

PLUMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Plumstead Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th May at 6.30 pm at Plumstead Church

Present: Nick Fulford (Chairman), Brian Faulkner, David Logan
Maxine Hayes Locum Clerk
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
0 members of the public

1 **Apologies**

None.

2 **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 4th May 2022**

The minutes of the APM held on 4th May 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 **Matters Arising from the minutes.**

None

4 **Chairmans Report**

The Parish Council elections have just concluded; the following councillors have been elected. Nick Fulford, Brian Faulkner, David Logan and Pip Burden. The recruitment of another councillor needs to be one of the Councils objectives in the coming year. Jonathan Pilbrow did not put his name forward for re-election. The Council sincerely thanks Jonathan for his service on the council and thus our community. He has played an important role, especially in regard to the discussions around the area of Plumstead pond. He has also done sterling work wood preserving the bus shelter.

Unfortunately, our new clerk Harriet Rossi found that she was unable to continue in her role. We are at the moment looking for a replacement. We have joined Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) and adverts are placed with them and Norfolk Parish Training and Support. Also, we have been canvassing neighbouring villages to enquire whether their clerk would be interested in taking on another village. In the meantime, the councillors are fulfilling the duties of the clerk as well as we can.

The village assets are in reasonable order, but the Risk Assessment, again kindly done by Steve Price, identified some relatively minor problems, which need to receive attention. The Risk Assessment is on the website and the problems are highlighted in red.

The highlight of the year was the celebrations for the Queens Jubilee, which were held on the Flagpole Garden. The Parish Council made an offer to help with the cost of supplying refreshments, but it turned out that the very generous donation from one of Plumstead's residents was sufficient. The weather was not on our side, but we were able to eat outside, and a reasonable number attended.

The parish Council continues to maintain the pond area and wildflower meadow at Plumstead Green. The clearance of a couple of trees to let in more light has continued to keep the duckweed at bay. It is worrying that there is a lack of amphibians. The meadow was again flailed, rather than have the hay cut, baled and removed; hopefully this will be done this year.

The drought last year followed by some very cold Winter temperatures may have hastened the developing problem with 2 or 3 species dominating in the meadow. This will have to be monitored.

The Parish Council has a healthy bank balance of £6889.24 by virtue of the donations received in the past from the Plumstead 2000 Fund, Plumstead Events Group and the Open Gardens and Summer Fair. It has been the policy of the Council to balance expenditure with the precept income. This has been achieved in the past year with expenditure closely matching the £3000 precept. Two of the funds (the Open gardens and Events Group) have been amalgamated to form a Fund that can be used for larger maintenance items, such as the restoration of the village sign. There is also provision in the budget for items such as the defibrillator machine.

N Fulford – Chairman – May 2023

5 **Clerk's Financial Report**

This will be addressed at a future meeting.

6 **AOB**

None

The meeting closed at 6.15pm