

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Plumtree held on Monday May 23, 2016, 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 March 23, 2015 were agreed and duly signed as correct by the chairman Coun. David Martin

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This is appended to these minutes.

4. **FINANCE REPORT**

The clerk said the council started the 2015/2016 financial year with a figure in hand of £7,083 82p.

During the year the main items of expenditure were £84 for audit fees, subscriptions £162, and £1,803 for grass cutting, maintenance and street furniture. Hire of the Burnside Memorial Hall for council meetings cost £162. The parish council website cost £224 and Expenditure on publishing over £1500 on the previous year.

Income during the year totalled £4,481 comprising of £4,200 from the precept, £228 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 £6,008 which 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. **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 2015/16

We have seen many changes over the past twelve months, not least with parish councillors. Three councillors decided not to stand at the elections and, at the time, we lost a significant amount of experience. However, we were fortunate that Mike Bylina was elected to the council and that Vonnie Daykin decided shortly afterwards to follow in her parent's footsteps and was co-opted. Unfortunately, a few months later Gemma Louch decided to stand down following her move to Keyworth, but the co-opting of David Sumner is a bonus. We still have a vacancy, but I feel that the skill set that we now have will enable the council to move forward in a very positive way. I would like to give my personal thanks to Mike Clark, Fiona Carruthers and Mark Bailey for their support and work on the parish council over many years.

The Griffin has been the most hotly discussed and debated issue of the year. Greene King has been very open and fair with the council and kept us informed and updated on their proposals. Sadly, following the 'Village Meeting' and discussions over 'Assets of Community Value' there were many untrue and personal issues arising. It was understandable that many rumours would circulate in the village, but the unjustifiable and erroneous accusations caused unnecessary personal distress to some. Hopefully, with the site now up for sale the Griffin, as a Free House, will have a sympathetic new owner who will be able to restore it to something like its former glory - and the village can have a thriving pub once more.

Not many other planning issues have been to the fore this year, but our serious concerns about further development in Keyworth and its impact on Plumtree still exist, and this will be closely monitored. The one significant planning issue that did arise was the proposed extension by Network Rail to electrify the test track running through Plumtree. It was very pleasing to hear that following discussions with Network Rail at our meeting in September, when many of our questions went unanswered, the application has since been withdrawn.

A final decision, for various reasons, not to have a defibrillator in the village resulted in some excellent training on resuscitation techniques and practises. My sincere thanks go to Mandy Brailsford and Tim Baker for giving up their time to pass on their expert knowledge.

The Pinfold renovation was completed last year and is now accessible to all. It also no longer requires intensive work to keep it tidy. My thanks go to the Wolds Childcare and Jonnie Richards for co-ordinating the work on our behalf.

Villagers continue to make Plumtree more appealing. Thanks again go to Sue Collishaw and Madge and Roy Spicer for maintaining our planters, especially when some plants were sadly stolen. Ken Bloor has volunteered to undertake a number of tasks including reshelving the telephone box library and painting the tree on the Plumtree 2000 sign in gold.

The village litter pick during March under the 'Clean for the Queen' banner was a huge success, particularly with the socialising after the event. Many thanks to all those who turned out to help, including those behind the scenes, especially the generosity of Lottie Timmins and Denise Kerrison.

Finally, my thanks again 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

23/05/16