

Plumstead Parish Council

Chairman's Report for 2019/2020

Thank you to all the Committee and the Clerk for their service over the last 12 months.

A change in personnel occurred with the departure of Brian Faulkner on 31st December and the joining of Catherine McMahon on 10th February.

Brian is thanked for his service on the committee, as Vice-Chairman and for being a willing volunteer on working parties down at the pond at Plumstead Green. He is continuing to stay as a member of the grass cutting rota for the Flagpole Garden and Churchyard and we are grateful for this.

Catherine is most welcome and has already shown interest in words and deeds.

It has been a busy year for our Clerk, Carolyn Price. In addition to her normal duties which she performs impeccably, she has had considerable extra work on the Plumstead Website. In recognition of this she received an ex-gratia payment. The website will now be considerably easier to manage. It now complies with the Accessibility Regulations and Transparency Code.

She immediately volunteered to be the coordinator for our village's support initiative during the Coronavirus outbreak. Thank you to volunteers helping those who are self-isolating and are unable to procure provisions or medicines.

The litter pick organised by her for March 2020 had to be cancelled due to the virus.

She has liaised with the Highways Department to get a fingerpost replaced, a footpath sign replaced, minor road repairs carried out and the clearance of grips and gullies.

The phone box has been repainted, looks very smart and acts as our defibrillator house. Linda Fulford continues to do the necessary regular checks. Thank you to her. She is assisted by Jonathan Pilbrow.

A risk assessment of the PC's assets was performed by Steve Price with your Chairman in attendance. Thank you for doing another of these Steve and doing another comprehensive report.

The Pond and Meadow at Plumstead Green continues to occupy a large proportion of our time. Progress is being made to get the maintenance on a stable footing. The area is a real asset to us and the wider community.

Signs have been erected directing visitors to the gate.

The fence between the pond and the meadow has been removed. It was no longer safe and no longer served any useful purpose.

The grass cutting around the pond is now contracted out.

The entrance to the meadow has been widened to allow larger machinery access to cut and remove the hay. A security post has also been installed.

Following a meeting with Norfolk Wildlife Trust asking them for help and advice, a group of Sycamores was removed and part of the pond edge regraded to make the pond more accessible to visitors.

The Plumstead 2000 Fund was wound up and the balance of monies transferred to Plumstead PC.

An extraordinary meeting of the Council was held on 4th November to discuss the Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Windfarm Extensions; in particular how the energy was to be brought ashore. The Council decided that an offshore ring main with capacity for future expansion should be adopted and their comments were sent to the Planning Inspectorate on 5th November, for consideration.

A donation was made to the North Norfolk Macmillan Centre at Cromer Hospital.

The Chairman and his wife attended two meetings: a meeting at Hindringham with the police in North Norfolk to hear about policing in our area and to discuss issues important to us and the other at NNDC offices to hear about preparations for VE day.

Nick Fulford ~ Chairman: May 2020