



PLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

31st March 2023

**Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.45pm in Plumpton Village Hall.
All Welcome – refreshments available.**

Annual Parish Meeting Agenda as follows:

1. Welcome and to accept apologies for absence
2. Update from County Cllr Sarah Osborne and District Cllr Rob Banks

3. Community/Society Reports

Presentation from Jeremy Kerswell Principle of Plumpton College
Presentation from Rachel Paget of OART on SUD's.

4. Annual Parish Council Chairman's Report

5. **Parish Reports**

- 5.1 Council Finances
- 5.2 The Village Hall
- 5.3 The Playing Field
- 5.4 The Neighbourhood Plan

6. Questions.

Anita Emery | Parish Clerk | 31st March 2023

Clerk and RFO to Council – Anita Emery

E: anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk

Village Hall Manager – Jane Donovan

E: jane-plumptonvillagehall@outlook.com

For bookings please visit www.plumptonpc.co.uk/villagehall



2023 Annual Parish Meeting – Chair's report

Councillors/Volunteers

With the election on 4th May we are about to start a new session of the PC and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Clerk, Anita Emery and all my colleagues on the council for all their hard work throughout the year and indeed for the past four years.

Planning

We continue to keep in touch with 10 local Parish Councils on planning matters. The Noland's development was allowed on appeal and regretfully similar decisions in Wivelsfield and Ringmer resulted in unplanned and unwanted development, with planning refusal decisions being overturned by government inspectors.

The Parish Council have also had regular meetings with representatives of the Wealden group of Parish Councils (40 of them) who have the same issues and concerns with over development and lack of infrastructure. We asked that Lewes District Council (LDC) collaborate more with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and campaign more robustly against the current excessive housing target that results from the 'Standard Method' and forms the minimum housing number that has to be the starting point for the new District Plan.

LDC share our concerns and it's worth saying they have been placed in an impossible position by Government who undermined local democracy and made the LDC local plan out of date. This gave developers the power to push housing through despite the wishes of local people. Whilst having a new plan would help fight speculative developments such as Nolands, it is also true that a new plan would have to abide by the new rules and the new rules say that LDC have to build double the previous minimum number of houses. So large sites such as Eton would likely be needed to meet that minimum number.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – this is a charge levied on new development by Lewes District Council. Because Plumpton has a neighbourhood plan in place, we receive 25% of that charge and so far the Parish have received £71,011. This money can go towards increasing the capacity of existing infrastructure e.g. passing places at playing field/expansion of playpark or to repair failing existing infrastructure e.g. skatepark/playpark/village hall kitchen. So far we have used these funds to;

- Refurbish pavilion WC's
- New path at the playing field for pavilion access
- Skatepark/playpark repairs

Speed Sign/Community SpeedWatch

I would also like to thank the small core group of volunteers who continue to monitor speeds on Station Road from time to time. To help drivers with their speed awareness, the speed activated sign is up and running and I have witnessed motorists slowing down when it lights up in front of them. The sign also records all traffic movement and speeds in both directions and the data is proving interesting. For example, over 10 days in March the average number of vehicle movements southbound was 985 per day and northbound 863 per day (includes a Raceday). The average speeds were below 30mph which is good news – the not so good news is that the fastest speed recorded within that period was 62mph northbound and 58mph southbound.



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Cllr Nick Beaumont – Chairman

Committee Reports

Council Finances

The purpose of the Committee is to ensure the Parish Council's financial matters are run effectively and the Budget is set to meet the Council's expenditure each year.

Council is pleased to report that Plumpton Parish Council's finances remain in sound shape with Reserves within recommended limits. Full details of the Accounts are reviewed and published every month and can be found on the Parish Website. The Accounts are regularly audited by Mulberry & Co, independent external auditors and they gave a clean audit report in September 2022.

Council are conscious of the increased cost of living and the uncertain times we are living through. Increases in the Precept have been kept to a minimum over the past 3 years by dipping into General Reserves. However to continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner Council had to increase the Precept for the coming year, 2023/24 to maintain both Services and Reserves at an appropriate level. Council continues to believe the Precept represents good value for money for Plumpton parishioners.

During the year we supported a number of initiatives for local groups, charities and sports clubs that directly benefit Parishioners, through donations and the S137 grants, including:

St Peters and St James Hospice

Station Partnership to maintain the flower trugs

Monday Group for the maintenance of local stiles and footpaths

Plumpton Flower Society

Ladybirds

Honeybees

Happy Circle

The Activity Scheme

Junior Cricket

Good Neighbours Scheme

The Village Society who, on behalf of the Council, and with others, organised the Parish's celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and the upcoming King's Coronation celebrations.

Cllr Paul Burford

Pavilion , Sports / Recreational Field, and Play Park

Pavilion

The pavilion has a dedicated area for Honeybees who use the main area for child activities, and an allocated area on the field when weather permits.

The pavilion changing rooms are used by senior football and cricket in their relative seasons. There is a bar that is used by both clubs.

During the past year, general maintenance and essential repairs have been carried out in the pavilion, including an upgrade to the changing room showers.

Regular tests are carried out on the fire alarm and emergency lighting systems.



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There is an outside toilet for sports activities.

Sports and Recreational Fields

The sports field is used by junior football, stool ball and archery in their relative seasons.

There is an outside toilet for sports activities.

Extensive maintenance to the field surfaces is carried out each year, and grass cutting scheduled as required.

There are regular scheduled meetings where all pavilion and sports field users are invited to attend. The minutes of these meetings is posted on the PPC website.

Play Park

This is for use by the local residents. General maintenance, essential repairs, and additional fencing have been carried out.

General Comments

A defib cabinet and unit has been placed at the side of the play park, adding to those already installed in the village.

A lockable bin containing bags, hi-viz jackets and litter pickers has been installed and all are welcome to use this facility.

Cllr Ron Jury

The Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee aims to provide an excellent service to the village through effective management of the facility.

During the year, the conversion to LED lighting throughout was completed. Timers were added to all the storage heaters and the level of heating through the winter months was monitored and adjusted accordingly. This has enabled us to make optimum use of the electricity supply during these times of unprecedented electricity price increases. In the entrance hall the fire alarm control panel has been replaced and automatic door closers have been installed, improving heat retention to the main hall.

An external light was fitted by the main door to improve access during the dark evening.

A much-improved bridge, with a slip proof surface, across to the village green has been installed by ESCC.

All this has been achieved whilst keeping to the budget that was set for 2022/2023.

Cllr Nick Satchell

County Council Report

Litter

We are all lucky to have residents living in our villages who regularly pick up litter from the sides of the roads and verges. One such resident catalogued a vast number of signage and debris left behind by ESCC and its contractors. I have raised this with Highways and they have assured me that this has now been addressed.



Voter ID

We're reminding residents they need to take photographic identification when they go to vote in the local elections on 4 May. For more information about what forms of ID will be accepted and what residents can do if they don't have one follow the link below to the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

[Read more about photo ID](#)

Early years childcare funding

BHT Sussex and East Sussex County Council will be running online evening sessions on the first Wednesday of every month to answer any of guests' questions. These sessions will take place from 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

This is an opportunity for hosts to support their guest and ask any questions you may have about childcare funding.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Since the launch of the scheme in East Sussex, more than 800 host families across East Sussex have matched with over 1,800 Ukrainian guests.

1-2-1 advice sessions for Ukrainians and hosts with 3VA

3VA are providing advice and support for hosts on how to help your guest with issues such as:

- finding privately rented accommodation
- benefits
- bills
- NHS
- English classes
- employment

Hosts can also participate in meeting with Refugee Buddy Project representatives, who can match Ukrainians with local volunteers to help practice English, support people getting to know their new area and refer people for online English and Employability classes with their partnered organisation.

These sessions take place in:

Eastbourne

Every Monday from 9.30am - 12.30pm

Address: Leaf Hall Community Arts Centre, 51 Seaside, Eastbourne, BN22 7NB

Uckfield

Every Friday from 1pm - 3 pm

Address: Mayor's Parlour Room (located on the 1st floor), Civic Centre, Uckfield TN22 1AE



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You do not need to book appointments with us and representatives of 3VA team will do their best to help you.

You can reach our dedicated Homes for Ukraine contact centre on ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk or call 01273 337010. Our phone lines are available between Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

County Councillor Sarah Osborne

District Council Report

Report back to Plumpton Parish meeting

Development issues

Our village has already taken on more than its fair share of new housing development.

Therefore, I was so angry that the planning appeal was allowed by the government's Planning Inspector for 86 houses on Nolands Farm. I spoke against this application both at Lewes District Council's Planning Committee (when the Committee voted to refuse permission) and I gave evidence against at the Public Inquiry.

It was extremely disappointing that local democracy has been ignored by a policy dreamt up by government ministers which favours the developers. Lewes District Council said 'no' to this twice, LDC's planning officer also recommended it should be refused, and the Parish Council and hundreds of residents opposed it. Thank you to all residents who wrote or spoke against it.

I proposed one motion at Lewes District Council and seconded another against the government's current housing numbers of 782 a year which is utterly unrealistic and must be far, far lower.

I have consistently opposed the potential "Eton new town" on North Barnes Farm and that opposition has continued, meeting with senior council officers, parish councillors, local residents and of course raising my opposition in council meetings. I also pointed out a useful precedent near Worthing where a large site was rejected in part because of its impact on the setting of the national park. I have always been of the view that these constraints (for example landscape impact, protecting the environment, inadequate infrastructure such as narrow rural roads) make it impossible to meet the government's housing targets and it was a good opportunity for these issues to be raised again.

Let's not forget on all the above issues, the only reason we have the threat from the potential "new town" and the more imminent threat of Nolands Farm is because the government changed the rules. Lewes District had a Local Plan in place saying what development should go where that was to last until 2030 – but the government have made Lewes and many other councils write a new one.

I have supported residents near to - and on - Oakfield Lane with various issues ranging from screening of nearby properties to bin collection. Likewise I have worked with nearby residents of The Glebe development.

It was great to see the first new council housing in the village for decades on Oakfield Lane being moved into.

Fly tipping and potholes

As ever I have continued to report dumped fly tipped rubbish and potholes across the ward. For example County Councillor Sarah Osborne and I raised the state of the B2116 and Plumpton Lane with the county



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council. It is good to see some “patching” repairs take place last autumn to get rid of some potholes but more will now be needed following the winter weather.

Council Tax

The District Council’s share this year was just a 1% council tax rise from the District this year (or just under 4p a week), well under inflation and under the permitted maximum of 2.99%. Only around 10% of the council tax bill is for the District Council, although LDC has the job of collecting council tax it then passes most on to the other “precepting” authorities – the County Council (which gets most of it), Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire Authority and town/parish councils.

Power

Power cuts in Plumpton have been beyond a joke. I contacted UK power networks along with many other residents during recent cuts. Hopefully we will see some improvements that we all have the right to expect in return for ever increasing bills.

Fracking

The government has re-instated a temporary ban on fracking, but this needs to be a permanent move. An area just to the north - from Chailey Common over to Haywards Heath was at risk of having fracking under it. I supported a call and a petition for this ban to be permanent.

Southern Water

I had the chance to ask questions of senior Southern Water staff. Issues I raised included incidents of sewage releases locally into our streams and rivers and also asked how they can pay bonuses to senior management which is basically rewarding failure. They admitted some discharges were illegal but that current national regulations allow this. I stressed the need to invest more in infrastructure. I didn’t feel that they had a good enough response on how they would tackle any new development. The positive of this is they have said they will engage more with the District Council going forward. We shall see....

Cost of living emergency

I persuaded Lewes District Council to write to the government to ask them to help local people with the cost of heating oil, which has seen massive price hikes but is very important for rural areas like ours. The government has now made some payment to help but for many didn’t go far enough. Of course we need to encourage renewable energy as well but as we know this isn’t always an option.

Recycling bins

A reminder that you can order an extra recycling bin free of charge from the council. Just visit www.lewes.gov.uk or phone 01273 471600.

And finally...

The above is just a snapshot of my work over the last year, over my term of office I have helped hundreds of ward residents with individual queries and it has been a massive honour and privilege to serve you as District Councillor . Thank you to all residents who volunteer their time in so many ways to help the community.

By the time you read this you will know that, with great regret due to a personal health issue I have taken the very difficult decision to stand down. Not one made lightly but the right thing to do at this point. I would like to also take this chance to thank the Parish Councillors and the Clerk, and our County Councillor Sarah Osborne for their hard work, I have enjoyed working with you for our village.

Rob



Clubs, Groups and Society Reports

Plumpton & East Chiltington Cricket Club

We are based at the King George V playing field and run 2 Saturday league teams playing in divisions 5 central and 9 central of the Sussex League. In 2022 we finished 7th and 4th respectively in those divisions. We also run a mid-week team playing 20 over a side cricket for those who perhaps don't want to play at a competitive level.

We also have a junior section which has a practice evening on a Monday from 6pm during the Summer months, with matches played on a Saturday morning and Monday evening.

We have a bar, and this is open on match days with spectator's very welcome.

Anyone interested in playing or getting involved in any other capacity please get in touch with;

Kelvin Speirs

email: kelvinspeirs60@gmail.com

tel: 01273 890785

Plumpton Flower Club

The Flower Club continues to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7.30 at the Village Hall. We are treated to some wonderful flower designs expertly arranged by NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) demonstrators. This is a very friendly Club and we warmly welcome new members. Some meetings feature a speaker and outings are also arranged, for example Chichester Flower Festival.

The annual subscription is £35 plus £3 per meeting with visitors paying £8.

If you are interested in joining the club please email sueakers@hotmail.com.

Plumpton Support Group for St Peter & St James

The Support Group held various events last year, which included The Sausage & Mash Quiz Night, Village Open Gardens, Jumble Sale and Festive Fair, all of which raised a total of £14,000.

Help is always appreciated with setting up for an event, making cakes, as well as donations for raffle prizes. We are a small group and if you would like to join us, or help out at an event, please contact sueakers@hotmail.com.



Plumpton Activity Scheme

SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN

They say it takes a village to raise a child.

Plumpton Activity Scheme is a charity which provides affordable summer activities for local children in our lovely village.

It is subsidised by fundraising and operates with the help of community groups and local businesses who contribute time and materials to make our play sessions fun and educational.

The Activity Scheme is open for children who have started at Primary school, for Summer holiday after reception year to the Summer holidays after Year 6.

Activity sessions run from **9am - 3pm** three days a week throughout the Summer holidays and are held at the Plumpton Pavilion Hall

Contact: Jo Dubber - plumptonactivityscheme@gmail.com

Ladybirds Playgroup

Ladybirds playgroup is run by volunteers from the community. It continues to thrive and welcomes many parents/ carers and their children within Plumpton and surrounding villages. Each week we set up different areas for the children to interact with and explore. The latest equipment we've purchased has been a sensory dark den, which includes lots of glowing lights and a water tornado. It's especially enjoyed by babies and those wishing to have a moment of calm. We also have a mini- roller coaster, mini soft play / slide area, ride-one and of course, lots of toys (and tea /biscuits for the grown ups)!

This time last year we were getting ready to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. We often celebrate popular events with a party- in fact we are having another this week to celebrate Easter & the end of term. We've recently held a joint Curry & Quiz fundraiser alongside Honeybees Nursery in March, which was a huge success (with great thanks to the Honeybees Committee for all their efforts). We've also enjoyed workshops from Turning Pointe School of Dance, Sing and Sign and local music teachers.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we can't wait to use the outdoor space on the picturesque village green and continue to serve those in the community with children aged 0-4 years. Do spread the word to anyone who may wish to join us!

Ladybirds Playgroup - Wednesdays (Term-Time only) 9.30-11.30am. Contact Charlotte: ladybirdsplumpton@gmail.com

Plumpton Tennis Club

Anyone for Tennis?

Over the last 12 months the weather at Plumpton Tennis Club has varied, cycling through cold, wet, warm, extremely hot, snow and incredibly wet! When it wasn't flooding or freezing the court surface temperature reached 40°C! This did not prevent our members from playing although the January Frostbite Tournament, was nearly rained off!

We are proud to be a family friendly club and so it has been with a thriving juniors membership who enjoy year round coaching and have great fun at the Easter and Summer Camps. Additionally, we have a complete range of members from 18years to 80 years - apparently tennis players live longer!



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LTA Sussex describes our location as "idyllic". It certainly is, when it's not raining, baking or snowing!

Find out more at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PlumptonTennisClub>

The Monday Group

If you walk in the countryside around Plumpton, you are sure to cross a Monday Group stile. Most of them have our distinctive plaque:



The Monday Group is an organisation of rights of way volunteers, founded in 1961. Our group of about 40 active members is out and about in the countryside every Monday morning throughout the year, fair weather or foul. We mainly work in the area from Albourne to Ringmer, north of the Downs, frequently in Plumpton. Some members undertake clearance work on footpaths, others build stiles and other wooden structures in our workshop at St Georges on Ditchling Common, and more still are carrying out in-situ repairs or replacement of structures such as stiles, gates, bridges, causeways, steps and finger posts. We respond to problems raised by walkers, often via our website, and aim to get things done as quickly as possible. Without our work the footpaths in this part of Sussex would be in a much sorrier state.



On Plumpton Plain

The Monday Group relies on grants from some parish councils and beneficial trusts as well as donations from walking groups, private individuals and landowners. Plumpton Parish Council is a generous supporter of the Monday Group, usually funding us in the sum of £250 each year.

For more information, to make a donation or to report a problem with a footpath go to our website at: www.mondaygroup.org.



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Happy walking! - Jim Redwood – The Monday Group

Plumpton College

After the successful opening of the College's Centre of Horticulture Excellence at One Garden Brighton two years ago, Plumpton has recently been completing the finishing stages of its £11m investment in AgriFood facilities.

This has included the introduction of robotic milkers to our dairy, the development of a new RSPCA assured pig production unit and a new biosecurity centre, as the college seeks to demonstrate best industry practice at a time of such change for the wider farming sector. We are also developing a new farm strategy and are pleased to be working with a number of organisations to inform that, including Plumpton and East Chiltington Wildlife Group.

This wider investment has enabled us to develop a specialist butchery training facility onsite, in which we will train students at levels 2 and 3, employed within SMEs across the South East and large employers nationally and for which we have recently been the recipient of a national award.

The AgriFood Centre itself also includes a training kitchen in which our bakery apprentices will be taught and through our partnership with the Sussex Charity Table Talk, we will bring in local schools' groups to not only see where their food comes from but then cook and enjoy it!

The AgriFood Centre also provides much needed classroom and training space for adults and employers as the college looks to be that hub for the wider agriculture, food and environment sector to come together. The opening of the new facility will coincide with a series of events taking place at the college which will include a trade bakery competition for new and experienced bakers in the South East and the inaugural South East Future of Farming Event in association with Country Land and Business Association and Virgin Money on Thursday 20th April.

In terms of our curriculum, the College has just entered into a new and exciting partnership with the University of Greenwich who will be validating all of our Higher Education provision. The partnership will bring a wealth of expertise across the veterinary, agriculture, environment, horticulture and food and drink sectors with further collaboration on new programme development. New degree programmes have been developed in close consultation with the industry in all important sectors such as Sustainable Horticulture and Land Management, which will commence from September 2024.

The college continues to work very closely with the community and its employer training arm, LandPro, is delivering a higher volume and greater range of accredited and bespoke training courses than ever before. One Garden Brighton has become a real hub for our community and leisure courses, with Night School beginning there from April 2023 and we are also currently delivering a programme to help raise adult numeracy skills in East Sussex for those aged 19+ up to level 2. The numeracy offer will join the growing number of new adult education courses being offered which includes production horticulture, garden design and forestry and arboriculture.

Later in the year, work will begin on our new Veterinary and Animal Sciences South East Institute of Technology facility which will further enhance the college's regional profile in Vet Nursing and related subjects, whilst also developing new veterinary physiotherapy facilities such as hydrotherapy suites.

Jeremy Kerswell
Principle – Plumpton College



Plumpton Village Society

PLUMPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023

HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations was the highlight of the year. These were held across the 4 day bank holiday weekend in June, culminating in the Big Event on Plumpton Racecourse. The pictures below captured the community spirit and the coming together to recognise the Queen's 70 year reign.



above and soap box race.



Jubilee parade through the village



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The Jubilee celebrations included all aspects of village life.



We have just delivered a new Plumpton Village Information Handbook to all households, which will also be provided as a welcome gift to future new villagers. More is planned for the coming year, including King Charles III and Camila Queen Consort Coronation in May, the Strawberry Fair in June, Apple Pressing in September, and a village community walk to enjoy our beautiful countryside surroundings at the Festive Period. The Village Society's 2023 aim is to continue to bring the village together to celebrate living in this friendly and vibrant

