

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**
Monday 9th December 2019 at 7.15pm in Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road

Members Present: Gary Arkless (Chair), Cynthia Stacey (Vice Chair), Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Sally Griffiths & Phil Jones.

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

5469. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Bancroft sent his apologies due to work commitments.

Cllr Mason sent his apologies due to being on holiday in Norway.

Cllr Tisbury sent his apologies due to work commitments.

Cllr Owen sent his apologies due to being on holiday in Germany.

County Cllr Cutts sent her apologies due to a clash with another PC meeting and also the annual Inspire Christmas Concert.

5470. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5471. ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes to the order of business were proposed.

5472. MINUTES

TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2019

In his absence Cllr Tisbury had forwarded the following Minute amendments to the Clerk.

Minute 5463. i) *'Saying a building is too large is not grounds to oppose its' development. You need to state why. I would not support such a general statement.'*

Clerk explained that no specific reason was given by anyone at the meeting as to why it's considered too big and have minuted the essence of what was said.

Minute 5463. ii) para 4 Concerns regarding the boundary and wildlife were raised by Richard Thomas.

Minute 5463. ii) para 17 Replace second 'would' with *'could'* and *'it should be investigated'*.

Cllr Arkless proposed and Cllr Stacey seconded the motion that, subject to the above amendments, the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Minutes were adopted.

Clerk to amend November '19 Minutes.

Cllr Arkless to upload November '19 Minutes to the HP&G PC website.

5473. COUNTY REPORT

Clerk read out the following report forwarded by County Cllr Cutts in her absence:

'I am so sorry, I shall not be able to attend your Parish Council meeting this evening as it has clashed not only with another Parish Council but also the annual Inspire Christmas Concert at the Concert Hall in Nottingham. Inspire is our arms-length library service, and we have an annual concert of young people's choirs from across the county – largely based on secondary schools.

Here is the list of things I have attended in my capacity as County Councillor for Radcliffe-on-Trent division since your last meeting:

- *I contributed to the Council's Skills & Employability Summit regarding how to improve the skills of young people who do not consider going to university*
- *I had a very enjoyable evening on the Radcliffe Annual Parish Dinner*
- *I attended the County Councils Network conference, where items on the County Council agenda were discussed but – as it was election time – no ministers were able to attend as they do usually*
- *NTU are taking over the West Notts College, and I was invited to a conference to discuss how we can improve the offer for local young people. Hopefully Nottingham Trent University will raise the link between A-levels and extra training to a better standard*
- *We held the annual 4Uth Awards event at County Hall. This is our red carpet event for nominated young people in the seven districts around the county. This year's outright winner was Jasmine Chapman from Gedling, who has Dwarfism but still manages to carry out all school activities as well as being an enthusiastic sportswoman. She had the most delightful personality, and overcomes her disability with great courage*
- *Keyworth & District Local History Society put on a very interesting 'Celebrating Democracy' event, showing some of their collection of local history and the village of Keyworth in recent years*
- *Radcliffe-on-Trent's Food & Drink Festival was under new guidance of the Parent-Teacher Association from the South Notts Academy. The event went very well, was well attended, and the new sponsors worked very effectively – including young people from the school who acted as meters and greeters as well as serving delicious canapés*
- *On Wednesday 4 December, we had the light switch-on for the Christmas tree at County Hall. This was attended by two schools, and Santa Claus handed out small gifts to the children. We have relocated the tree so that it is next to the River Trent at the rear of County Hall, as extremely busy traffic was unfortunately drowning out the young people who sang carols at the tree in previous years. As the sun went down, the lights on the tree looked beautiful*
- *On Thursday 5 December, the Duke of Edinburgh & Shadow presentation awards were held. We welcomed a large number of young people to the event, which is held twice a year*
- *I'm very much looking forward to attending the Radcliffe-on-Trent Playgroup Nativity on 10 December. With such tiny children, anything can happen – but whatever does happen simply adds to the magic of Christmas*
- *I have received an invitation to the Notts Gymnastics Academy to see their display by their pupils, which is always very professional and indeed was the club where Ellie & Beckie Downie and Sam Oldham honed their skills to Olympic standard*
- *I shall be attending Carol Services at St Mary's Radcliffe-on-Trent, St Edmunds Holme Pierrepont & Gamston, and Southwell Minster in the run up to Christmas*
- *Salting & gritting on the County's highways has been happening regularly over the last few days due to the frosty weather*

- *Recent flooding events across the county stretched our resources to the full. Nottinghamshire County Council came up with a hardship fund to help both businesses and homes that were flooded, details of which can be found on Nottinghamshire County Council's website. The rain has left our roads in poor condition, which of course will have to be repaired*
- *The final meeting of Nottinghamshire County Council for 2019 will be held on 19th December, which will be our Full Council.'*

5474. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler explained that over the last month the Council had entered into the pre-election purdah period.

Cllr Wheeler explained he had attended the Sandale Close Christmas Lights switch on event within the Parish. All donations going to the RSPCA at Radcliffe-on-Trent.

Cllr Wheeler congratulated the Parish Council on their Christmas event.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about attending meetings regarding the re-adoption of open spaces under the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order), including Gamston Play Park. Cllr Wheeler stressed that this is used as a final deterrent, not as an initial response.

Cllr Wheeler explained that he would chase up a response regarding new housing figures within the Borough.

Cllr Wheeler noted that he wants to gather more information regarding the Hall Farm House application and is still waiting for a reply from RBC Planning.

Cllr Wheeler commented on the fact that two planning applications to prune trees in Holme Pierrepont had recently been refused.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the upcoming review of facilities in West Bridgford including Lutterell Hall. Gamston are fortunate in having two community facilities.

Cllr Wheeler explained that in the week commencing 6th January '20 collections for The Friary would be combined with the refuse collections in the Borough. As well as food; gloves, socks, hats, trainers and toiletries would all be gratefully received.

Borough Cllr Wheeler still to report back to Jan '20 PC meeting on actual v target houses built within the plan period.

5475. PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

Borough Cllr Wheeler explained that he had sent an email to Simon Robinson in Bassingfield asking if there was a possibility that a defibrillator in Bassingfield could be situated on the perimeter of his property. He has asked Simon to contact Cllr Hackett directly, but she had not received any communication. It was agreed that ideally the defibrillator would be located close to the centre of the village.

Discussion took place regarding the cost of electricity in running the defibrillator. Cllr Hackett explained that the electricity for the Holme Pierrepont defibrillator was split between the residents that paid for the electric gate. Clerk asked if Cllr Hackett could find out the increase in the electricity bills since introducing the defibrillator and therefore work out an approximate annual cost to run.

Cllr Wheeler to call Simon Robinson and report back regarding siting defibrillator in Bassingfield.

Cllr Hackett to find out electricity cost of running defibrillator in Holme Pierrepont.

5476. PLANNING

- i) *19/02612/FUL Mr Thomas Allen & Dr Natalie Scroggie Demolition of existing single storey garage and front single storey part of dwelling. Erection of two storey front extension and two storey side extension. Addition of balcony to rear of dwelling. (resubmission) 3 Adbolton Grove, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, NG2 5AR.*

Planning permission was granted in August '19 for a very similar design. It appears other small alterations have been decided upon such as more convenient access from the garage to the utility room and alteration of the upstairs layout to provide an extra bedroom. This has necessitated a resubmission of plans. Main issue would have been the increase in height overshadowing the bungalow next door to the south side but this was in the plans that were agreed in August '19.

Therefore recommend Parish Council response : Do Not Object.

Clerk to submit response to RBC planning portal.

- ii) *19/02618/TPO Mr Barry Herrod Tree work to G5 of the TPO. Removal of Rowan Tree and Norway Maple part of the group due to general poor condition, to be replaced with new specimens. Crown reduction 15% of one Red Oak in the group. Deadwooding of trees and tidying broken stub ends as part of general maintenance as described in the tree work report. Land adjacent to Stavely Way and Croyde Road, Radcliffe Road, Gamston, Nottinghamshire.*

As the Parish Council are not tree experts we will therefore support any recommendation made by RBC tree specialists assessing the application. If the proposal was to completely remove a tree and not replace it we would consider the implications and may offer our opinion for or against. In this case removed trees are going to be replaced.

Clerk to submit response to RBC planning portal.

Clerk noted that she had received an email from Richard Thomas passing on his thanks for the support of the Parish Council.

5477. VILLAGE HALL

General Update

Cllr Arkless read out Bookings Clerk monthly report.

'A general update for the December meeting at the village hall.

The paper towels, loo rolls, soaps and cleaning products are all stocked up ready for the Christmas event at the weekend. There is a party booked for the following day 1.30pm – 5.30pm. So if you need to go in the next day for any reason, please make sure it's in the morning. I'm looking forward to the Christmas event and will be coming along with my

children. I'll make sure I bring the Village Hall diary as I often get random enquiries for bookings at these sort of events.

Pierrepont Gamston School are very grateful for the prize of 4 hours free hire of the hall (subject to availability, T&Cs). This will be a raffle prize at their school fayre on Friday 6th December. They have struggled for prizes this year as some of the local bars are under new management.

The hall has been busy with the regulars, along with a few weekend party functions over the November period. There haven't been any problems with parking and all users have been sticking to the rules. No complaints (that I'm aware of). Let's remember we receive a lot of compliments about the village hall (FAR more compliments than complaints) which leads to lots of groups contacting me to enquire about weekly groups they would like to hold at the hall (fitness, baby groups, drama, arts and crafts to name a few). At the moment the hall still has a lot of weekly/monthly groups, therefore we can't accommodate any more uninterrupted weekly groups. We have 1st and 2nd Tuesday morning free or Thursday afternoons 2pm – 4pm (if I changed my cleaning time).

The regular groups will be taking a break over the Christmas period. The booths for the elections are being delivered tomorrow (6th) by Streetwise and collected on 13th. They have asked if they could be permanently stored at the hall which I have said "no" as the store cupboard seems to be getting more and more packed every time I go in there.

The paths in the garden can get very slippery on these frosty mornings. I have been using the old grit bins for the path and look forward to the new bins being in place. If anyone is at the hall, feel free to throw some grit down, every little helps!

Complaint

Cllr Arkless noted that a verbal complaint had been received by the Bookings Clerk from one of the groups that hire the hall. As a result an email had been circulated to all Councillors.

Cllr Arkless reiterated that when we take a booking payment from either an individual or a group, we and they enter a contract. We can expect certain things from them and they can expect the same from us. One of the things they can expect is a right to privacy during whatever function or activity they are undertaking.

As such Cllr Arkless requested that Councillors please do not enter the hall unannounced or uninvited whilst activities are taking place unless it is an emergency or to challenge anti-social behaviour.

Clerk stressed that if in any doubt please contact Cheryl Newman the Bookings Clerk for details of when the Village Hall is occupied.

Metal Banner Hanger

Clerk explained that Cllr Tisbury had been unable to speak with the Village Hall neighbour regarding the metal banner hanger due to them being on holiday. Subject to be raised again at the January '20 meeting.

Based on neighbour's consent and confirmation from Borough Cllr Wheeler that no Planning Permission is required, Parish Council to proceed with metal banner hanger purchase.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to confirm with RBC Planning that permission not required to replace notice board.

Cllr Tisbury to speak with neighbour regarding new notice board plans and report back to PC.

5478. PLAY PARK

Discussion took place regarding the accumulation of fallen leaves at the Play Park. It was noted that a PC leaf blower could be purchased but storage could potentially be a problem. It was also suggested that a contract be entered into for regular removal of the leaves. It was agreed to cost and revisit the issue in the Summer '20.

Cllr Prett asked the meeting if any progress had been made regarding quotations to replace the football pitch surface. Clerk confirmed no progress had been made as yet.

Cllr Prett to resend details to Clerk of Quorn based Sports Surface company.

Clerk to arrange quotation from sports surface company.

Discussion took place regarding safety fencing around the Christmas Tree at the Play Park. Clerk explained that this was a safety requirement. The large RBC barriers traditionally used look ugly and do not prevent vandalism to the lights as has been experienced for the last two years. Clerk had investigated the procurement of wooden picket fences, like those used in Bingham town centre around their tree. A verbal quotation of £500 had been received, which Clerk considered too expensive. Discussion took place regarding potential sources of fencing and also the storage of fences throughout the year. Clerk noted that any fencing must enclose the tree AND the electricity point to ensure any trailing wires are behind the fencing.

Cllr Arkless agreed to investigate the picket fence option around the Play Park Christmas tree.

Cllr Mason still to liaise with John Cottee and invite him to attend a Parish Council meeting.

5479. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Stacey thanked the meeting for all their help in making Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall a successful event. Cllr Stacey thanked the Clerk for all her input.

Cllr Stacey fed back to the meeting two comments she had received. Firstly someone thought they would be able to buy crafts at the event rather than children create them. Also it was noted that there was a hiatus after the crafts and before the singing started. The event followed a slightly different format this year, which contributed to the delay. It is anticipated this will be a much smoother process next year.

Cllr Stacey spoke about the creation of a Parish Council Flood Resilience Store in Holme Pierrepont. Cllr Stacey is to email and acquire temporary road signage indicating flood ahead to discourage traffic attempting to travel along unsafe roads during a flood event. Cllr Stacey circulated pictures of the recent flooding that had taken place in the hamlet. Cllr Hackett's husband had assisted in towing a number of vehicles out of the verges.

Discussion took place regarding the cause of the floods. It was explained that the water table is so high that flood water runs off the fields, and it is not flooding directly from the River Trent. It was noted that farmers previously used to get money to clear the ditches, which is an expensive process, but do not receive this funding any more. It was anticipated that the flooding situation will only get worse.

Cllr Stacey asked if the January '20 agenda could include a review of the Parish Council achievements over 2019.

Clerk to include 'Review of Parish Council Achievements 2019' on January '20 Agenda.

Cllr Hackett noted that 20 bottles of mulled wine had been insufficient for the Christmas event this year and we should budget for more bottles next year.

Cllr Hackett explained that one of the Coleman shelters had been waterproofed when setting up for the Christmas event. The waterproofing took approximately 6 hours to dry. There is one remaining shelter to waterproof. The one already waterproofed has been marked as such.

Cllr Griffiths noted that she had arranged with RBC for some fly tipping on Regatta Way to be removed. Borough Cllr Wheeler said that Cllrs could email him if they see any fly tipping in the Parish and he will pass the information to the appropriate department.

Cllr Prett explained that the Gamston Litter Picking group had collected 104 sacks of rubbish from the Parish since they had started their initiative. Three ladies attended in all weathers, without fail, and Cllr Prett thought it would be a nice gesture to give them some flowers as a Christmas gift to say thank you for their efforts. Meeting agreed.

Cllr Prett to arrange for 3 litter pickers to receive Christmas flowers.

Cllr Prett to distribute dates for 2020 litter picks, copying in Bookings Clerk.

It was noted that the next newsletter is due to be issued in Spring 2020. Cllr Hackett raised the issue of the HP&G PC logo and the fact that Holme Pierrepont Hall looked more like a prison than a pretty hall. Cllr Hackett suggested it could be changed to, for example, a canal with swans on it as the existing logo was austere and it was perhaps time for a change. It was explained that money had been spent on devising the existing logo and it was a simple, modern interpretation of the significant 16th century building within the Parish. Also to build brand awareness it was beneficial to have a consistent image. Cllr Hackett spoke about the marketing image used by HP Hall. Meeting looked at the image and it has considerably greater number of windows. Discussions were inconclusive and no actions were generated.

8.25pm Borough Cllr Wheeler left the meeting.

Cllr Prett noted that the old grit bin and split grit bags needed removing from the VH site. After discussion it was agreed that a clear up of the VH grounds was required in the Spring '20. Cllr Arkless commented that the solar lights on the Village Hall Christmas tree looked nice.

Clear up of Village Hall grounds to be carried out in Spring '20.

Cllr Arkless explained that he had spent a considerable amount of time attempting to get the foliage along the canal pathways near Morrison's cleared. The process had proved so frustrating he had taken to pruning the area himself. Parts of the canal path feel quite neglected and the footpath considerably narrows with overgrowth.

5480. FINANCE

Clerk issued all Cllrs with copies of the month's financial transactions and details of payments. All payments this month are to be made via BACS from the new Unity Trust Bank Account. No receipts this month were received directly via BACS.

Cllrs Mason and Bancroft still to set up their online banking authorisation.

Clerk to carry out pensions responsibilities by 1st January '20. Next pensions deadline date for work required is 30th June '20.

Clerk to issue Cllr Owen with pro-rata Councillors Allowance payment.

Employee Wage Review

Clerk explained that as per Minute 4648. December 2014, Clerk's pay would move one spine point up SLCC scale, from point 34. to 35. from January 2020. This equates to a 2% or 34p increase per hour.

Clerk explained that as per Minute 4648. December 2014, it was agreed that the Bookings Clerk pay would be reviewed annually. Clerk noted that the Bookings Clerk does an excellent job, is conscientious and reliable and has been doing a great job for over 6 years now so also proposed an increase of 2%.

Discussion took place regarding Bookings Clerk wages. Cllr Stacey proposed and Cllr Arkless seconded the motion that Bookings Clerk hourly rate increase by 2% £10.25/hour to £10.45/hour from January 2020. Vote taken. Unanimously in favour. Motion carried.

Cllr Stacey explained that Susan Toon has charged £175 for her work on the newsletter and amount which has not increased for some time. Her work is excellent and Cllr Stacey recommended we increase her payment to £200 per edition. Discussion took place and meeting unanimously agreed the increase.

2020/2021 Financial Year – First Draft Budget

Clerk had previously circulated a first draft budget for the 2020/2021 Precept Request. Clerk explained that the Precept Request will need to be approved at the January 2020 meeting. Clerk also explained that the Precept Request is a **best guess estimate** at spend over the coming Financial Year. We obviously want for it be as accurate as possible in order for us to carry out the work required over the year, but it is impossible to be exact to the penny. After a preliminary discussion some amendments were suggested.

Clerk to action amendments to draft precept request and re-issue amended figures to all Cllrs for approval at January '20 PC meeting.

5481. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk ran through the action points from November '19 Minutes to ensure all were either completed or carried forward to the next month.

Clerk issued Parish Council meeting dates for 2020. Clerk highlighted that the second Monday of April '20 falls on Bank Holiday Easter Monday so this meeting will be brought forward by a week to **Monday 6th April '20.**

Cllr Prett mentioned the VE Day 75th anniversary next year and the possibility of recognising this with a bugler. To be further discussed in the New Year.

5482. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 13th January 2020** at **7.15pm** in Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road.

The meeting ended at approximately 9.10pm.