

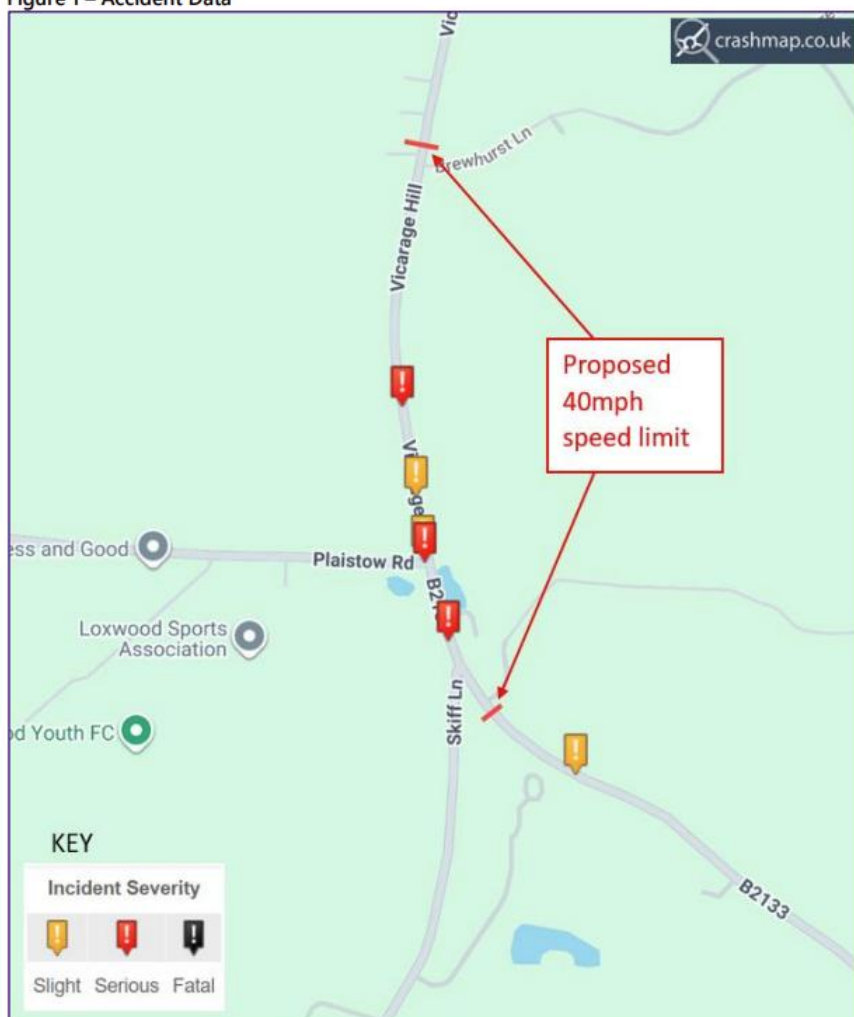


Clerks report to the meeting Plaistow and Ifold Full Council Meeting dated 11th February 2026 7.30pm Kesley Hall Ifold.

6. Highways Matters

TRO 40mph Plaistow Rd/ B2133 Junction- Loxwood PC Consultation requesting comments.

Figure 1 – Accident Data



7. Replacement of Memorial Tree Plaistow Green

Message from the Tree Warden

I have been looking at the cost of a replacement tree for the green.

When we met on the green Jane and I discussed moving the position of the tree and looking at a copper beech.

I have been looking at the cost at one of about 3metres tall and they are about £300 including VAT, which I believe is recoverable plus delivery which can be up to £100 depending on supplier.

I suggest that we have a chat at the meeting. if that is acceptable.

Location- proposed and approved by National Trust.



8. Planning Matters

1. Foxbridge- See the website for the latest update and the documents submitted by the Parish Council.

<https://www.plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk/foxbridge>

and consider any further submissions following the receipt of correspondence from a near neighbour to the site circulated previously.

2. Neighbourhood Plan-

In relation to the emerging NPPF Dec 25 the CDC Officer has confirmed

“One other point I wanted to mention is in relation to the consultation on the new NPPF which you have probably seen. In the [questionnaire document](#) the Government has published on Page 106 there is a section on transitional arrangements. It states, ‘For Neighbourhood Plans, any plans that have not been submitted by the time of publication of the final Framework, would proceed on the basis of the new version.’ We don’t know how long it will take for the Government to go through all the responses to the consultation, and then publish the final version of the NPPF, but I thought it was worth mentioning so you can bear this in mind moving forward.”

9. **Financial Matters**

(4) Interim Internal Audit 25/26

Clerks report on Effectiveness of Internal Controls

What are Internal Controls and what we do:

- Financial Regulations- Reviewed annually May Annual meeting and periodically as updates are required. Last reviewed May 25.
- Bank reconciliation procedures- Bank reconciliation reviewed at each month's Full Council meeting and also quarterly Finance meetings. Last reviewed 7th January 26.
- Payment authorisation processes- Debit card transactions are not necessarily authorised until after the event but follow the delegated powers Policy and debit card use Policy Policies were last reviewed May 25 and June 24 respectively and will be reviewed again according to the Policies review document.
- Budget monitoring- Finance working committee meets quarterly to review the budget.
- Risk management- Considered in Feb and March each year when all policies are reviewed. Risk assessments required during the year reviewed as required during the year.
- Asset controls- Assets reviewed in conjunction with risk in Feb and March
- Internal audit arrangements- Agreed at the time of the conclusion of audit when the external auditor sends report.
- **Website** Gov domain and accessibility WCAG 2.1 AA compliant and a gov domain used
- **Independent Internal Audit**

The internal auditor is an additional professional check on process and governance.

- Review whether controls are designed well
- Test whether they are working
- Report weaknesses and recommendations

Recommended Improvement required:

1. **To further comply with Assertion 10.** Cllr to complete the training and signed as completed by reading the attached review of GDPR for Cllrs. **APPENDIX C**

2. **Use the JPAG Governance Assertions as a Checklist**

Use the JPAG Practitioners' Guide to test each Annual Governance Statement assertion this approach to be adopted for the 25-26 review of the AGAR Governance Statement.

This is a robust method because it aligns directly with what the council must legally sign each year. The Clerk will recommend this approach ahead of the 25-26 AGAR Governance form signing. See example Governance evidence document attached to be reviewed ahead of signing the Page 3 Governance Statement of the AGAR3. **APPENDIX D**

(5) Investment Strategy:

Investment Strategy for 26-27:

The Council's funds are spread across two financial institutions:

Nat West bank:

A current account- All transactions of the Council to third parties are carried out through this account (apart from credit interest which is credited direct to all accounts). No interest (Current balance £850).

A deposit account- Part of the current account credits such as excess precept required for the next six months may be transferred here to attract interest at 0.95% (Current Balance £68,124)

Unity Trust

This is a long-term account deposit for general reserves. Whilst access is readily obtained for funds only three such transactions a year are possible. Interest is now at 1.95% (Current balance £ 58,838)

Strategy Recommendation:

To move the funds in Unity Trust to [CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund](#). This is a long-term cash-based deposit for General Reserves. Whilst access is readily obtained for funds it requires hard copy form completion and is likely to take longer than with an online facility. Yield for the year 25-26 to date is approx. [3.69% current yield](#) which is the yield net of fees and charges.

An actively managed fund is categorised as a short-term low volatility net asset value money market fund under the Money Market Fund Regulation. A Minimum Investment does apply £25,000 for Class 5. Fund maturity does not exceed 60 days.

(6) Octopus Energy Tariff Change.

Energy Heat pumps Solar & battery Electric vehicles Support Jane

Home My energy Payments Octopus

Yearly electricity estimate

£350.81

for 591kWh

This is based on the latest industry estimate of your energy use. Regular readings make this more accurate.

Tariff cost breakdown

Electricity	Current	New
Unit rate (p/kWh) ?	24.90	21.91
Daily standing charge (p/day) ?	52.23	60.59
Early exit fee	£0	25% of your remaining contract value

All prices exclude VAT and the Government's Climate Change Levy

10. Asset Register and Asset Disposal Policy

- No changes are recommended the recommendation is to readopt.

Asset Register: Please note the Kelsey Hall Play Park has been gifted to Kelsey Hall is insured by them and the PC maintains them on behalf of Kelsey Hall including paying for professional safety inspections. These assets are not therefore included on the asset register.

There is no movement on the asset register in the 25-26 year to date but insurance value have increased for inflation. The First aid boxes are to be replaced in the cricket pavilion in 26-27 but values will remain roughly the same.

12. Risk 26-27

Asset Works recommended for 26-27

Two benches requires some treatment:

Zip Wire Bench



Nell Ball Bench



Lady Hope Picnic Table to be assessed – 4th Feb 26

All other assets of reasonable standard.

14. Correspondence

Email dated 28th January 26

Dear Jane,

Further to the recent phone call with Jodie referencing planning and footpaths. I wanted to go back on to the discussions of Wephurst footpaths with the parish council. There is a load of correspondence that filtered through during a two year process and I will happily share any/all of this with you if you feel it is helpful.

The bottom line is that we came to a series of points which, in principal, were agreed, but never properly ratified and therefore the steering group involved and myself, never brought this back to the parish council. This was at a time when Covid was upon us and in many ways we all had different priorities that exceeded the first world desires of Richard Muddle. It was also the year that I moved in to Wephurst Estate and it seemed sensible to actually live there and live the environment and see how the public rights of way, as they exist, impact the estate.

So, we are a good 5 years later, and I think that the principles that we set out originally were correct. If anything, looking to the future, with housing developments cropping up all around us, the impact of a new, potentially, less experienced in countryside living, residency, the public rights of way at Wephurst can only be more challenging.

Darryl Hobden , our Highways Ranger, feels that things have now settled down and that this is an appropriate time to consider any submissions for change to our public rights of way.

I am extremely grateful to the parish council for the efforts made, that time was not wasted, and the steering group were helpful and constructive. I would like to pick matters up where we left off, if possible? If members of the Parish council feel that they would be minded to get involved.

I still feel this is the best way to approach local rights of way as gaining the concerns and interests of the local community, is better than trying to create a fete accompli without prior input from interested parties.

I look forward to getting the views of the locals,

Best wishes

Richard Muddle