

Minutes of a Meeting of Plumtree Parish Council held on Monday March 24, 2014, at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree at 7.00pm

Couns. David Martin (chairman)
Mark Bailey (A) Fiona Carruthers
Adrian Kerrison Jonnie Richards
Mike Clark Gemmy Louch

Also present: The clerk Mike Elliott, Coun. Reg Adair (Notts County Council), Coun. Mrs Fiona Mason (Rushcliffe Borough Council and five members of the public.

- 1] **Apologies for absence**, were received from Coun. Mark Bailey. There was no reason given.
- 2] **Declarations of Interest** Coun. Jonnie Richards in regard to planning application 14/00482/ADV.
- 3] **Minutes from previous meeting on January 20 2014** were accepted as presented and signed by the chairman after it was pointed out the council, while agreeing to the uplift in the Spinal Column rate to 19, would need to be satisfied that any increase in the number of paid hours worked was justified before being implemented.
- 4] **Parishioners Reports:** The meeting was closed at 7.04pm to allow public participation.
The meeting did not agree to the open session being limited to 15 minutes. The clerk pointed out to the meeting that no decision could be taken in the open session as it was not at that point a council meeting.
Pc Howard Shinn spoke to the meeting and commented on a number of issues. The officer said the crime rate in Plumtree was currently low. He said it was not an offence for a vehicle to be parked on a pavement providing it was not causing an obstruction.
Points raised by the public included the question of footpaths, and the First Contact service that was available to help anyone in need of emergency help. Pc Shinn offered to speak to local resident Mr Justin Tose over concerns he had over traffic dangers on Church Hill.
The meeting resumed in council at 7.40pm
- 5] **Clerk's Report and update on previous meeting business**
A donation of £250 had been received from Councillor Fiona Mason towards the cleaning and refurbishment of the war memorial.
Notts County Council had responded in regard to the non working flashing speed sign on the approach into the village from Tollerton. The sign is still under warranty and the suppliers, who are not local to the Midlands, and to be cost effective, wait for a number of problem signs in a single area before they can attend to them.
In regard to emptying rubbish bins, the Borough said they were not aware there were bins not being emptied on a regular basis and asked for them to be itemized. It was agreed to hold over the question of a new litter bin for erection on Church Hill.
No response had been received from the owner of land fronting Church Lane in regard to cutting back the hedge. It was agreed to hold the matter over.
- 6] **Correspondence**
Grant Thornton Liverpool, for the Audit Commission, advised that the parish accounts have to be approved by the council by June 30 and so they need to be finalised by the next meeting on May 19.
- 7] **Highway matters**
Local resident Mr Justin Tose had raised concerns on traffic on Church Hill. His comments had been circulated to all members. Mr Tose commented on more traffic using Church Hill as a cut through and on poor parking during church and school events. During those peak times he said Church Hill was virtually a single track road and attempting to exit drive ways with traffic passing travelling at speed was clearly hazardous. The clerk was asked to respond to Mr Tose and outline the council feelings on his letter and also to say Pc Howard Shinn would respond to him if he provided an email address for him to do so.

The council; agreed that members make contact with the school, the church and Burnside Hall with a request they ask their patrons to park carefully and with the well being of local residents in mind.

Coun. Mrs Louch was to provide the clerk with a photograph of the damaged fencing alongside the electricity substation on Main Road. The picture would be sent to Transco.

8] Planning Matters

Applications:

14/00482/adv. Jonathan Richards, Wolds Childcare Ltd, Old Melton Road. Display freestanding hanging directional sign. No objection. (Coun. Richards declared an interest in this application and left the meeting during discussion on it.)

14/00001/FUL. Cranford Developments Ltd and Waitrose Ltd. Land North of Landmere Lane and West of Melton Road Edwalton., Erection of local centre comprising food store (Class A1) and 4 units for Class A1, A2, A3, A5 and/or D1 use together with car parking and associated infrastructure and landscaping. No objection.

Rushcliffe Borough Council decisions

There are none

Coun. Kerrison presented a report to members in response to the Rushcliffe Borough Council letter which had been emailed to members concerning modifications to the Rushcliffe Core Strategy. A suggested statement prepared by Coun. Kerrison to be sent to the Borough was unanimously approved by the council. Thanks were given to Coun. Kerrison for his work on the matter.

9] Defibrillator

Discussions took place in regard to the possibility of having a defibrillator provided for the village. It was agreed that Coun. Clark would invite a representative of the firm selling the units to the parish meeting on May 19 and that sufficient publicity be given to advise residents of the visit. The meeting felt that it would not necessarily be the parish council to fund the purchase of a unit. Coun. Adair said the one at Bradmore was costing £2700. The clerk was asked to talk to the Bradmore parish council clerk on the matter. The clerk had not yet received any comment from Greene King in regard to having a unit fixed to an outside wall at the Griffin. Other suggestions for siting the unit were the BT exchange building or Burnside Hall.

10] Finance

a] payment of accounts as per schedule were approved as the circulated list

b] to consider cheque signing arrangements: The council agreed that it required to continue to have two members signing cheques and not to take advantage of the new law that required only a single signature.

c] to be advised of proposed new audit arrangements

Information had come in from the Department for Communities and Local Government in regard to consultation of a draft transparency code for parish councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000. It is confirmed parish councils with a turnover of under £25,000 will not in the future be subject to district audit scrutiny but will instead have to prepare an increased information set of accounts which it is suggested will take a clerk additional hours to prepare and produce to those necessary now. The clerk would circulate a summary of the report for members to see.

11] Environmental matters

War Memorial quotations. The council have accepted the quote for the first part of the work in the sum of £794 plus VAT from Bonsers. A quote for adding an extra name to the memorial — George Taylor, Sherwood Foresters -- would be £441.75. The figure was accepted. Some concern was expressed on the initial cleaning work that had been carried out.

Emergency Plan. Coun. Mrs Carruthers said the plan had now been published.

Best Kept Village competition - the competition is not, say the organisers CPRE, about finding the most picturesque village in the county but it recognises those villages who make an effort themselves to make the best of what they have. The council newsletter would highlight the fact the council had entered the village for the competition and would appeal to residents to play a part in helping to keep the parish tidy. The matter would be an agenda item at the parish meeting.

The council approved expenditure of up to £30 for replanting each of the two planters in the village. The chairman was arranging for the work to be carried out. Coun. Richards said he would progress with shelving for the phone box shortly.

12] Parish Council Village Website

The number of unique site visitors in January had been 242, and in February was 246.

13] Administration arrangements

The council confirmed it required the clerk to email agendas and minutes to them.

Minutes: The clerk said from the new financial year his office aims to circulate copies of the minutes by the end of the week of the meeting. He reminded the meeting that any changes could only be made by the council as a whole.

Expenses to councillors, now can be made within a parish.

Apologies – marked Absent if no apology. Apology must be to the clerk, with a reason.

Standing Orders and financial regulations – agenda item for a future meeting.

14] Chairman's matters

Coun. Martin said he would not be able to attend the next Police Priority meeting and asked for any member free to go. It would be held at Keyworth Village Hall on April 16.

15] Agenda Items for Next meeting May 19 (annual meeting of the council and parish meeting (7pm)), followed by meetings on July 28, September 29 and November 24. Nothing was put forward.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm