

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for Plumtree held on Monday May 19, 2014, at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree at 7pm

There were 21 members of the public present and they were welcomed to the meeting by the parish council chairman Coun. David Martin.

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Coun. Fiona Carruthers.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Thursday May 23, 2013, were agreed and duly signed as correct by the chairman Coun. David Martin

3. **DEFIBRILLATOR -- Visit Of Community Heartbeat Officer Martin Fagan**

Mr Fagan was welcomed to the meeting by the chairman and spoke of the advantages of installing a unit. He said that statistics show that early defibrillation can increase the survival chances of a person who had suffered a sudden cardiac arrest by as much as 50 per cent.

He said he had looked at possible sites for a unit and said the public house, the BT exchange or the Memorial Hall would be suitable. He confirmed a power supply was needed to the defibrillator wherever it was fixed. He said the annual maintenance cost for a unit was around £200.

Mr Fagan was thanked for his presentation by the chairman.

4. **Chairman's report**

The chairman presented the annual report which is appended to the minutes.

5. **Finance report**

The clerk presented his report and said the council started the 2013/2014 financial year with a figure in hand of £6,425.

During the year the main items of expenditure were £55 for audit fees, subscriptions £149, and £530 for grass cutting, maintenance and street furniture. Hire of the Burnside Memorial Hall for council meetings cost £143. The parish council website cost £42. Expenditure on publishing a parish council newsletter was £166. Total expenditure during the year was £3,660, an increase of £300 on the previous year.

Income during the year totalled £4,199 comprising of £3,795 from the precept, £25 was recovered from VAT spent on goods. The council also received £125 from website advertisements and £250 from grants.

The council ended the year with a balance in hand of £6,964 which allows it to meet Audit Commission's advice to hold reserves to meet 18-months worth of expenditure. The precept for the new financial year is £3,795, the same as in the previous year.

The accounts had been to the Internal Auditor, an accountant in Keyworth, and he had raised no points to bring to the council's attention.

6. **Notts Best Kept Village competition**

The chairman said entry was being made in the competition for 2014 and appealed to residents in the village to play a part in keeping property and frontages tidy. It was agreed to hold a litter pick day on June 7 and for those taking part to meet at the Memorial Hall at 10am. The clerk would obtain black sacks etc and for the collected rubbish to be picked up by Rushcliffe Borough Council on the Monday, from the hall.

7. **Question time**

The question of weed spraying through the village by a local resident was raised. Lack of consultation by Notts County Council in regard to the recent road closures at Normanton on the Wolds and which had greatly increased traffic through Plumtree was raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Plumtree Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2013/14

Planning issues, outside of Plumtree, have been to the fore throughout the past year. Keyworth is keen to increase the number of houses in their village and any development there, especially to the north of the village, will adversely affect Plumtree with increased volumes of traffic. We have attended several meetings with Keyworth PC and voiced and submitted our concerns. Keyworth PC fully understands our concerns and shares our thoughts on identifying possible alternative routes for traffic should the proposal go ahead. We are still awaiting the issue of the revised Keyworth Village Plan. In addition to this we have the Green Belt issues raised by Rushcliffe BC. Villages are being deemed either in the green belt or excluded as an 'inset' village, as is the current proposal for Plumtree. We have significant concerns on how this could affect Plumtree and have had informal meetings with Rushcliffe BC officers and submitted formal objections. My sincere thanks go to Adrian Kerrison for guiding us through the tortuous detail of these planning issues and for turning our thoughts into thoroughly professional submissions.

As I mentioned in my last report Highways issues always appear to be the most difficult to resolve. Outcomes from discussions and meeting with a county council representative during September/October 2012 have still to be resolved. You wouldn't believe the problems encountered by just requiring our new interactive speed sign to be switched on. However, as you will have noticed it is now functioning and hopefully this will have an effect on the speed of traffic through our village.

Following the enthusiasm of one of our residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Plumtree a presentation at the last Annual Parish Meeting resulted in the scheme being set. Unfortunately, through lack of support, the scheme is now no longer in operation.

It's always a pleasure when residents offer to keep Plumtree looking good. You will have noticed the repainted Plumtree 2000 sign and improvements to the nearby and Burnside Hall seats. This is a continuous task and we all need to be aware of what we can do to help. We are entering the Best Kept Village competition this year and we can all play our part by looking after our immediate area.

During the year we had a resignation of one of our councillors. The positive outcome was shown by the number of formal applications received to fill the vacancy and offers of help from other residents. Next year, during May, we have the Election of Parish Councillors and while I still enjoy, most of the time, being a parish councillor, I am more than willing to step down for an enthusiastic villager to join the council.

You will have no doubt read or heard about the changes at Sycamore Farm. We wish Andrew and Mandy Brailsford the best of luck with their new venture.

Last summer was a very successful [one] for Plumtree Cricket club, not just in cricketing terms. A number of events at the significantly improved club house drew a large number of residents to enjoy its facilities - hopefully residents will continue their support. Plans are now in hand to enlarge the playing area to cater for the increasing numbers of enthusiastic cricketers.

The telephone box library has occasionally been the victim of its own success. With so many people using the library it is often left in a mess and relies on a few villagers to tidy up. Occasionally people park their cars to access the library without giving due care to the drives they are blocking.

Because of the endeavour and hard work of Fiona Carruthers the parish council website is a continuing success.

As in previous years my thanks go to Madge & Roy Spicer and Sue Collishaw for maintaining the planters, and to the Wolds Childcare Nursery for looking after the Pinfold wild flower sanctuary.

Finally, my thanks go to those who make the effort to attend parish meetings and all the councillors for their invaluable support throughout the year and the help and guidance from our Parish Clerk, Mike Elliott.

David Martin

19/05/14