

# **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR PLUMSTEAD**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Plumstead held on Monday 10 May 2021 at 6.00 pm in Plumstead Church**

*Under Government guidelines in relation to Coronavirus, social distancing was maintained at all times. A risk assessment was in place and adhered to.*

Present: Nick Fulford (Chair), David Logan, Catherine McMahon, Richard King & Carolyn Price (Clerk)

Apologies: Jonathan Pilbrow

1 Nick Fulford welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2019**

It was proposed by DL and seconded by NF that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2019 be approved and they were duly signed by NF. It was noted there was no annual meeting in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **3 To consider matters arising from the minutes of 13 May 2019**

None

### **4 Chair's Report**

The Chair thanked all the Committee and the Clerk for their service over the last 12 months. A change in personnel occurred with the resignation of Julie Cometa.

Richard King has kindly agreed to join the Council. He is keen to be involved down at the pond and meadow and brings useful knowledge about wildlife issues.

The Annual Meetings in May 2020 were cancelled, but reports by the Chair & Clerk were still written; also cancelled were the September and February meetings, but we were able to meet in December 2020 and in March 2021 via zoom! An Extraordinary meeting was held in July 2020 to approve the Annual Return.

It has been a busy year for our Clerk, Carolyn Price. In addition to her normal duties she has had to deal with a lot of extra correspondence over the lockdown period. Although she was at the forefront of the initiative to provide support in our village, there has not been a large call on her services. The support mechanism is still in place.

She has liaised with the Highways Department to get the 30mph sign replaced, minor road repairs carried out and the clearance of grips and gullies. The Post Office replaced our rusty post box.

Our village sign has been restored by Fiona Davies. Two estimates were obtained and the Council is very pleased to have chosen her because she has produced a wonderful result.

A Safeguard Review of the Parish Council's bank account was undertaken in April 2020 by HSBC, in liaison with the Chair & Clerk.

Linda Fulford continues to service the defibrillator and arrange the necessary checks.

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

The Pond and Meadow at Plumstead Green continues to occupy a large proportion of our time. The grass cutting around the pond and the cutting and clearing of the hay in the meadow went according to plan. This represents a major step forward in getting the maintenance of this excellent asset for our community on a stable footing. Volunteers did an effective job treating the thistles again. Thank you to everyone involved with this job.

Duckweed was such a problem in 2020 that an attempt was made to remove it – not easy. John Lintott, Keith Harding, Jonathan Pilbrow and your Chair extracted quite a lot.

In January 2021, the Police Rural Crime Officer visited the pond at Plumstead Green to check whether any crimes were being committed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. We received a glowing report fully supporting our activities down there. A second inspection was also carried out confirming the results of the earlier one.

The maintenance work scheduled to be done over this period will now be performed in the year 2021/2022. The Council is currently getting estimates.

Donations totalling £200 were made to support the Judicial Review regarding the proposed windfarms and the avoidance of repeatedly digging up the Norfolk countryside.

## 5 **Clerk's Financial Report**

The Clerk had circulated a report prior to the meeting giving a brief summary of the Accounts for 2020/21.

The balance carried forward from 2019/20 was £6,399.00.

Income during the course of the year was £2,959.58 which, taking account the carry forward, gave a total income for 2020/21 of £9,358.58. This included a VAT refund of £109.58 and a donation of £100.00 from C Price. The precept for 2020/21 remained unchanged from last year, namely £2,750.00.

Overall expenditure during the year was £2,493.44. Due to the pandemic, expenditure during the year was less than budgeted; for example no maintenance was undertaken as planned.

The balance carry forward into 2021/22 was £6,865.14. This includes the remaining ring-fenced income: £108.13 from the Plumstead Events Group; £1,781.33 from the 2018 Open Gardens & Summer Fair event and £2,814.78 transferred from the 2000 fund.

## 6 **AOB**

None