

Minutes of a Meeting of Plumtree Parish Council held on Monday September 23 2013, at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree at 7.00pm

Couns. David Martin (chairman)

Mark Bailey

Fiona Carruthers

Adrian Kerrison (A)

Jonnie Richards (A)

Mike Clark

Also present: The clerk Mike Elliott, Coun. Mrs Fiona Mason (Rushcliffe BC) and six members of the public.

1] **Apologies** Coun. J Richards.

2] **Declarations of Interest** There were none

3] **Minutes from previous meeting on July 25, 2013** were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman after it was pointed the meeting had started at 7pm.

4] **Parishioners Reports** (the meeting being closed to allow this item to proceed)

Concerns on a perceived increased in the amount of dog fouling incidents was commented on. It was suggested a dog not under control of an owner had been seen in the village on a number of occasions. The clerk said he had obtained the lamp post notices on this matter as requested. They were handed to Mr Ron Tansley for displaying.

An increasing number of heavy lorries using Church Hill was reported. In addition it was suggested that more car drivers were using the same road at high speeds. The number of cars being parked near the school was another concern. The clerk was to ask Notts County Council to investigate the position. He was also to seek comment on reports the proposals to establish 20mph limits would only be around local authority schools and would therefore exclude Plumtree.

Mr Ron Tansley said he would contact Mr Paul Noone of Upper Broughton in regard to Neighbourhood Watch materials.

5] **Clerk's Report and update on previous meeting business**

There was nothing to report.

6] **Election of vice chairman** Coun. Mike Clark was elected, the appointment being necessary following the resignation of John Brook as a member of the council. The chairman said he had thanked Mr Brook for his service to the council and expressed regret that he had found it necessary to resign, due to leaving the village.

The clerk reported the council could co-opt a new member once Rushcliffe had advised it was in order to proceed on that course. The matter would be an agenda item for the next meeting. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy for co-option as soon as the Borough confirmed the position and to include this in another issue of the council newsletter.

7] **Correspondence**

Notts County Council wrote in regard to its winter salt provision service and it was agreed a request be made for the five free 25kg bags of salt on offer and for them to be delivered to the Burnside Hall. Members would advise residents of their availability. Notts County Council had responded in regard to the request for a double bend sign near the parish church and advised they had visited the area and were considering the matter further.

The Duchy of Cornwall had dealt with a complaint in regard to the boundary hedge on Main Road. It was confirmed the hedge had been cut. No one wished to attend the Notts Association of Local Councils annual general meeting at Epperstone on November 13.

Notts County Council advised that the application under the Local Improvement Scheme project for village sign had been received and a decision would be made in May next year on the success or otherwise of it.

Notts County Council wrote in regard to its budget programme for 2014-15, advising that over the next three years it had to make savings of £154 million and were seeking comments on how they should reduce services to achieve this. Members were urged to complete the comment forms and return them to County Hall.

8] **Highway matters**

The clerk was asked to bring to the attention of Notts County Council the poor condition of pavements in the village including instances where overgrowth of grass has seriously reduced the width of the walking area, and to Rushcliffe Borough Council the amount of litter and dirt in the gutters.

A delay in the provision of a permanent flashing speed sign on the Tollerton side of the village was to be raised with the County Council highways department.

It was suggested an application should be made to the Notts County Council LIS scheme for a project to improve the unauthorised lay by area on the roadside leading out of the village towards Tollerton.

A final request was to be made to the owner to cut the Church Lane hedge, saying the matter would be reported to the County Council if the work was not undertaken.

The clerk was asked to write to the County Council to say it wished to see the street lights in the village turned back on during all hours of darkness.

9] Planning Matters

Applications: There were none.

Rushcliffe Borough Council decisions: There were none.

Confirmation was given by the council of the additional comments sent to the Borough on the Rushcliffe Green Belt Review. Thanks were offered to Coun. Kerrison for his recent work involving the submission of comments to the Borough on the Review.

10] Finance

It was agreed to authorise payment of accounts as per the circulated schedule.

It was agreed to confirm the Council Financial Regulations presented by the clerk with the exception of the emergency spending limit being reduced from £300 to £100. The clerk was asked to check if comment was needed in the Regulations in respect of tenders being sought from firms where members or relatives had a connection.

The clerk said the Audit Commission had given the accounts for 2012-3 a clean bill of health and had not raised any concerns on them.

11] Environmental matters

The clerk reported that Defra had advised that if ragwort is found to be growing it is the responsibility of the land owner to deal with it. It is no longer a notifiable weed.

The council agreed that £30 be allocated for spending on new plants etc for each of the two village planters, near the church and the Town End cottages.

The clerk was asked to arrange for a replacement for the plaque within the Plumtree 2000 sign. He was also asked to write to Mr Ken Bloor to thank him for his work on cleaning the sign. Mr Tansley and Mr Martin Day were thanked for their work in refurbishment of the seat near the Burnside Hall. They were asked if they would inspect the seat opposite the land owned by Lottie Timmans.

12] Parish Council Village Website

Coun. Carruthers reported a consistent use of the website. Some changes had been made to it since the last meeting. Figures she produced showed in the period July 1 to September 19 there had been 522 people visiting the site. In July there had been 243 people and in August 173.

13] To consider Council Child Policy statement: The council accepted the Policy Statement with updates on telephone number contacts provided by Coun. Carruthers.

14] Chairman's matters

Nothing was raised.

15] Agenda Items for Next meeting November 11, 2013

The council's Emergency Plan would be an agenda item.