12. Update on promotion of parish councillors

- Nothing to report. Cllr GP asked if his son could come and film current Cllr's on what it is like to be a Cllr which could then be put on social media. Duly accepted.

13. To discuss condition of bus shelter by The Plough.

- Cllrs received and read JB's report advising bus shelter is fit for purpose and just needs a little tidying. Duly noted.

14. To note meeting dates for 2025

- All duly noted.
- Cllr DSR entered the room – 20.23. See District report above.

15. Allotments – Update on plots

- Rented one out need to contact next on the list. **Clerk to action.**

16. Committee/Working Group Reports

i. Transport and Environment/Footpaths/Policing

- To consider Cllr NDS recommendation to write to the Environmental Agency regarding flooding and request potential investigation to dredge the Bevern.
- Draft letter written by Cllr NDS came about as some residents had approached Cllr NDS about the problem. Cllr NDS happy for the letter to be adapted –agreed to send an adapted letter. **Cllr NB to action.**

ii. Update regarding the National Nature Recovery Strategy.

- Meeting Thursday – no real update. Contractor 'Wildbusiness' has started. Next stage is to approach local land owners.

g. Village Hall

i. Update from Cllr JB regarding works behind Kimber Cottages

- Keeping an eye on the back garden for last couple of months and hasn't flooded during the recent heavy rain – could be linked to the mains leak



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further up by the shop that then affected Tenterden. Cllr JB to keep an eye on and report back to PPC. Cllr NB to write to owner of Kimber advising while agreed to take remedial action but holding fire and to keep assessing during winter and discuss again in Spring.

ii. War Memorial Pediment restoration update

- Cllr GP reported the video is finished and Lee Stevens has applied to the BBC today. Will await to hear.

iii. To consider/discuss disabled toilet repairs

- Cllr JB advised that the seat is broken (quotes distributed prior to the meeting to council) – Armitage Shanks unit is from 2008 – cannot buy the seat to fit – the legislation specification has now changed. it was agreed to preapprove to replace the whole thing but buy the seat first to see if that fits – failing that replace the whole unit. **Cllr JB to action.**

iv. Update from Village Hall Committee

Cllr NS reported;

- Had meeting not quorate – looked at the kitchen and waiting on quotes to change. See what grants we can apply for.
- Old piano in the large hall VH committee keen to get rid of it as no one uses it. Advertise to see if anyone wants it.
- Need new committee members. Jim has put the old sign up on the Village Hall.

v. To discuss quotes for redecorating committee room and small hall. Quotes received and distributed to Council, it was agreed to preapprove the works up to £1000.

h. Playing Field/Pavilion

i. To note playpark inspection and action where necessary.

- 3 items marked medium risk – Clerk to speak to handyman in the new year. **Clerk to action.**

ii. To resolve to relinquish to protect the wooded/green space area south of the Village Green by Fields in Trust as replacement land for the pavilion new build and approve legal fees of £2000.

- Cllr NB reported that Fields in Trust wouldn't approve plans until some replacement land was allocated to them. Unanimously agreed to proceed. **Clerk to action.**



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17. Interaction with Plumpton Primary School

- None

18. Communications/Website

i. New website update

- Cllr NDS reported site is nearly there and ready to launch middle of January as will coincide with the local plan consultation.

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

- It was noted that Cllr PB and NS would not be at the January meeting and Cllr NS and JB at the February meeting. Clerk advised that there would not be a finance committee meeting in January and February and all finance would be discussed at the main council meeting.

20. **Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.**

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential/special nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable that the press/public be excluded and instructed to withdraw during discussion on the following items: Staffing.

- Duly noted.

Meeting closed: 21:00

Dates of next meetings:

16th December 2025 – Pavilion working group – 11am (VH CR)

14th January 2025 Full Council 19:45

Anita Emery | Parish Clerk 17/12/2024