

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for Plumtree held on Monday May 22, 2017, at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree at 7.30pm

There were 14 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 23, 2016 were agreed and duly signed as correct by the chairman Coun. David Martin

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

4 FINANCE

The clerk said the council started the 2016/2017 financial year with a figure in hand of £6,008. During the year the main items of expenditure were £85 for audit fees, subscriptions £163, and £424 for grass cutting, maintenance and street furniture. Hire of the Burnside Memorial Hall for council meetings cost £132. The parish council website cost £269 and Expenditure on insurance cost £376. Grants totaled £1156 including £500 to the Burnside Hall and £200 to the cricket club and £150 to Normanton on the Wolds parish council funds the cost of the Beacon used for the Queen's 90th birthday.

Income during the year totalled £4,785 comprising of £4,200 from the precept and £44 was recovered from VAT spent on goods. The council also received £50 from website advertisements.

The council ended the year with a balance in hand of £5,519 which just allows it to meet Audit advice to hold reserves to meet 18-months' worth of expenditure. The precept for the new financial year is £4,200.

The accounts have been to the Internal Auditor, an accountant in Keyworth, and he has raised no points to bring to the council's attention and has signed them off. They now go to the Audit Commission auditors Grant Thornton in Liverpool for the final time.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE MEETING

Coun. Cottee introduced himself as the Notts County Council member. He had been a member of the authority since 2001. And while he was the current new member for Plumtree he had previously represented them before a change in the County election boundaries. Among the responsibilities he had were highways. On the question of roadside weeds he explained the system the County used for clearing them. The weed killer took 24 hours to work and if it rained once the liquid had been sprayed, it had to be done again.

Concerns on traffic congestion caused by heavy parking was an item which a number of residents raised. The appearance of the school was also a concern, with a suggestion part of its exterior looked shabby. The chairman would pay the headmaster a visit.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8-10pm

Chairman's Report 2016/17

I am pleased to start this report by saying that one of the hottest issues in the village for many years is on the way to being resolved. The village eyesore of the Griffin Inn and car park is scheduled to be worked on during this year. This will significantly improve the visual appearance of the area and bring back another focal point to the village that has been sorely missed for several years. As with any change there are always some concerns as to the effect that it has on others. The plans to restore and substantially improve the Griffin have been submitted and are being considered along with some concerns of nearby residents. Hopefully, work will proceed soon.

Plumtree is a well-regarded village and this can bring issues in itself, especially with car parking. The continued popularity of the Church, Burnside Hall and School does cause significant traffic issues in the village, especially on Church Hill and the junction by the School and the Griffin. Most people feel that an accident is never far away. This issue has been discussed at many parish council meetings and earlier suggested possible alternative parking arrangements at the cricket club have not been taken up. However, at the March 2017 meeting it was agreed that all possible options for alternative parking in the village should be explored again.

The condition of many sections of pavement and road through the village is appalling. We have pavements where it is very difficult for wheel chair users and pedestrians to negotiate because of uneven surfaces and little pavement available due to the creep of the grass bank. We join with many areas of the country with cracked and pot holed roads causing significant traffic noise and bone shaking rides through the village. I've heard it said from bus drivers that the road through Plumtree is the worst on the run from Nottingham to Keyworth. Vonnie Daykin has taken up the challenge to try to resolve the pot hole issue and has had some success on social media and local television. We now have a new County Councillor in John Cottee who is very concerned with the standard of roads and pavements in the area. Hopefully John will be able to work closely with us to resolve the issues, especially with the change in administration at County Hall possibly bringing some relief to areas south of the Trent.

Station Road was closed for several days on two occasions in the last year which resulted in no bus service through the village. The response to a letter from the Parish Council on the lack of customer support and concern for Plumtree bus users from Trent Barton was, in my opinion, lacking in any consideration. Unless you had access to the internet you could have waited all day at the bus stop and not known what the problem was. The request from the Parish Council that buses use Church Hill whilst Station Road was closed was turned down because of safety issues due to the length of Trent Barton buses. This appears strange when many other buses and coaches use that route and Trent Barton do have shorter buses to use when needed.

We appear to have had a Marmite situation with peacocks over the past year. As far as I'm aware we are now down to one remaining from the original five. Andy Brailsford at Sycamore Farm will remove the peacock from anyone's garden if it can be cornered. As many of you will have seen the plan to have more wild flowers along the bridle path was not successful. However, Andy Brailsford is trying again this year with the help of his mother!

You may have noticed that our two village planters had plants stolen from them again earlier this year, particularly the one on Main Road, near Town End Cottages. This is upsetting but we are determined not to give in. My thanks go to Madge and Roy Spicer for all their help.

I wish to pass on sincere thanks to our former County Councillor, Reg Adair. Reg has given us strong support over many years and was instrumental in the village having interactive speed signs and reducing the speed limit to 30mph on Bradmore Lane.

We are functioning very well as a parish council but still have a vacancy if anyone is interested in joining.

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

David Martin, 17/05/17