

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**
Monday 14th December 2020 at 7.15pm via Zoom

Members Present: Gary Arkless (Chair), Cynthia Stacey, John Mason, Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Sally Griffiths, Phil Jones & Alun Owen

In attendance: Julia Barnes (Clerk), County Cllr Kay Cutts & Borough Cllr Jonathan Wheeler.

5602. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Tisbury sent his apologies.

Cllr Bancroft sent his apologies via Cllr Mason.

Borough Cllr Wheeler sent his apologies for a possible late arrival.

5603. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5604. ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes to order of business proposed.

5605. MINUTES

**TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2020**

Cllr Prett noted the following amendments.

Minute 5593. remove apostrophe in Morrisons.

Minute 5598. remove apostrophe from 'its' in both second and third paragraph.

Minute 5598. paragraph 9 should read that the proposal is to double the size of the original car park and introduce charges, not to open a second car park.

Subject to the above amendments, Cllr Jones proposed, and Cllr Griffiths seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour.

Cllr Arkless to upload amended November '20 Minutes to the HP&G PC website.

Clerk to delete November '20 Zoom meeting recording.

5606. COUNTY REPORT

County Cllr Cutts told the meeting she had attended a virtual Inspire Carol Concert put on by the Library service, which was lovely.

Cllr Cutts spoke about the review of Tier 3 Covid-19 status in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire on Wednesday 16th December '20 but is not hopeful of any relaxation of the rules. There are large numbers of cases in the over 60 age category and a higher number of hospitalised cases now than during the first wave of the virus. London is moving into Tier 3 and a new strain of the virus unfortunately has been identified.

Cllr Cutts spoke about the imminent approval of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine for use, which is fantastic news.

Cllr Cutts spoke about the planting of thousands of trees over the next 5 years on Notts CC land. The aim for the future is for the County Council to be carbon neutral. Staff will be moved out of older buildings into newer more energy efficient ones that are situated in optimum locations to minimise car journeys required. In the future it is anticipated that a reduced number of desks will be required as staff will work more flexibly with a mix of office and home working.

Cllr Cutts explained that funding had been received for a cycle route along Regatta Way but that a Traffic Regulation Order would be required before implementation, which could take some time.

Cllr Arkless asked where he could find the latest Covid-19 infection rates as they did not appear to be shown on the Notts CC website. Cllr Cutts referred Cllr Arkless to the main page of the site and noted that currently Rushcliffe had the lowest rates in the region and Bassetlaw the highest.

Cllr Mason asked about the selected Conservative Candidate for the Radcliffe Division in the County Council Elections in 2021 Borough Cllr Roger Upton. Cllr Mason noted that one of the things Cllr Upton stated as supporting was preserving green belt land including Regatta Way and WB Colts FC and wondered how this fitted with the plans for school provision on that land. County Cllr Cutts did not think that had been a particularly sensible thing to write and had she been consulted on the document she would have advised otherwise. Cllr Cutts reiterated that the school would be built.

Cllr Jones asked Cllr Cutts about the provision for mass testing for Covid-19 in the region in order to help move out of Tier 3. Cllr Cutts explained that this took a relatively long time to rollout and required a large number of trained personnel. Cllr Cutts also explained that mass testing is not a panacea and there is still a long way to go before we are back to any kind of normality. Cllr Cutts noted that the rollout of the various vaccines would take the place of the need for mass testing.

7.25pm County Cllr Cutts left the meeting.

5607. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler spoke about the proposed Gamston Fields development and the fact that RBC Planning would require a strategic masterplan approved by all landowners before any planning approvals would be granted. Cllr Wheeler explained that it was likely that plans would be put in by Wimpey/Barwood Homes as there is an option on the land that expires at the end of December '20. If plans were approved before all landowners are on board with the masterplan, we could end up in a situation where we have several houses built without all the required supporting infrastructure, with that following a number of years later, which would be undesirable.

Cllr Wheeler told the meeting that £22 million had been distributed within the Borough in Covid-19 business grants.

Cllr Wheeler noted that part of the Rushcliffe Arena car park has been set aside for Covid-19 testing over the next 3 months.

Cllr Wheeler also spoke about supporting initiatives for the Borough Council becoming carbon neutral by 2030 including providing electric car parking spaces in Radcliffe-on-Trent.

Cllr Mason asked Borough Cllr Wheeler if he knew Borough Cllr Roger Upton. He confirmed that he did.

Cllr Arkless explained that he had spoken with the Chair of Tollerton Parish Council Matt Garrard regarding the Gamston Fields proposals. Both Parishes are affected by the potential development and it was agreed that there would be a joint approach to planning discussions. Cllr Tisbury kindly volunteered to represent the Parish Council as the liaison person between Holme Pierrepont & Gamston and Tollerton Parish Council.

Cllr Griffiths asked Cllr Wheeler if there were plans to put any electric charging points elsewhere in the Borough. Cllr Wheeler explained that a balance should be struck between cost and need and ensure the car park has enough spaces for the electric ones so as not to be blocked with non-electric cars. Cllr Arkless noted that Asda West Bridgford and Aldi near Wheatcrofts have electric charging points and suggested that Morrisons would also be a suitable location.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to speak with Kelly/Chloe at Morrisons regarding the possibility of providing electric charging points in some parking spaces.

Cllr Prett thanked Cllr Wheeler for his help in bringing the damaged fence on Stavely Way to the attention of Bovis Homes.

5608. PLANNING

- i) 20/02728/FUL Mr & Mrs Chambers Construction of two storey front side and rear extension with front and rear dormer windows and external alteration including new front canopy and application of rock panel cladding and rendering. Rosewood Cottage, Radcliffe Road, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6NR.

Cllr Griffiths has looked at this application and concluded the following. The proposal adds a lot more floor space as it adds a storey with two bedrooms in the increased roof space as well as extending into the already small garden downstairs. However, it does not appear to overlook any of the other properties nor change the view for any of them.

Parish Council Response : Do Not Object

Clerk has responded on behalf of the Parish Council via the RBC Planning Portal.

ii) *Gamston Fields, land East of Gamston*

Cllr Arkless explained that he had seen the statement on the RBC website regarding the requirement of a masterplan before considering the Gamston Fields application and asked Borough Cllr Wheeler if he had a copy of the actual response RBC submitted to the Gamston Fields consultation.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to check with Cllr Robinson if there is a copy of the RBC response that can be forwarded to HP&G Parish Council.

Clerk to continue to look out for planning training courses for Cllrs Arkless, Hackett, Jones & Owen.

5609. PLAY PARK

Tree Management Proposals

Cllr Arkless explained that he, Cllr Hackett and David Litchfield had spent 2 days clearing leaves from the Play Park area. Cllr Arkless thanked Cllr Hackett for her help and for removing and disposing of two full trailer loads of leaves. The process of collecting the leaves highlighted the fact that it was impossible to get the trailer close to the park area due to the density of trees in the park. The trees drop a large quantity of leaves and this has resulted in the grassed areas under the foliage dying and becoming very muddy. Cllr Stacey confirmed that the trees limit the access for equipment on Play Days.

Cllr Arkless suggested that we thin out the trees before the next nesting season in the Spring. Cllr Hackett suggested that as well as a quote from James Harrison our current Tree Surgeon, we should also get an alternative quote. Cllr Hackett suggested Simon Walsh (01636 605 632) who had done some work in Holme Pierrepont.

Clerk to arrange meetings with both James Harrison and Simon Walsh to discuss tree management at the Play Park. Clerk and Cllrs Arkless and Mason to attend.

Painting of Play Equipment

Clerk to arrange for Power Wash cleaning of all Play Park equipment by Streetwise soon.

Clerk to establish comparability of two quotations received for painting Play Park equipment. Clerk to also establish approximate timescales for work to ascertain how long the Play Park is likely to be out of action.

Clerk to revalidate quotations for the replacement MUGA.

Clerk explained that a mystery lady had provided baubles for some young children to decorate the Play Park Christmas tree. Clerk explained that she had not been able to identify the identity of the benevolent bauble lady but has received a photo of the children decorating the tree that can be used in a future newsletter.

5610. VILLAGE HALL

Government Guidance re: opening of community venues

Clerk confirmed that nothing had changed in the last month regarding re-opening of the Village Hall and anticipated that Parish Council meetings would take place over Zoom for the next 6 months. Cllr Arkless thought that the Zoom meetings worked well and if they remained on Zoom when the Village Hall reopened this would free up Monday evenings for a regular group to hire.

Clerk explained that Cllr Bancroft had arranged the Village Hall air conditioning annual service which had not identified any issues.

Cllr Arkless noted that the Christmas Tree railings would be store in Store 2 at the Village Hall and explained that the store areas required a Spring clean and clear out.

Cllr Mason shared the good news that a replacement Union flag for the Village Hall flagpole had arrived and he would arrange for it to be up and flying when the weather was drier.

Use of Village Hall outdoor space

Cllr Tisbury not present at the meeting so pended over to 2021.

5611. DISCUSSION DOCUMENT – HOLME LANE, HP

Cllr Owen spoke about his previously circulated document regarding the issues pertaining to Holme Lane in Holme Pierrepont. Cllr Owen explained that from his research he had been unable to find any similar situation anywhere in the country from which to glean guidance. Cllr Owen told the meeting that he had discovered areas that had set up 'quiet lanes' but unfortunately these had not worked.

Cllr Owen spoke about next steps to form a sub-group to devise potential solutions to the numerous problems and then present these to the residents for approval. Cllr Owen had hoped to be able to discuss with County Cllr Cutts and for her to be able to provide a

name to be contacted as a Traffic Management expert at Notts County Council who could advise on the management of this country lane.

Cllr Griffiths asked if a 20mph speed limit could be introduced. Cllr Owen confirmed this was already in place. Cllr Owen spoke about the reduction in rat-running vehicles during the pandemic with many people working from home but an increase in leisure users during this time. Cllr Owen expressed his concern that as the virus situation resolves rat-running will increase again but the levels of leisure users will stay the same, thus exacerbating the problem.

Cllr Owen understood that gates or bollards were not feasible, but the road verges are disappearing and becoming increasingly muddy and there are no organised passing places. Cllr Stacey spoke about positioning stones on her verges to protect them.

Cllr Owen spoke about the fact that the problem extends to the Radcliffe-on-Trent end of the road.

Borough Cllr Wheeler recommended copying in County Cllr Cutts on all correspondence.

Cllr Owen to organise a Holme Lane Subgroup including Cllrs Stacey and Hackett.

Cllr Owen to also approach County Cllr Cutts, Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council representative, Gary Wood (Notts CC Group Manager for Environment & Highways), Borough Cllr Roger Upton, Notts Wildlife Trust representative and HP Watersports Centre representative, for their input.

Cllr Prett to speak with Notts Wildlife Trust and forward a contact name to Cllr Owen.

5612. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Owen told the meeting that he had been struggling to dispose of old tyres anywhere in Rushcliffe. Cllr Prett explained this was a problem as nobody wanted them. Skylarks had experienced fly tipping of old tyres and it had cost £5 per tyre to remove them. Meeting suggested Cllr Owen try a local garage.

Cllr Arkless updated the meeting regarding the A52 junction change proposals. Cllr Arkless explained that as Highways England had not provided any supporting data on asking, the Clerk had submitted a formal Freedom of Information (FOI) request and formally objected to the proposal as there was currently insufficient evidence to support the decision. Clerk confirmed that the deadline for the FOI request was 31st December '20. Cllr Stacey said that she was in regular contact with residents Diane Kidger and Clarice Panter regarding the issue.

Clerk to add A52 Junction Change Proposals to January 2021 Agenda

Cllr Stacey told the meeting that she had met with the Area Manager for STWA to arrange a location for the flood notices and sundries for Holme Pierrepont. It was agreed they would be stored in a concealed lockable store at the sewage pumping site, secured with a combination lock. Cllr Stacey asked the meeting for approval to purchase said combination lock. Meeting agreed.

Cllr Stacey explained that Notts County Council insisted that before the flood equipment could be used a training course must be attended and a risk assessment performed. Cllr Stacey has asked if a simple visit on site to demonstrate how to use the equipment would be acceptable and it was agreed.

Cllr Hackett confirmed that her husband would be able to transport the signage to the site in the event of a flood. Cllr Stacey expressed her thanks and also thanked David Hackett for rescuing people stuck in their vehicles during the flooding last winter.

Cllr Stacey to purchase combination lock for flood equipment store.

Cllr Stacey to arrange to meet for demonstration of use of flood equipment.

Cllr Hackett explained that Holly Lodge in Holme Pierrepont had been sold. It is a Grade II listed building but there has been evidence of a chainsaw being used in the garden for two consecutive weekends and some possible changes to the roof. Meeting agreed it was unacceptable if changes were being made without asking for and receiving planning permission. Cllr Hackett said any builders performing work should know that permission is needed, and it is unfair to people that do follow the planning rules. Cllr Stacey suggested contacting Andrew Pegram in RBC Planning Department and conservation people at Historic England.

Cllr Hackett confirmed that she had delivered all the thank you letters for defibrillator contributions to the residents of Bassingfield. Cllr Hackett explained she had still not received the bill for the electric work from Mr Costello's electrician.

Cllr Prett explained that he had visited the Bassingfield defibrillator and there appeared to be a problem with the battery. The battery is supposed to last around 5 years, but after 1 month is already half used.

Clerk to instruct Bassingfield resident how to check defibrillator unit.

Clerk to liaise with defibrillator supplier WEL Medical regarding battery issue.

Cllr Prett noted that the 750 trees granted to Skylarks Nature Reserve had all been planted on the first weekend in December '20.

Cllr Prett told the meeting a new member had joined the Gamston litter picker group who lived on Cumbria Grange.

5613. FINANCE

Clerk had previously issued via email all Cllrs with copies of the month's financial transactions and details of payments.

Cllrs Arkless and Stacey kindly agreed to electronically authorise month's payments online.

Clerk to forward scans of all invoices for payment to Cllrs Arkless and Stacey.

Clerk to further chase up the VAT refunds.

Discussion took place regarding draft 2021/2022 precept budget that had been previously circulated. Cllr Jones had reviewed the first draft and forwarded his thoughts to the Clerk. Cllrs Tisbury and Prett had also forwarded their suggestions for amendment to the first draft.

Cllr Jones asked if the Clerk was given any guidance from RBC when creating the precept budget. Clerk confirmed this was not the case and explained RBC provide the ability to compare the change in cost of the Parish Council element of the council tax bill for a Band D property within the Parish, but no guidance on how the amount should be derived.

Cllr Jones asked if there were any standardised assumptions made on inflation across the Parishes to standardise increases. Clerk confirmed this was not the case.

Cllr Jones agreed that an assumption of only 50% total income for the year was reasonable.

Clerk confirmed that the Insurance, Audit and Phone fees were likely to be similar to last year. Savings of around £20 per month were being achieved by moving Parish Clerk mobile phone from EE to TalkMobile and an improved network coverage.

Cllr Jones suggested that we might allow inflation on Grounds Maintenance and Tree Work as they are a significant expenditure.

Cllrs Jones and Tisbury advised adding back in the VH Sinking Fund amount.

Cllr Jones asked if the eventual reopening of the VH would necessitate any expenditure, either in upkeep due to not being regularly used or new ongoing costs. Clerk explained that she did not think any extra maintenance costs would be incurred. Clerk suggested that perhaps hand sanitiser should be provided at the VH when it fully reopens.

Cllr Jones suggested that inflation should be added to the wages amounts. Cllr Prett also asked via email about Clerk pay scale increases. Clerk explained that her wages move one spine point up the pay scale each year up to a maximum amount based, as directed by the SLCC, and determined by the size of the Parish Council.

Cllr Prett asked via email about the ongoing defibrillator costs for the 3 Parish defibrillators. Meeting agreed to show these as a separate entry. The amount covers electricity used annually and replacement batteries and pads periodically.

Cllr Prett asked via email about the Parish Clerk PC and MS Office and additional Zoom licencing. Clerk confirmed that the Parish PC was adequate. Clerk explained she had experienced some problems with remote wireless network connectivity, but this had been resolved for now with a wireless USB adapter costing less than £10. Clerk agreed licencing budget should increase to accommodate additional Zoom licencing now incurred.

Cllr Prett asked via email about the payment for repainting the Play Park equipment that will be paid during the next financial year and whether carried forward monies will cover

this. Clerk thought that, although the exact amount is unknown, there would be sufficient funds to cover this payment.

Clerk to amend draft precept budget according to suggestions and redistribute to all Cllrs ahead of the January '21 PC meeting for approval.

5614. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk explained that essential lighting renewal works would be taking place on the A52 between Gamston roundabout and Wheatcroft roundabout between 4th January '21 and 18th January '21.

Clerk still to draft letter of thanks to all Covid-19 volunteers and post out.

Clerk to deliver thank you chocolates to all Covid-19 volunteers that were called on to help during the first lockdown.

5615. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 11th January 2021** at **7.15pm** **via Zoom**.

The meeting ended at approximately 8.45pm.