

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**
Monday 13th July 2020 at 7.15pm via Zoom

Members Present: Gary Arkless (Chair), Cynthia Stacey, Melvyn Tisbury, John Mason, Mark Bancroft (seated with Cllr Mason), Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Sally Griffiths, Phil Jones & Alun Owen.

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

Cllr Arkless welcomed everybody to the new format meeting via Zoom. Cllr Arkless explained that the meeting would be recorded to in order to assist the Clerk in producing accurate Minutes and asked if there were any objections. There were no objections. Clerk explained that the recording would be deleted after the Minutes were approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

5528. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

5529. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mason asked about any declarations of interest regarding land for sale on A52. Not on agenda.

No declarations of interest were made.

5530. ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes to order of business proposed.

5531. MINUTES

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

Cllr Tisbury asked that Minute 5525. clarify the fact that authority had been given by the Parish Council to spend £16k from Parish Council reserves to re-surface the Ambleside play park football pitch and it was an agreed decision. Clerk noted that this commitment enabled the Parish Council to apply for LIS (Local Improvement Scheme) grant assistance and this Parish spend was a worst case scenario and likely to be less in reality, should the LIS application be successful.

Subject to the above amendment, Cllr Tisbury proposed and Cllr Prett seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Cllr's Stacey and Bancroft abstained as they were not present at the March '20 meeting. Minutes were adopted.

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

5532. COUNTY REPORT

County Cllr Cutts explained that since lockdown she had frequently been virtually 'attending' meetings over Zoom or Teams and these platforms had enabled Council business to continue.

Cllr Cutts spoke about 2 funds pertaining to provision of additional cycling lanes. Cllr Cutts explained that she considered the use of redundant mineral lines as multi-user routes advantageous. There is scope to increase this network providing safe all-inclusive routes for walkers, joggers and cyclists.

Cllr Cutts spoke about the reduction in speed limit along Regatta Way, making the route safer for all. The cycling lobby were asking for upgrading of the road in Holme Pierrepont but the concern is that this would facilitate much faster routes for the cyclists to the detriment of the other leisure road users such as family cycling groups, walkers, horses etc. There are no plans to significantly upgrade the Holme Lane road surface other than to maintain a level of safety.

Cllr Cutts spoke about the proposed site for a new secondary school in Rushcliffe on the existing football pitches area on Regatta Way. In addition the current Lady Bay Primary School (LBPS) site is unsuitable for the teaching of a modern curriculum. The legislative restrictions on the existing LBPS site prohibit suitable alterations to be made there so it has been suggested that LBPS relocate to the proposed Regatta Way site.

Cllr Cutts spoke about anti-social behaviour including vandalism, noise and littering that had been taking place during lockdown on land at Ten Acre Field in Adbolton. She thanked Cllr Arkless for his input regarding this and explained that a Police dispersal order had been secured and since then the problem had significantly decreased. Cllr Cutts explained that Ten Acre Field was owned by LBPS and as such was their responsibility.

Cllr Cutts praised the work of the schools throughout the pandemic in providing tuition and support to all children and face to face provision for the children of key workers. She stressed the need for all children to be able to get back to school in September.

Cllr Griffiths spoke about the confusion over the ownership and responsibility for Ten Acre Field in Adbolton. The head teacher at LBPS has been informed that they don't have permission to make changes at Ten Acre Field as they do not own it and Notts County Council do. County Cllr Cutts reassured the meeting that responsibility for Ten Acre playing field was that of LBPS and this had been confirmed as the proper opinion of Notts CC officers.

Cllr Mason asked when the new schools would be built. Cllr Cutts explained that the project was still in the consultation phase. Once the planning process is completed and an application is approved building work will start very soon after that.

Cllr Tisbury asked if this proposal was based on current need. He explained that the development of the land East of Gamston would necessitate an additional primary and secondary school as well as the one earmarked for Regatta Way. Cllr Cutts explained that the Regatta Way school requirement was purely based on current demand. Until the highways situation has been sorted out the land East of Gamston development is not viable. At that point the schooling requirement for the new development would be assessed. Cllr Tisbury thanked Cllr Cutts for the clarification and agreed with the sentiments.

Cllr Tisbury asked if the proposed Regatta Way school site was green belt. Cllr Cutts confirmed that it was but schools were included in permitted development and therefore allowable.

(addendum : Cllr Tisbury subsequently has explained that is not the case and that schools are not one of the green belt development exemptions.)

Cllr Tisbury asked Cllr Cutts about the split of responsibility for monitoring the incidence and spread of Covid-19 in Nottingham. He was aware that there are 2 separate Test & Trace teams in Nottingham City and Nottingham County but was unaware of the contact between them. Cllr Cutts explained that although administration was separate the teams did in fact communicate with each other and also with neighbouring counties, and all were overseen by Public Health England. Cllr Cutts was pleased to report that the current incidence rate in our area was flat and cases were mainly within care homes. There had been 2 recent spikes locally in Bassetlaw and Bingham, but to keep things in perspective the Bingham ‘spike’ was just 2 cases.

5533. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler noted that he had emailed a District Report through to the Parish Council during the lockdown explaining the impact of Covid-19 at that point in time. It is apparent that the pandemic will have had a significant impact on Rushcliffe Borough Council finances.

Car parking had been free of charge with charges reintroduced on Monday 29th June '20. However, after a period of zero income from car parking demand is now down by around 30% on previous levels.

Since the setting of the RBC budget for the coming year, they are facing a £1.25 million shortfall. Adjustments to budgets will be required but fortunately they are not in a position that the shortfall will result in bankruptcy, as has been the case in some areas of the country.

Cllr Wheeler explained that the designs for the building and grounds of the new crematorium would be discussed by Cabinet tomorrow. It is anticipated that it will open early 2022.

Cllr Wheeler explained that Full Council had met ‘virtually’ last week. The next Full Cabinet meeting is on Thursday. Sue Mallender is the new Mayor with Tina Combella deputising. Cllr Mallender will hold the post for 1½ years as there will be a period of office with no live events to attend.

Cllr Wheeler has spoken with the local MP about the need to dual carriageway the A52 at Lings Bar. This improvement would help facilitate movement in the development of the land East of Gamston.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan which included details of proposed housing development for the entire Greater Nottingham area including the City and Erewash up to 2030. This plan is separate to the Local Plan, but each Local Plan in the area feeds into it. Cllr Wheeler explained that it was important to note that not all of the sites identified as potential development areas would actually be utilised. He stressed that it is key that the land East of Gamston development is progressed as the

developers of this could appeal the fact that this development is not progressing at all and in the meantime develop other earmarked areas. Then also at some point development of the land East of Gamston would result in significant areas of land being built on. The dualling of the A52 is an important step towards progressing the development of the land East of Gamston.

The first draft of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is under consultation until March 2021.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to forward Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Consultation link to Clerk. Clerk to forward link to all Parish Councillors.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the Reach Rushcliffe initiative aiming to reduce loneliness in the area. There was an increasing issue of isolation before the Covid-19 pandemic but this has been exacerbated. He explained that 15 volunteers had been regularly speaking to 42 people. Cllr Wheeler also noted that there were plans to widen the scope of the initiative once lockdown measures had been eased, for example increasing provision of benches for people to sit and talk and coffee mornings in various venues around the area.

Cllr Mason explained that he had spent 1½ hours in a queue on Rugby Road to deposit some items at the tip which was unacceptable. County Cllr Cutts noted that all of the County Household Waste Recycling Centres were now open. There had been some terrible scenes of bad behaviour and aggression towards staff at some sites from customers which was also unacceptable. Inevitably there was a backlog of waste but customers needed to be sensible and prioritise the importance of their trip. Cllr Cutts explained that they had been looking at another site in the Radcliffe-on-Trent/Bingham/Cotgrave area but the landowner had withdrawn their offer due to a higher bid for the land.

5534. PLANNING

There are no new planning applications.

5535. COVID-19

Clerk updated the meeting on the Parish Council Community Response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the last Parish Council meeting on 9th March '20 the flyer asking for volunteers and to identify people in need had been distributed. Almost 100 volunteers had put their names forward to help and numerous other pockets of the community had set up their own micro-support systems to help people on their road/cul-de-sac/immediate neighbours.

17 people have requested help and through the network of volunteers they have been assisted in numerous ways including shopping, acquiring medications, taking pets to the vet and friendship.

Recently the Summer Newsletter has been issued to the Parish with a reiteration that we are still here and willing and able to help anyone in need. So far no further requests have been received.

Clerk explained that she had communicated by email early on in the pandemic to all the individuals that had volunteered. Clerk noted that she would like to communicate again and also felt the volunteers that had been called upon to actually assist Parishioners deserved a small token gift as a gesture of thanks, maybe at Christmastime.

Discussion took place and it was agreed a formal letter of thanks be sent on letter-headed paper by post to all those that volunteered in the Parish.

Cllr Arkless wished to place on record his thanks, that of the rest of the Parish Council and the wider community to the Clerk Julia Barnes for all her work regarding the response to the Covid-19 crisis. Her effort and organisation involved putting together volunteers and those in need within the parish so that no-one isolating was in a position of being alone and without help.

Clerk to draft letter and post out to all volunteers.

5536. TEN ACRE SCHOOL FIELD, LADY BAY

Cllr Griffiths explained that she had been closely involved with the work to alleviate the issues created during lockdown at the Ten Acre school field in Lady Bay. She had attended the meeting held by the Mayor on 25th June '20.

Cllr Griffiths confirmed that the problem had definitely eased since the introduction of the dispersal order.

5537. PLAY PARK

Cllr Arkless explained to the meeting that since the announcement that outdoor playgrounds COULD (not MUST) re-open from 4th July '20 if it was considered safe to do so, the Parish Council had been investigating the steps involved in reopening the Ambleside Play Park.

After analysis of the Government recommendations for opening it was apparent that these would be too onerous to implement in entirety and that some responsibility for safety would be passed to the parents and carers of the children using the equipment.

Contact was made with Rushcliffe Borough Council to understand the procedures they were implementing as a guide to what would be practicable for the Parish Council. Rushcliffe BC playgrounds are being sprayed at various intervals between weekly and thrice daily dependent upon footfall with a Covid-Guard solution. The disinfectant spray is food safe and air drying within 5 minutes. Cllr Arkless and the Clerk considered spraying of all equipment with this RBC recommended solution to be important before re-opening.

Clerk approached RBC to ask to be added to their spraying schedule on a daily basis. This was not possible. Clerk then contacted StreetWise for a quotation for daily spraying with Covid-Guard but they were not able to quote for this work.

Cllr Arkless and Clerk then acquired equipment in order for the Parish Council to carry out the spraying. Cllr Arkless procured back pack sprayer, goggles, mask and protective

gloves and Clerk set up an account with supplier of Covid-Guard. The disinfectant solution is due to arrive tomorrow when Cllr Arkless, Clerk and Bookings Clerk will meet to carry out a risk assessment on the Play Park. Bookings Clerk has kindly offered to carry out the daily spraying. There will be occasions when she can't do this and volunteers will be required to spray on those days.

Clerk has produced some temporary signage indicating a one way system in and out of the play area. Permanent signage has been ordered. Clerk also produced signage to explain how to use the play area responsibly namely:

- Ensure 2m social distance where possible and limit contact with those outside your household
- Ensure hands are sanitised before and after using the equipment
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds as soon as possible after leaving
- Have only one family member accompanying a child in the play area at any one time
- Do not visit if you feel unwell or have symptoms of Covid-19
- Please use the bins provided to dispose of litter

Parish Councillor volunteers to let Clerk know if they are able to carry out some spraying of Play Park when Bookings Clerk unable to do so.

County Cllr Cutts clarified the position regarding the LIS grant application. During the pandemic assessment of the applications has been paused, the LIS funds are ring-fenced and will be allocated once the assessment of applications process resumes.

5538. VILLAGE HALL

Metal Banner Hanger

Cllr Arkless was pleased to announce that the Metal Banner Hanger was now in place. He had pruned back the surrounding hedge to ensure maximum visibility. The hanger displays banners 3m x 2m. There are 6 places to affix banner using cable ties in the corners and centre points of long edges. The angle at which the banner hanger is placed facilitates a double sided display, one facing Old Tollerton Road away from the Village Hall and on the reverse facing over the Village Hall grounds.

Flower Planters

Clerk explained that the decision had been taken to not spend any money on plants for the planters this year as the Village Hall was not being used. A local resident had kindly planted some surplus flower plants from her garden and her and the Bookings Clerk had been looking after them.

Risk Assessment

Clerk explained that Cllr Arkless, Bookings Clerk and herself would be carrying out a preliminary risk assessment at the Village Hall tomorrow, based on the advice given by government on the reopening of indoor community venues. It is highly unlikely that the Village Hall will be able to open in any capacity before the state school summer holidays that start on 27th July 2020.

Clerk asked County Cllr Cutts if she was aware of any community groups resuming in Radcliffe-on-Trent. She confirmed that as yet no community groups had resumed in Radcliffe-on-Trent.

5539. PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

Cllr Hackett confirmed that since email contact had been made with Simon Robinson in Bassingfield regarding the siting of a defibrillator on the boundary of his property, she had heard nothing.

Cllr Hackett explained that she would progress the siting of a Bassingfield defibrillator in an alternative location once the lockdown measures had been further lifted.

5540. SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Cllr Arkless confirmed that a one page Summer newsletter had been distributed to the Parish.

Clerk explained that the Bookings Clerk had kindly distributed the newsletters to the areas outlying Gamston. Cllr Griffiths asked that her thanks be passed on to the Bookings Clerk for carrying out this task.

Clerk to thank Bookings Clerk on behalf of Cllr Griffiths for delivering newsletter to outlying areas.

5541. COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cllr Stacey explained that unfortunately due to current social distancing measures the planned Summer Play Day 2020 had been cancelled.

Cllr Stacey spoke about the hope that some kind of event could take place at Christmastime. The date of Saturday 5th December 2020 was still in the diary and a choir was still booked in for that date. Cllr Stacey explained that she had been considering whether the arts and crafts could still take place in the Village Hall utilising a booking system. Clerk suggested that maybe a return to an outdoor gathering around the Christmas Tree at the Play Park would be more feasible due to easier social distancing outdoors.

It was agreed that social distancing measures and government guidelines were certain to change over the coming weeks and as such the plans for a Christmastime event would

evolve. The booking for the choir was to be kept and the plans reviewed at the end of the summer.

5542. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Tisbury explained that just before lockdown a meeting had been planned to discuss the draft PC Management Plan document. Cllrs Tisbury, Arkless and Owen and the Clerk were to meet to review the first draft before issuing to the Parish Council for their feedback. Cllr Tisbury was conscious that this work must not be lost and that communicating to the Parish what the Parish Council actually do would be a valuable exercise. The original meeting had been cancelled due to Covid-19 but Cllr Owen asked if this could be rescheduled over Zoom.

Clerk to arrange draft PC Management Plan review meeting via Zoom with Cllr's Tisbury, Owen and Arkless.

Cllr Arkless explained that the Parish Council had subscribed to Zoom for 1 year at a reduced rate of £9.99 per month (usually £11.99 per month).

Cllr Prett explained that there had been an attempted arson attack recently at Skylarks Nature Reserve. A bale of hay had been moved into a grubenhaus and set fire to. Fortunately the perpetrators had been disturbed and the fire had been extinguished before the complete loss of the grubenhaus.

Cllr Griffiths told the meeting that she had been active in resolving the issues experienced at Ten Acre school field. Cllr Griffiths noted that the RBC noise app had not been working effectively.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to investigate whether RBC noise app working and report back to Cllr Griffiths.

Cllr Jones explained that in early April he and the Clerk were due to attend a NALC event regarding play park upgrade funding. This had been cancelled due to Covid-19. Clerk confirmed that to date this had not been rearranged but noted that a small number of previously cancelled face to face NALC events had been rescheduled over Zoom and she would re-contact Cllr Jones as and when this event was rescheduled.

Cllr Owen spoke about the extensive use of Holme Lane via Holme Pierrepont to Radcliffe-on-Trent during lockdown by cyclists, walkers, joggers, families etc. At the weekends there were literally hundreds of people using the road as a leisure route with the almost total absence of cars. Cllr Owen reiterated County Cllr Cutts' sentiment that this stretch of road should not turn into a rat run for vehicles.

Cllr Arkless referred to Agenda item 18. regarding a Parish Council meeting in August. Ordinarily no PC meeting is scheduled for August but as we have missed 3 meetings this year Cllr Arkless asked if Councillors would be happy to meet in August via Zoom. Councillors agreed to set a date for an August 2020 PC Meeting via Zoom.

Cllr Arkless spoke to the meeting about the 2 emails he had circulated earlier today regarding the flying of the Union Flag on the Village Green. Cllr Arkless noted that he sincerely wanted to avoid a repeat of what happened in 2011 and had circulated a suggested letter of response to the Parishioner. Subsequent to that a Parish Councillor has asked for the subject to be added to the next PC meeting agenda for discussion. The agenda for Parish Council meetings is set by the Parish Council and as such the Councillors can decide whether they want to debate this subject in August 2020.

All Parish Councillors to email Clerk by close of business Wednesday 15th July 2020 stating either; YES debate at PC Meeting or NO send letter to the Parishioner.

8.20pm County Cllr Cutts left the Zoom meeting.

5543. FINANCE

Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020

Clerk explained that she had previously circulated the Annual Governance Statement, via email, for review by all Councillors. Clerk asked that the Annual Governance Statement 2019/200 be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Annual Governance Statement approved.

Chair to sign Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020.

Approve Annual Governance Annual Review Section 2 2019/2020

Clerk explained that she had previously circulated the Annual Governance Annual Review Section 2 2019/2020, via email, for review by all Councillors Clerk asked that the Annual Governance Annual Review Section 2 2019/2020 be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. AGAR Section 2 approved.

Chair and Clerk to sign Annual Governance Annual Review Section 2 2019/2020.

Clerk to scan and forward all relevant external audit documentation to PKF Littlejohn by the deadline date of Friday 31st August 2020.

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 carry out pensions responsibilities by extended deadline of 31st August 2020.

5544. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk still to arrange purchase of large Salt Bin for Village Hall.

Clerk still working through shredding any Parish paperwork that can be disposed of.

5545. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Clerk asked if due to her holiday commitments if the newly agreed August '20 PC Zoom meeting could take place on the 3rd Monday in August rather than the 2nd. Meeting agreed.

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 17th August 2020** at **7.15pm via Zoom**.

The meeting ended at approximately 8.45pm.