



## PLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 19:45.**

**Present: Cllr N Beaumont – Chair (Cllr NB), Cllr Paul Burford, Cllr R Jury (Cllr RJ), Cllr Paul Stevens, Cllr Z Needham (Cllr ZD) , Cllr N Shefras (Cllr NDS), Cllr Jim Brown (Cllr JB) and District Councillor R Banks (Cllr RB).**

**Absent: Cllr A Gardiner (Cllr AG), Cllr Nick Satchell (Cllr NS) and CC Cllr S Osborne.**

**Also present: Anita Emery (Clerk & RFO).**

**MOP's: 1**

**The AGENDA is as follows:**

450. To accept apologies for absence

- Cllr NS, Cllr AG and CC Cllr S Osborne tendered their apologies and reasons for absence accepted.

451. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.

- None

452. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- Cllr RB wished it noted that he stated 'he spoke against the Nolands Farm development at the inquiry'. This was unanimously noted and the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> October approved based on the amendment.

453. Clerk's Report and discuss any Matters Arising from previous meeting.

- Clerk advised of the elections and the coronation bank holiday dates. Duly noted.
- Clerk advised she thought there was a sign at the skatepark already – this is to be checked.
- First Aid – it seems all first aid are generic towards offices etc – Clerk has to speak to the relevant companies as seems it's a bespoke request! **Clerk to action.**

454. Brief Report from the County and District Councillor on matters affecting this Parish.

- No report received from County.

District Report

- Cllr RB reported the Nolands Farm inquiry resumed on 10<sup>th</sup> November. It was to be reiterated that building a house cannot increase bio-diversity.
- Local Plan – may have more news next month – no clear guidance from central government to the district council.
- To answer comments from the local MP - the reason we need a new local plan is the government changed the rules so Lewes District and many other councils had to write new ones. In other words



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the council didn't "let" the Local Plan become out of date. The government forced the Local Plan to become out of date by changing the rules.

- Boundary Commission regarding constituency changes advised final consultation is now out and to have your say. Proposing Plumpton be part of the East Grinstead constituency rather than Lewes. This would have a disfranchised effect on planning.
- Met with Southern Water staff with LDC scrutiny committee but this wasn't at SW board level - questioned regarding sewage discharge into rivers and good to hold to account – would favour separate run off and drainage system.

455. Questions from Members of the Public – limited to a maximum of 15 minutes in total

- None.

456.Planning applications and consider further applications submitted after agenda publication:

### **LW/22/0672**

#### **Creamery House, Plumpton Lane BN7 3AB**

1no single storey dwelling house.

- Resident in attendance to answer any questions PPC had. After much discussion PPC unanimously agreed to submit the following;
- *PPC notes the difficulties with the site but regards the proposal as worthy of **support** in principle as the passive house design would be regarded as exceptional and a model for further village development, especially when considered against the generic fossil-fuel dependent boxes being threatened elsewhere in the parish and beyond. Whilst not strictly in the National Park, PPC recommends the applicant review the recently published SDNP design guidelines when formulating the application as they provide useful pointers for a rural design setting.*

### **SDNP/22/04887/FUL**

#### **Plumpton College, Ditchling Road BN7 3AE**

Retrospective application for the installation of 2no portkabin double classrooms for a temporary period until September 2024

- No objections
- Additional planning application received after publication of the agenda and needed a response before the next meeting.

#### **Challoners Farmhouse, St Helena Lane, Plumpton BN7 3DQ**

Erection of rear infill extension and installation of 3no replacement dormers to rear.

PPC: No comment.

To note approved applications.

- Nothing to note

457.Correspondence

- Item 13 re fireworks on VH green PPC notes there is no precedent for the request, but since neighbouring properties are free to use fireworks without specific restrictions, there is no reason to arbitrarily decline a modest firework event on the



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village green. This would be subject to any necessary approvals from authorities such as Highways, receipt of a professional risk assessment and indemnity, communication to local residents, and the hirer having a strong connection to the parish. **Clerk to action.**

- Item 7. Clerk advised resident within parish wished to use the apple press as missed the apple pressing day as it was too early for their crop. Fee to use press for a small crop of apples was not viable. Clerk and Chair agreed to request the deposit of £75 but waive the fee. It was unanimously agreed therefore that the press can be borrowed only to residents of the parish free of charge (subject to £75 refundable deposit received) and to charge £55 for the hire outside of the parish. **Clerk to action.**

### 458. Finance Committee

- Cllr PB reported VH income tracking well to budget and the final tranche of CIL money has been received from the Sigma Homes development. The extra bank account has been opened and £50k has been transferred to Unity to spread the funds to ensure PPC are covered by FSCS.
- a. To approve the Finance Committee minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022
    - Unanimously approved
  - b. To adopt expenditure as itemised on the schedules.
    - Cllr PB advised there were some additions to the expenditure:- PPC - £100 to the British Legion, VH - £24.98 VH manager expenses and PF - £44.00 for SDF Pest Control.
    - Unanimously adopted.
  - c. To adopt year to date accounts.
    - Unanimously adopted
  - d. To adopt combined bank reconciliations
    - Unanimously adopted
  - e. Budget recommendations for PPC, VH and PF for 2023/2024.
    - Cllr PB advised the budget recommendations had been discussed and advised the grant given to PF stays the same and VH is self funding. PPC expenses main increase is salaries, pension on costs etc – having looked at budget there is no way to reduce and will be proposing in December an approximate increase of 14% (subject to tax base numbers). Precept rise has been kept extremely low for the last two years by using general reserves. General reserves are now where they should be.

### 459. Neighbourhood Plan Update

- (i) Planning Liaison Working Group update



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- Cllr NB advised the Nolands inquiry starts on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov and the planning liaison group will be attending online. Cllr NB had joined the site visit with the Inspector and two landscape consultants from both parties walking from Ditchling Beacon to Blackcap to look at the views of the proposed site.

(ii) Glebe site street naming

- Cllr NB to speak to PCC about suggestions. Cllr PS suggested Rectory Lane.

460. To note and action if necessary monthly RA reports.

- Nothing to report some items a little outdated. **Clerk to action.**

461. Update on broadband fibre optic community scheme and actions.

Cllr PS reported it remains the case that Openreach is not accepting new registrations, and this is likely to continue until end of February for East Sussex as that is the revised date (previously end of December) when Building Digital UK (BDUK) announces the results of its procurement process with East Sussex CC (BDUK is the government agency responsible for fibre rollout within the Department of Digital, Media, Culture and Sport). Openreach still has no confirmed date for Plumpton outside of the BDUK plan, but does now acknowledge that Plumpton has fibre to the cabinet (fttc) and therefore we should be able to achieve up to 80mbps. We are researching whether suppliers will now provide greater guaranteed speeds to Plumpton, but that is not currently the case. BDUK has indicated that two companies other than Openreach are active in our area. One is engaged in a project in Haywards Heath and has been contacted. It will do some research and see if they can provide an alternative, quicker implementation than Openreach. The other company is not accepting registrations until the New Year as it says the voucher scheme is suspended until then.

462. Update on first aid training sessions

- Noted in Clerks report.

463. Committee/Working Group Reports

f. Transport and Environment/Footpaths/Policing

- Cllr NB has created the method statement and RA for the SID for each site – initially stalling subject to Nolands remaining Council agreed to carry on. **Cllr NB to action.**
- Sites given are to use existing repeater street sign poles but they are not high enough – Cllr NB will ask if they have extenders.

i. Allotments update

- Cllr RJ – no update apart from it is flooded.

ii. Community Orchard Update.



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- Cllr NB had drafted a consultation paper for parishioners and requested feedback. Cllr PS advised that given the Community Orchard was on the neighbourhood plan and frequently was raised at Village Society events, the key issue was to determine whether there was support in the village to actually create and maintain it. Cllr NB would focus the consultation accordingly.

### g. Village Hall

- i. Management of pond – vegetation and wild area between pond and footpath.
  - Cllr JB reported that Cllr NS had spoken to a contractor that would remove the bullrushes completely and this would need machinery and would cause some devastation and initially look a mess when it is done but after time it will recover. It needs to be done before March due to wildlife but there will be damage to the green. PPC discussed potential to proceed Jan 2024 – need quotes and then arrange to get the order in place.
  - Stage Lights: The only lights that need to be changed are the stage lights for panto as these are not LED's
- ii. Replacement of footbridge
  - Awaiting on a quote from ESCC and PPC agreed to use the EMR Bandstand funds.

### h. Playing Field/Pavilion

- i. To note playpark & skatepark annual inspection and action where necessary
  - Cllr RJ reported extensive reports received – nothing urgent that needs immediate attention.
  - Clerk advised – waiting on the Rospa detailed report on the state park and then a working committee can be formed for a plan of action on the works at the playpark and skatepark and how best to fund. It was noted that reports stated low to medium risk so nothing urgent that need immediate attention. Duly noted.
  - Clerk asked to contact Fred regarding removing willow debris. **Clerk to action.**
- ii. To discuss/consider FC recommendations on cost of play/skatepark repairs
  - Working party to be formed once ROSPA report due in.
- iii. To discuss/consider FC recommendations on pavilion repairs
  - Part of CIL recommendations.
- iv. Cricket Club electronic scoreboard
  - Nothing received from cricket club – will remove until contact has been made.



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v. To consider cost of pavilion shower repairs

- Cllr RJ reported quote to change heads after all other options failed would be £516. Clerk reported that these showers were only installed in June 2021. It was agreed that Cllr RJ and JB would speak with contractor.

i. Events Committee

- Nothing to report

464. Interaction with Plumpton Primary School

- Nothing to report.

465. Communications/Website

- Cllr NB suggested the PPC should advertise the litter picking bin. Cllr ZN would be interested in helping. Clerk advised perhaps the school would get involved in a litter picking initiative.
- Email upgrade happening on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

466. Items to be reported by Parish Councillors and/or to be included in future meetings

- Cllr PS advised the resident backing onto Honeybees outdoor space was grateful for the intervention by PPC and noise is much better as HB are sticking to their outside times.
- Clerk to speak to The Fountain to arrange PPC drinks.

### Dates of next meetings:

13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 19:00 PPCFC, 19:45 PPC

Anita Emery | Parish Clerk 15/11/2022