

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Rd, Gamston**

**Members Present:** Cynthia Stacey (Acting Chair), Melvyn Tisbury, John Mason, Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Sally Griffiths, Richard Fairgrieve & Maria Ubhi

**In attendance:** Julia Barnes (Clerk), County Cllr Roger Upton & Borough Cllr Jonathan Wheeler.

**5846. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Owen sent his apologies due to being on holiday.

County Cllr Upton & Borough Cllr Wheeler sent their apologies for a possible late arrival due to a clash with a prior meeting.

**5847. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**5848. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Agenda items pertaining to County Cllr Upton and Borough Cllr Wheeler to be delayed until their arrival.

**5849. MINUTES**

**TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

Cllr Fairgrieve noted that Minute 5835. should read Rushcliffe Country Park rather than Rushcliffe County Park.

Subject to this amendment, Cllr Fairgrieve proposed, and Cllr Ubhi seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Cllrs Stacey and Tisbury abstained as they were not present at the March '23 Meeting. Motion carried and Minutes were adopted.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to upload March '23 Parish Council Meeting Minutes to the HP&G PC website.**

## 5850. PLANNING

- i) 20/03244/OUT Taylor Wimpey UK & Rockspring Barwood Gamston Ltd Land East of Gamston & North of Tollerton Lane, Tollerton Lane, Nottinghamshire.

No further progress on this application. Cllr Tisbury noted that all applicants were in favour of the creation and approval of a masterplan for the entire area, but this did not exist as yet.

- ii) 23/00448/LBC Mr Robert Brackenbury Installation of a pair of internal hardwood doors and frame at north end of Long Gallery Holme Pierrepont Hall, Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire NG12 2LD

*Deadline for comment : Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April '23*

Parish Council Response : DO NOT OBJECT

The doors will fit inside the existing opening which leads on to the main staircase but will not intrude on the existing stone doorposts and lintel. The doors will match those at the south end and will help to prevent the Long Gallery acting as a wind tunnel. Any alterations are subject to the constraints of the listed building status of the Hall and the desire of Mr and Mrs Brackenbury to treat the building with respect.

- iii) 23/00617/CLUExD Mr A Brentford Application for certificate of existing lawfulness for use of day nursery for no more than 85 children. Alphabet House Day Nurseries, The Lodge, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire.

*Deadline for comment : Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April '23*

It was clarified at the meeting that this application for a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' corrected previous confusion over the maximum number of children allowed to be cared for at that site. There was some discrepancy as the number being catered for was 85, they were under the impression that the original application had been for 85, but at some point this was transcribed as 65 children. This application will rectify that mistake and ensure the paperwork is in order, especially useful if the owners ever want to sell the site as a going concern.

Parish Council Response : NO COMMENT MADE.

## **5851. PARISH ELECTIONS**

Clerk confirmed that there would be no elections for any Parish Council positions in any of the Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council wards. All existing Parish Councillors that had submitted nomination papers would be re-elected as Parish Councillors at an uncontested election. All current Parish Councillors retire their position on 9<sup>th</sup> May '23 and all but Cllr Griffiths assume their position of Parish Councillor on the same day. Cllr Griffiths did not submit nomination papers and therefore a vacancy exists in Holme Pierrepont Parish – Adbolton Ward. There is also a pre-existing vacancy in Gamston Parish.

Parish Councillors will read their Acceptance of Office declaration at the next Parish Council meeting they attend.

Discussion took place regarding filling the Parish Councillor vacancies. Cllr Stacey noted that Cllr Owen's grandson-in-law that lives in Gamston had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Griffiths explained that she had been trying to recruit her replacement without success. Cllr Griffiths considered it would be much easier to fill the vacancy and also appeal to a broader range of ages and demographics if Parish Council meetings could take place over Zoom.

**Cllr Owen to invite his grandson-in-law to attend an upcoming Parish Council meeting.**

Clerk explained that the Parish Council Chair and Vice Chair would be voted for at the May Parish Council meeting. Cllr Stacey explained that she would be happy to continue in the role of Vice Chair but did not want to put herself forward for Chair. Cllr Tisbury explained that he did not want to take on the Chair role again, he has been Chair for a number of years but would continue working for the Parish as a Councillor. Cllr Fairgrieve felt he was too new to the whole Parish Council process to become Chair and had many other commitments at this time but may consider it in the future. Cllr Stacey noted that she had spoken with Cllr Owen before the meeting, but he too did not want to take on the Chair role. Cllr Mason said that Cllr Stacey had been doing a fantastic job as Acting Chair since the previous Chair resigned and asked would she reconsider taking on the role permanently. Cllr Stacey thanked Cllr Mason for his kind words but regretfully would not be standing for the Chair role.

Clerk asked that all Cllrs consider the role over the next month, but if nobody was prepared to stand then it was possible to elect a Chair on a meeting-by-meeting basis, noting that this selection process must be carried out by a Councillor and not the Clerk.

Clerk explained that Councillors would be required to submit their nil return election expenses that formed part of their candidate pack by the deadline date of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June '23.

**Clerk to prepare ahead of the next meeting Declarations of Acceptance of Office for all re-elected Councillors to read and sign.**

**Clerk to ensure all re-elected Councillors have Election Expenses Forms to return by the deadline date.**

## 5852. VILLAGE HALL

### *Monthly Update*

Cllr Stacey read monthly update received from the Bookings Clerk.

*'Everything is running smoothly at the hall and all regular booking payments are up to date. I've had a few more enquiries over the Easter period, which is good and hopefully it will continue to pick up. Richard has very kindly created an advert aimed at children's parties which has been shared on social media. Hopefully that will help with a few more bookings too. I do seem to be getting a few more Friday afternoon/evening (2pm-6pm/3pm-7pm) enquiries too.'*

*I've had an enquiry from a lady called Gemma, her emails are below:*

*"We'd like to hire the hall to run a community event, probably for Eid or similar. Is this possible? In the past we hired for a charity event we organised and it worked well. If so, could you please let me know what the hourly charges would be for a weekend hire for Gamston residents."*

*"Hi Rebecca,*

*We are just enquiring at this stage, not a firm date, but would hope to be a Saturday afternoon sometime in June ideally. Possibly even holding bi-annually, as I say we were thinking something for Eid initially. This falls in June this year.*

*We'd like to invite small, local businesses to jointly make a community event, things such as cakes, balloons, food, toiletries, decor etc. There'd be an expectation of a contribution from stall holders to pay towards the costs of organising and holding the event.*

*We hadn't envisaged a charity perspective for this event.*

*The previous event was for funding a charity project. It was held in the village hall in May 2017 if my memory serves me right.*

*Appreciate feedback on whether this is feasible and what considerations are needed."*

*Clay Creators were in over Easter and very happy. Booked in for May half term too.*

*I've only 1 provisional weekend party in the next month which is 13th May, which is a 40th birthday but its daytime event possibly with a bouncy castle.'*

Discussion took place regarding the hire hall charge for the community event, possibly for Eid. It was agreed that the same discounts that are applicable to other faith groups and local residents should be applied.

**Clerk to notify Bookings Clerk of meeting decision to relay to enquirer.**

### *Parish Council Meeting Date Change Discussion*

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of moving the May Parish Council meeting to an alternative day to help the local pilates group that meet in Gamston throughout the year on Monday evenings. This year with the extra Bank Holiday Monday for the King's Coronation, the group will only be able to meet twice in April and May.

After discussion and the suggestion of various possible solutions it was agreed that the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and May Annual Parish Meeting take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May '23 starting at 6.30pm in Gamston Village Hall.

**Clerk to confirm revised date for May Parish Council meetings with Bookings Clerk. Bookings Clerk to relay information to Pilates group confirming that their group can use the Village Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May.**

#### *Electrical Equipment PAT Testing*

Clerk raised question as to whether the electrical equipment at the Village Hall was due to be PAT tested. On inspection of microwave last PAT test was conducted in October '22, so is therefore overdue.

**Clerk to liaise with Bookings Clerk to arrange Village Hall PAT Testing at a time when the Village Hall is free.**

#### *Outdoor Clock*

Cllr Tisbury explained that the local electrician that would look at the outdoor clock was currently on holiday but will be contacted on his return.

**Cllr Tisbury to liaise with local electrician regarding outdoor clock.**

Cllr Prett noted that the following repairs were required at the Village Hall:

- Corner wooden fence post cap needs replacing.
- Village Hall footpath leading to the gate to Grange Farm road entrance is a trip hazard as paving slabs around the manhole covers have slipped and become uneven.

Cllr Mason noted the broken fencing around the Village Hall grounds. Meeting agreed that the fencing did not need replacing as the boundary was provided by the hedge, but any broken wood to be removed.

**Cllr Mason to liaise with David Litchfield and Bookings Clerk to arrange for required repairs to Village Hall grounds.**

**7.50pm**

**County Cllr Upton arrived at the meeting.**

### **5853. PLAY PARK**

#### *Playground Painting*

Discussion took place regarding the unsatisfactory paint finish that has been achieved on the high traffic areas of the Play Park when painted by Streetwise last year.

After discussion it was agreed that Streetwise should be given the opportunity to make good the work carried out last year, but not using the same paint. Cllr Mason commented that in previous years David Litchfield had maintained the condition of the coloured metalwork using paint. Cllr Mason asked if he could meet up with Cllr Fairgrieve at the Play Park to understand his observations regarding the paintwork.

**Clerk to further liaise with new Streetwise contact regarding remedial Play Park paintwork.**

**Clerk to also acquire revised quote for repainting Play Park picnic tables and notice boards.**

**7.55pm**

**Borough Cllr Wheeler arrived at the meeting.**

### *Graffiti*

Discussion took place regarding the recent spate of graffiti affecting Gamston, especially the Play Park on Ambleside. Clerk noted that although Streetwise were able to spray over any graffiti on metal or wood, they were unable to remove paint from brickwork. To remove graffiti, they used a green and grey spray paint that was not suitable for covering brickwork. Cllr Tisbury explained that there were a number of solvent paint removers that could be used to remove graffiti but would require water to wash away any solvent used. Cllr Hackett explained that when the old mineral line multiuser route was officially opened, County Cllr Kay Cutts had arranged for the considerable amount of graffiti to be removed from under the railway bridge on Holme Lane and asked if that could be repeated as this area was significantly painted again.

It was also noted that there was graffiti on the bridge over the Polser Brook in Holme Pierrepont. Also, the salt bin in that area, as well as the rock salt for the road, contained many full dog waste bags, that Cllr Owen had disposed of. Discussion took place regarding the provision of dog waste bins in Holme Pierrepont, which is a popular dog walking area within the Parish. Cllr Prett confirmed that there were no dog waste bins on the Skylarks Nature Reserve.

After discussion Cllr Stacey suggested to the meeting that two bins be provided for Holme Pierrepont that would be emptied weekly by Streetwise, one red dog waste bin near the Polser Brook bridge and one multi use general waste plus dog waste bin on the road outside the Skylarks Nature Reserve entrance opposite Blotts driveway. Meeting unanimously agreed to this suggestion.

**Clerk to acquire quotation from Streetwise for additional bins in Holme Pierrepont and the weekly charge for emptying them.**

### *New Equipment Update*

Clerk explained that a number of comparative quotes had been received for new inclusive equipment for the Play Park. Discussions with various play equipment providers had established that the best place for new equipment, so as to reserve use of the large, grassed areas for play day events and also leaving space for the Christmas tree and associated

fencing, would be in the area where the wooden bull is situated. This would be subject to successfully being able to relocate the bull and also provided there were no pipes beneath the ground in that area prohibiting excavation. Cllr Tisbury explained that he may be able to provide details of an organisation that maps areas below the soil but was unaware of the level of fees charged. Clerk noted that there was a manhole cover located within the wet pour surface near the existing play equipment but did not know what utility it related to.

Cllr Upton told the meeting that he had been impressed with the newly installed play equipment at Willoughby on the Wolds play park and suggested a visit may be advantageous.

**Clerk to contact Cllr Wheeler to ask if any historic documentation is available via RBC regarding map of utilities and pipework beneath the Play Park prior to HP&G PC taking ownership of the land.**

**Cllr Stacey to speak with Diane Kidger, previous Parish Council chair, to ask if she has any documentation regarding the installation of the wooden bull that may be useful.**

**Cllr Tisbury to provide contact details of company that map areas below the soil before digging.**

#### *Grant Application Update*

Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Prett to submit grant applications for new Play Park equipment to UK Shared Prosperity Fund via RBC, East Midlands Airport Community Fund, National Lottery Community Fund application, Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme grant assistance 2023-24 once open, accompanied by Cllr Upton testimonial and also possibly approach Nottingham Forest and Notts County Cricket for donations.

**Cllr Prett to kindly contact UK Shared Prosperity Fund to acquire further details ([ukspfenquiries@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:ukspfenquiries@rushcliffe.gov.uk)).**

Cllr Fairgrieve asked about the heaps of wood chippings that had appeared under the trees at the Play Park. Clerk confirmed that our tree surgeon periodically deposits wood chippings at the play park. They primarily help to retain moisture in the soil during the summer, which has proved to be vital over the last couple of years, and also keep the weeds down. Cllr Fairgrieve asked if it would be helpful if he were to rake the heaps of chippings around the trees. Meeting agreed it would and thanked Cllr Fairgrieve for his kind offer.

#### **5854. COUNTY REPORT**

County Cllr Upton explained that the start date for the replacement bus shelter on the A52 at Holme Pierrepont had been further delayed. The supplier applied for the necessary access to the A52 in April but was refused permission as it would clash with other works in the area. The installation has now been rescheduled for early May '23 but confirmation of the date is pending.

Cllr Upton spoke about the state of the Holme Lane potholes that have become extremely hazardous. Also, parts of Adbolton Lane are very severely affected. Cllr Upton explained that he would be speaking to the Highways Inspector Laura Trussler regarding this.

Cllr Upton told the meeting that he was in contact with Neil Gamble at Notts CC with regard to the regular emptying of gullies in the Holme Pierrepont area to help prevent flood incidents at times of high rainfall. Cllr Stacey explained that she also would continue to monitor and request gully cleansing when required in her capacity as Flood Warden.

Cllr Prett asked Cllr Upton about the suggestion that two semi-detached council owned houses on Adbolton Lane were to be used as a depot for the Grantham Canal Society. Cllr Upton confirmed this to be the case and explained that the houses that had previously been used for short term lets were in a state of disrepair. Cllr Griffiths noted that these properties had been built after WW1 to house returning soldiers.

#### **5855. DISTRICT REPORT**

Borough Cllr Wheeler explained that they were in the purdah period ahead of the upcoming Borough elections, where specific restrictions on communications activity are in place. Cllr Wheeler explained that Rushcliffe Borough Council had been shortlisted for Council of the Year, the only District/Borough council in the whole UK to get to this stage in the competition. The result will be announced in June '23.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the money that RBC have given to the Grantham Canal Society to help fund reed clearance and explained that some work had taken place at the bottom of Lindale Close and a bigger area near Morrisons but works had temporarily stopped in order to not disturb nesting birds.

Cllr Wheeler announced that Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium has now opened and provides a fabulous facility, a vast improvement on the Wilford Hill Crematorium.

Cllr Prett asked about the leaflet he had received that spoke about dozens of trees being planted behind Stavely Way. Cllr Wheeler explained that a number of trees have been planted in the cut through from the bottom of Stavely Way, some died off during the hot summer last year, there will be some replacement planting, but it is difficult to source trees at the moment. Cllr Mason expressed an interest in tree planting and mentioned that there were various areas of land around Gamston that may be suitable for planting.

#### **5856. VILLAGE BREAKFAST GAMSTON BUDDY BENCH**

Cllr Tisbury told the meeting that Borough Cllr Wheeler had confirmed approval for siting the bench in the requested location subject the following conditions:

- the adjacent 2 properties should be consulted, or at least informed, in case of concerns about anti-social behaviour.
- the Parish Council will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the bench.
- RBC reserves the right to remove or relocate the bench, with consultation with the Parish Council, if it is subject to anti-social use, lack of maintenance or vandalism.



Cllr Tisbury confirmed that he had spoken with both neighbours who did not object to the proposal.

Cllr Tisbury explained that the preferred material for the bench was a recycled plastic product that would necessitate little or no ongoing upkeep.

Cllr Tisbury asked Clerk for the amount currently budgeted for the purchase and installation. Clerk confirmed this amount to currently stand at £1344.

**Cllr Tisbury to further progress the Village Breakfast Gamston Buddy Bench initiative.**

## **5857. COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he had spent a considerable amount of time updating the HP&G PC website and continued to do so on an ongoing basis. Cllr Fairgrieve also continues to monitor and post when applicable to the HP&G PC Facebook page. Cllr Stacey thanked Cllr Fairgrieve on behalf of the whole Parish Council for the valuable work he was doing.

Cllr Prett distributed some handouts to the meeting that he had received at the recent Grantham Canal WeBCan meeting he had attended that addressed two issues.

1. Weir - since the beginning of March '23 no water has flowed over the weir just beyond Radcliffe Road towards Lady Bay which indicated there is a leak somewhere in the canal in this vicinity.
2. Boreholes – these would be used to introduce more water in order to fix some of the problems caused by the drought last year. One of the proposed borehole sites is in Gamston, however there are a number of factors that potentially rule this out as a viable site. There is no power available so would require solar panels for energy. Also, the introduction of a 1 square metre pump.

Cllr Prett explained that the suggestion of taking water from River Trent had been rejected due to the potential for introducing invasive species to the canal, and boreholes was the preferred solution.

Cllr Prett spoke about the 17 bin bags of rubbish that the Gamston Litter Picking group collected as part of the Great British Spring Clean. Cllr Griffiths thanked Cllr Prett for his considerable efforts. Cllr Hackett asked for the litter pick dates.

**Clerk to redistribute Gamston Litter Pick dates.**

Cllr Mason spoke about the considerable pothole damage to the roads around the Parish. County Cllr Upton asked Cllr Mason to pass on details of potholes to him.

Cllr Mason explained that the Play Park equipment was in good condition and the park was very well used. Cllr Stacey thanked Cllr Mason for his continued work at the Play Park.

Cllr Hackett explained that she had encountered some people cutting down trees in Holme Pierrepont at the nature reserve and had asked them why, their reply being to

provide areas for animals that liked open spaces. Cllr Prett confirmed that there was a coppicing plan for the entire area.

#### *Holme Lane Update*

County Cllr Upton explained that the process was with the County Council legal team. Communication was being made in writing to any objectors. Cllr Upton estimated it would take approximately 1 year from now for the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) to be put in place.

#### *King's Coronation*

Clerk confirmed that, to date, she had not received any notification of any Parish celebrations for the King's Coronation.

#### *Spring Newsletter*

Cllr Stacey expressed her thanks to Cllrs Owen & Prett and Susan Toon for all their extremely hard work on producing another excellent edition of the Parish News newsletter.

**Clerk to contact Susan Toon for .pdf versions of the last 3 newsletters for Cllr Fairgrieve to upload to the HP&G Parish Council website.**

#### *Summer Play Day – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August '23 2pm – 4pm*

Cllr Stacey reminded the meeting that the Summer Play Day would be taking place on the afternoon of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August '23 and would have a Samba Carnival theme. Helpers on the day would be greatly appreciated.

**Cllr Mason to ask David Litchfield if he can assist with event setting up and packing away.**

### **5858. FINANCE**

#### *Financial Statements & Payments for Approval*

Clerk issued copies of the month's financial transactions and details of payments.

**Cllrs Stacey & Griffiths kindly agreed to sign off and authorise month's payments online.**

**Clerk to provide Cllrs Stacey & Griffiths with copies of all invoices in order for them to sign off and authorise the month's payments online.**

Clerk explained to the meeting that the financial year end of 31<sup>st</sup> March had passed, and Clerk was due to prepare all financial statements for both the internal and external audit process.

Clerk confirmed that PKF Littlejohn had been reappointed as external auditor for Nottinghamshire smaller authorities for the 5 financial years from 2022/23 until 2026/27.

Clerk noted that the tax year end of 5<sup>th</sup> April had also passed, and Clerk had finalised all PAYE year end processes and documentation for employees and rolled the HMRC payroll system into the new tax year.

Clerk told the meeting that The Pensions Regulator legal re-enrolment and re-declaration duties for Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Clerk explained that she had used The Pensions Regulator re-enrolment duties tool to ascertain required legal duties.

**Clerk still to submit VAT claim for year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

**Clerk still to prepare Annual Accounts .pdf for financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for publishing on HP&G Parish Council website.**

#### **5859. CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk reminded the meeting that the Outlaw Half Triathlon would be taking place in Holme Pierrepont on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May '23.

Clerk mentioned the Nottinghamshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment consultation as raised by Cllr Prett and it was assessed that no work is required on this at the moment.

Clerk raised the DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities) Consultation on Infrastructure, no response was suggested.

**Clerk to continue setting up Parish Council email addresses for Bookings Clerk, then for all Councillors.**

#### **5860. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 6.30pm** in Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Lane, Gamston.

**The meeting ended at approximately 9.15pm.**