

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**
Monday 14th December 2015 at 7.15pm in Gamston Village Hall, Gamston

Members Present: Cllrs Melvyn Tisbury (Chair), Cynthia Stacey, John Mason, Mark Bancroft, Simon Macdonald-Preston, Janet Hackett, Adrian Hill, Geoff Prett & Sally Griffiths.

In attendance: Julia Barnes (Clerk), Borough Cllr Jonathan Wheeler.

4812. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Cuthbert sent his apologies as due to heavy work pressure is unable to attend the meeting.

County Cllr's Calvert and Plant sent their apologies as PC meeting clashed with a Constituency meeting.

County Cllr Cutts sent her apologies as PC meeting clashed with a PC meeting in Radcliffe-on-Trent.

4813. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Tisbury noted that FC7, one of the building firms on the tender list, had previously done some building work for him.

4814. ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes to Order of Business suggested.

4815. MINUTES

TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2015

Cllr Prett noted that Minute 4807. omitted Cllr's Prett, Bancroft and Cuthbert from the list of Cllr's still needing to send photo and short write up for the website.

Subject to this amendment, Cllr Prett proposed and Cllr Griffiths seconded the motion that these Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour (for members present at the Nov '15 meeting). Minutes were adopted.

4816. COUNTY REPORT

Clerk read out the following report from County Cllr's Calvert and Plant.

1. Budget consultation has commenced...see NCC website. Cross party approach maintained except for the Ashfield Independent Group (4 Members).

2. Local Government Boundary Commission's final recommendations for new County Council Electoral Divisions (to be used in May 2017 Elections) now published. There are very

few changes to the overall draft proposals and no change to the proposal for Holme Pierrepont and Gamston North. Accordingly, there will be a new Radcliffe division that includes Gamston North ward, Radcliffe on Trent wards and the Shelford Parish of East Bridgford ward.

3. I hesitate to say much about the latest position on the Proposed Combined Authority for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. There appears to be a "pause" in negotiations and there is speculation that this has arisen for a variety of reasons. These include the desire from some quarters to include Leicester/Leicestershire, the uncertainty of support from one or two District Councils and/or the very late inclusion in forthcoming legislation that could offer District Councils the option to choose which emerging Combined Authority they may wish to join. This latter issue could have particular relevance to those Councils bordering Sheffield City Region.

4. The Selston By-Election resulted in the Independents retaining the seat.

5. Today saw the launch of the Robin Hood card which is the first public transport smartcard to be introduced outside London. It includes an electronic purse from which the cost of travel is deducted automatically as you travel around Nottingham and its suburbs. This includes Gamston but not Holme Pierrepont. All the main bus operators and the tram operator are "on board" and there are already 26 ticket machines in the County area including Central Avenue, County Hall, The Cricket Ground and Wilford Lane.

6. Arriva have won the franchise to operate Northern Rail from April 2016. This includes the direct service between Nottingham and Leeds via Sheffield. The service will be vastly improved by 2019 with an extension to Bradford, a faster journey time of 1 hour 40 minutes (20 mins saving) to Leeds and a complete set of new trains to improve the comfort of passengers.

Clerk read out the following report from County Cllr Cutts.

*Remembrance Sunday was observed at County Hall and the President of the Nottinghamshire Royal British Legion attended and spoke the Remembrance for those who have fallen. On the same week I attended a Forces Charity event in County Hall. All of the charities involved with ex-service personnel as well as serving were represented. A power point presentation and a number of speakers contributed to the day. I attended the County Council Network Conference held this year in Guildford, Surrey. Future policy was discussed and the speakers included a presentation on Social Care as well as a speech by the Rt Hon **Greg Clark**, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. I represented my group at the presentation of the Ushakov Medal which was presented to the Arctic convoy sailors on behalf of Vladimir Putin. The medal was in thanks from Russia at keeping supplies going during the Second World War. The survivors were all now old but had interesting stories to tell and showed me photographs of ships covered in ice with temperatures below 15 degrees. I attended an event at Nottingham Castle to present the 10 original Leonardo da Vinci drawings which will be coming to the Castle from July 30th until October 10th 2016. These are from the Royal collection and there are only four locations in the United Kingdom where they will be shown. I attended a conference held at Bio City in Nottingham regarding Infrastructure in the East Midlands. The upgrading of the Midland Mainline has been un-paused and is likely to be upgraded along its route over the next 4 years. The plan is to electrify this line when the engineering has been completed. I attended the carol service last night at St Edmund's, Holme Pierrepont. The Church was full and the service was wonderfully uplifting. I heard from Parish Councillors who were in the Church of the trials and tribulations of the switching on of lights at HP&G. I understand that having reviewed the venue in light of the weather everyone went indoors and had a jolly evening.*

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and I look forward to being with you in the New Year.

Cllr Tisbury expressed his thanks for the County Councillors submitting the written reports in their absence. They are most helpful.

4817. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler noted that Dan Swaine had left RBC to work in the North Derby/Bolsover area.

Cllr Wheeler also spoke about the plans for the re-development of Cotgrave town centre. It was a contentious political topic.

Cllr Wheeler explained to the meeting that he was a member of the Leisure Centre Civic Centre Relocation Group. With regard to the question of local contractors completing the work, 20 contractors are based within 20 miles, 18 between 20 and 80 miles and only 3 further than 80 miles.

New apprentices have been taken on locally to work on the project. The fire last year has only delayed the project by 3 to 5 weeks.

Cllr Wheeler confirmed that the outdoor sporting facilities at Rushcliffe School would remain (netball/tennis courts, football/rugby pitches).

Cllr Wheeler explained that David Banks had restarted negotiations with Bovis regarding the Open Space land transfer.

Cllr Wheeler explained that the old Ambulance Station in West Bridgford had gone to sealed bids that had been won by a private London company.

4818. PLANNING

i) 15/02733/FUL Miss Ruth Testa Erection of 6 wattle and daub structures for use in connection with archaeological investigation Skylarks Nature Reserve, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire

Parish Council Response : Do not object. Actively support the creation of this living museum.

Cllr Prett raised the issue of how long the buildings would last and questioned whether there would be a health and safety issue as they degraded?

4819. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Local Plan

Cllr Tisbury explained that progress on the Local Plan for the Land East of Gamston was very slow whilst the consortium sorted out the relevant finances. Cllr Tisbury was still attempting to set up a meeting with the developers at an early stage.

Boundary Review

Cllr Tisbury explained that the proposals for all Gamston parishioners to be added to Radcliffe-on-Trent County Council area had been accepted. We are now in the same ward as Shelford. When this comes into force County Cllr Kay Cutts will represent the entire Parish.

It was noted that this decision was not logical and, in line with the PC representation to the consultation, the meeting agreed that the Gamston area should have been associated with West Bridgford.

Resident

Cllr Tisbury explained that he had spoken with a local resident builder that was aggrieved at not being included on the tender list for the Village Hall rebuild. He had apparently registered his interest with the late Cllr Michael Barker but no evidence of these record could be found and may well have not been passed to the Clerk at the time.

After discussion he was understanding of the current situation.

Capital Grant

Cllr Tisbury explained that the re-application for the £15k Capital Grant from RBC had been successful.

Mayor's Dinner

Cllr Tisbury explained that he had accepted his invitation to the Mayor's dinner.

Reflections on the Year

Cllr Tisbury reflected on 2015 for the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the resolution of the huge issue of Open Spaces in Gamston would never have happened without the work and involvement of the Parish Council.

Cllr Tisbury stated that the resurrection of the Parish Newsletter was a very positive initiative. It is an excellent, informative, professionally produced publication which reflects well on the PC. He noted that along with Cllr Prett and Susan Toon; Darren Moseley, the designer, was to be congratulated.

The new web page is up and running. Good progress is being made in making it an up to date, relevant point of information pertaining to the Parish.

Cllr Tisbury mentioned the two successful events that the PC had put on in 2015. Good weather had helped an excellent turnout at the Summer Play Day and despite less kind weather for TreeFest, it too was a great event.

Cllr Tisbury noted the success of having a full complement of 10 Parish Councillors.

Cllr Tisbury explained that the new Village Hall was getting closer. It will be a focal point of the area and all Councillors were to think about possible ways of utilising the new facility in 2016.

4820. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Prett explained that Notts Wildlife Trust had appointed Andrew Shaw to focus on education and development of Young Rangers aged 13-18 years to become involved with local wildlife projects.

Cllr Prett explained that the Newsletter had already generated an offer of help from a local Cub group with the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative in March.

Cllr Stacey explained to the meeting that the performance of 'Alice in Wonderland' at Pierrepont Gamston School attracted a crowd of 141 people, which was fantastic. It was an excellent performance that had made a profit.

Cllr Hackett reported back to the meeting on the TreeFest event. She explained that due to the inclement weather all but one of the Parish Council gazebos had been destroyed and the decision was made to move the event to the Village Hall.

Cllr Hackett explained that despite this it was an excellent event, the band and flutes played really well and the mulled wine went down very well. There was a great atmosphere. Special thanks were given to David Litchfield for his help throughout the day.

It was questioned as to whether the event needs to be at the Play Park, but it was noted that there were 3 or 4 times more people at the Play Park last year, that would not have been accommodated in the Village Hall. The weather inevitably makes a huge difference to the turnout.

Suggestion was made that perhaps there could be an additional tree on the Village Green next year.

Cllr McDonald-Preston reiterated that TreeFest had been a fantastic, special event.

Cllr Griffiths wanted to express her thanks to Cllr Stacey for all her hard work organising both the TreeFest event and the Alice in Wonderland performance. She noted that the latter had been a very well performed piece of theatre.

Cllr Mason echoed the previous comments regarding the TreeFest event.

Cllr Mason also wanted to extend his thanks to Cllr Hackett's daughter Katie and friend Sue for their invaluable assistance in putting up the Christmas decorations in the Village Hall.

4821. VILLAGE HALL REBUILD UPDATE

Cllr Tisbury explained that tenders had been received from all selected builders and these had been opened this afternoon at a meeting of the VH Rebuild Committee and the Clerk and Project Manager Bruce Bradley.

Cllr Tisbury issued a summary of the information that had been received that day. Target cost had been around £180/£190k. Cllr Tisbury explained that the building industry was booming at the moment and tenders were high. All of the figures were above expectation. Reductions would be required and possible changes to the specification.

The two highest quotes, from Ackroyds and Thomas Long were rejected, based on price.

TK Builders had produced a full breakdown of costs and Bruce Bradley is to request similar breakdowns from FC7 and Carlin for comparison.

After comparing the full breakdowns, a shortlist of 2 builders will be made.

Regarding the VAT queries, Clerk has received a response from HMRC which Cllr Hill will assess with his VAT contact.

Cllr Hill to assess HMRC response.

It was agreed that references and recent examples of work to be requested. It was suggested that Lowdham Community pavilion had been built by TK Builders.

Clerk to make contact with Lowdham Parish Council regarding their build experience.

Cllr Tisbury reiterated that the final decision on the preferred builder would be brought back to Full Council, with recommendations from the VH Working Party.

4822. HP & G WEBSITE

Cllr Macdonald-Preston explained that he has spent a considerable amount of time over the last month working on the new website. Transfer of the hosting of the website and the email addresses for the Clerk and Bookings Clerk had now been completed.

Cllr Macdonald-Preston explained that he had spoken to Cheryl Newman, Bookings Clerk. She will email VisionICT weekly with updates for the VH Bookings Calendar.

Cllr Macdonald-Preston confirmed that he was awaiting photographs and short write ups for the web page from Cllr's Mason, Bancroft and Cuthbert.

Cllr's Mason, Bancroft and Cuthbert to provide Cllr Macdonald-Preston with photographs and short write ups for the web page.

Cllr Prett to provide Cllr Macdonald-Preston with pictures from the recent TreeFest event.

Cllr Tisbury noted that he couldn't see any age restrictions on the VH Hire Form online. Also the TreeFest advert link did not work.

Cllr Tisbury wanted to thank Cllr Macdonald-Preston for all his hard work in creating the new, modern-looking website. The new website works on mobile devices which is a great improvement.

Cllr Macdonald-Preston to investigate glitches noted with new site.

Clerk to establish direct link with VisionICT to update the website with statutory documents required on an ongoing basis, including minutes, accounts etc.

Cllr Griffiths to produce History of Adbolton for inclusion on website.

4823. AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Cllr Prett noted that the 'Meet at Morrisons' group were very pleased with the inclusion of their article in the Autumn Newsletter.

Cllr Griffiths had also been recognised as a new Parish Councillor, further evidence that it is being read!

Work to start on Spring Newsletter in the New Year. Aim to issue around beginning April 2016.

4824. FINANCE

Clerk issued all Cllr's with copies of the month's financial transactions and details of cheques for signing.

Cllr Mason noted that there were a couple of instances of the Village Hall being hired out for one hour only. He reminded the meeting that the conditions of hire were, Monday to Friday £6/hour minimum of 2 hours hire. Discussion took place and meeting unanimously agreed that condition was to be maintained.

Clerk to remind Bookings Clerk of minimum 2 hour hall hire.

Cllr Macdonald-Preston to ensure minimum 2 hour hall hire included on Booking Form and that this condition of hire clearly communicated on website.

9.05pm Cllr Bancroft left the meeting.

Cllr Prett noted that there was £60 unspent funds for Members Allowances. **Clerk to raise Members Allowance cheque for Cllr Griffiths.**

Clerk explained that as per Minute 4648. December 2014, it was agreed that the Bookings Clerk pay would be reviewed annually. Clerk noted that Bookings Clerk does an excellent job and based on this year's performance, proposed a 2.5% raise (same as last year). This would equate to a 23p/hour increase up to £9.46/hour.

Discussion took place. Cllr Hill proposed and Cllr Tisbury seconded the motion that Bookings Clerk hourly rate increase from £9.23/hour to £9.50/hour from January 2016. Vote taken. Unanimously in favour.

Cllr Stacey suggested Clerk performing review with Bookings Clerk.

Clerk to arrange annual review with Bookings Clerk in New Year.

Clerk explained that as per Minute 4648. December 2014, Clerk's pay would move one spine point up SLCC scale, from point 29. to 30. from January 2016. Discussion took place regarding lump sum payment for both employees, as last year (£100). Cllr Tisbury preferred the possible option of moving Clerk's pay a further spine point up the SLCC scale.

Clerk to quantify the amount involved in moving from point 30. to 31.

4825. CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk had nothing further to report.

Cllr Stacey asked that Clerk write a letter of thanks to David Litchfield for all his hard work over the year, expressing our gratitude for his willingness and positive disposition.

Clerk to write to David Litchfield.

4826. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council confirmed as **Monday 11th January 2016** at the **Village Hall, Gamston Village**

The meeting ended at approximately 9.20pm.