

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for Plumtree held on Monday March 23, 2015, at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree at 7pm

There were 17 members of the public present and they were welcomed to the meeting by the parish council chairman Coun. David Martin.

1. **APOLOGIES** There were none
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Monday May 19, 2014 were agreed and duly signed as correct by the chairman Coun. David Martin

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
is appended to the minutes

- 4 **FINANCE REPORT**

The parish clerk Mike Elliott reported the accounts for 2013-14 had been given a clean bill of health by the Audit Commission and no points were raised by them in June last year.

The finances of the council were in a sound position although he pointed out that if plans went forward for a defibrillator there could be additional expenditure which could eat into the current balance of £7,100.

The council started the current financial year with a balance of £6,900 and so look to be on line for somewhere near the expected budget expenditure. During the year the items of expenditure included audit fees, various subscriptions, office administration, grass cutting and ground maintenance and street furniture, meeting room hire, website and council newsletter costs.

Income in the past 12 months has been £3,795 from the precept, £215 recovered from VAT spent on goods, £100 from website advertisements and £250 from grants. The precept for the new finance year starting on April 1 is £4200, the first increase for five years.

Changes in the way the council has to have its accounts audited will come into effect for 2016-17 but the clerk said he was confident our current systems are sound and new regulations will not cause us any problems.

5. **QUESTION TIME**

The meeting was told a new tenant had moved in to the Griffin Inn but no assurance was given on the future of the premises. The continuing inefficient operation of the flashing speed signs on the main road through the village was raised. Concerns were expressed on the problem of waste bins being left outside premises after being emptied.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Plumtree Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2014/15

The same planning issues that were prevalent last year have continued. Councillors have spent a lot of time putting Plumtree's concerns over the plans to various planning meetings and public hearings with Rushcliffe BC and Keyworth PC. Rushcliffe has now formally announced plans to build on greenbelt land, mainly to the west of Clifton and north of Tollerton, although a legal challenge has been raised by Barton-in-Fabis PC which will be heard in the High Court in London. The adopted core strategy identifies a total of 13150 houses to be built between 2011 and 2028. Building on Sharp Hill has not started because the developers did not consider it economical to do so, however, with an increase of 300 houses now approved for the site, work is likely to start in the near future. The impact on traffic flow at Wheatcroft Island in the years to come is unimaginable.

Rushcliffe BC has stated that Part 2 of the Local Plan identifies the eight villages, including Plumtree, deemed to be 'inset' rather than 'washed over' in the green belt. This is expected to be finalised during the summer of 2016 following consultation with all villages involved.

Keyworth PC has now produced its Neighbourhood Plan and is looking to build in the region of 480 houses, mainly to the east of the village. The plan does look out of balance with the village centre facilities and our prime concern is the additional traffic flow that this would present to Plumtree. We have submitted that Platt Lane should become a viable alternative route for access to and from the A606 to Keyworth. Keyworth PC has acknowledged our concerns and added this to the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan.

I want to sincerely thank Adrian Kerrison for his continued expert guidance, written submissions and personal representation on our behalf on all these planning issues.

Rushcliffe BC is reducing the number of Wards this year and in doing so we will lose the services of our Borough Councillor Fiona Mason. I want to thank Fiona for all her support and advice given over many years. Another Fiona, Fiona Carruthers is not standing for re-election to Plumtree PC this year and her involvement will be greatly missed. Thankfully, Fiona has agreed to continue to manage the excellent website that we have.

The issue of a defibrillator for the village will be hopefully decided early in the new financial year. We will be submitting a request to the East Midlands Ambulance Service for their approval and hopefully some financial support. Many thanks go to Mandy Brailsford for all her help on the subject.

The War memorial in St Mary's church yard was refurbished just in time to be a fitting setting for the remembrance service held. We are grateful for the additional support from Fiona Mason and Normanton-on-the-Wolds PC.

You will have read in the recent 'newsletter' that after many years of lobbying we have succeeded in having a 30mph restriction agreed for a length of Bradmore Lane passing the cricket club up to the village centre. We have been concerned that this was an area where an accident was waiting to happen. The signs were installed at the end of last week.

Plumtree Cricket Club is officially 200 years old this year and will be staging a number of events to celebrate the occasion during the summer.

Residents continue to help Plumtree looking good. My thanks go to Martin Day and Ron Tansley for looking after the notice board and benches and to Ken Bloor. Ken is already planning to re-shelve our telephone box library and paint the tree on the Plumtree 2000 sign in a gold colour to make it stand out more. Thanks also go to Madge & Roy Spicer and Sue Collishaw for maintaining the planters. Action is also in hand to make the Pinfold more user friendly and less demanding on maintenance. Thanks go to the Wolds Childcare Nursery. Thanks also go to all those who helped out with the litter pick last Saturday.

We lost a stalwart in Bruce Mitchell late last year. He always attended parish council meetings and kept us on our toes with new and outstanding issues that needed to be resolved, but always with a twinkle in his eye. Meetings are not quite the same without him.

Finally, my thanks go to the valiant few 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

23/03/15