

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road**

**Members Present:** Cynthia Stacey, Melvyn Tisbury, Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Alun Owen & Maria Ubhi (Acting Chair)

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

#### **5948. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Ubhi addressed the meeting as the Acting Chair and welcomed everyone.

Cllr Mason sent his apologies as he was attending a carol service where his grandchildren were performing.

Cllr Fairgrieve sent his apologies due to ill health.

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

Borough Cllr Viridi send his apologies due to a prior engagement.

#### **5949. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **5950. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Proposed possible deferment of agenda items pertaining to County and Borough Cllrs until their arrival.

#### **5951. MINUTES**

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

Cllr Prett noted that Minute 5945. should read ‘still *to* generate’ rather than ‘still generate.’

Subject to the above amendment Cllr Stacey proposed, and Cllr Prett seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Cllrs Hackett and Owen abstained as they were not present at the November ’23 Parish Council Meeting. Motion carried and Minutes were adopted.

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

## 5952. PLANNING

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

Cllr Tisbury explained that this application has been amended using the same Planning Reference 20/03244/OUT with around 80 new documents, with no way of easily finding changes from the original application, therefore making assessment of amended application difficult.

Cllr Tisbury noted that analysis of any changes is still premature as there is still no masterplan Special Planning Document.

- ii) 23/02134/FUL Mr Mohammad Erect office and storage building includes solar panels to roof  
Springfields, Radcliffe Road, Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, NG12 2LF.

Cllr Prett assessed the application and concluded that he would recommend deferring decision making to RBC planning department. Meeting agreed. Clerk to submit response online.

## 5953. VILLAGE HALL

### *Monthly Update*

Clerk read monthly update received from the Bookings Clerk.

*'All is well at the hall.*

*Still waiting for Rainbows and BabySpa's last payments and that will bring everyone up to date for the year. Sanar on Thursday evenings have finished their first term of bookings with us and are wanting to continue next year.*

*The U3A groups have asked us to check the connection of the cable from the wall into the projector. Julia has kindly organised this for us and hopefully this is on Tuesday, if not it will be in the new year.*

*We have a booking holding a charity quiz at the hall this Friday evening 15th, 6pm-8pm and our regular group Aebal are holding their Christmas party on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, 5pm-9pm. Very little going on between Christmas and New Year. But I will pop down and check on it as always to ensure everything is ok and especially if there's another cold snap.*

*Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year.'*

### *Village Hall Planting*

Discussion took place regarding the planting of slow growing, spiky bushes behind the retaining wall at the rear of the Village Hall in order to deter children from climbing and potentially accessing the roof of the Village Hall.

Meeting agreed to revisit in early spring when planting can take place. It was suggested that appropriate plants may be purchased from Morrisons supermarket when spring stock in store.

**Meeting to revisit purchase and planting of spiky plants at back of Village Hall.**

*PAT Testing*

Clerk explained that she had been struggling to get someone to perform the PAT testing at the Village Hall. Clerk explained that she had been let down by the previous PAT testing company.

Cllr Tisbury sent Clerk contact details for a number of potential local companies that may be able to perform the PAT testing.

**Clerk to contact alternative companies to arrange Village Hall PAT Testing at a time when the Village Hall is free.**

**Village Hall curtains to be cleaned in the New Year.**

**5954. PLAY PARK**

*Extended Fence Line*

Clerk confirmed that the fence extension had been completed and that a small problem with the self-closing gate had been resolved by resetting one of the gate posts. An aesthetic issue with the resulting concrete finish had also been resolved, but Clerk explained that she had not revisited the site since then to confirm quality of work.

Cllrs Ubhi and Owen agreed that the play park fencing looked great. Cllr Owen noted that it looked fantastic especially as it does not run in a straight line. Clerk thanked Cllr Tisbury for his input on the siting of the fence line.

Cllr Prett told the meeting that he had noticed that the bolts used to construct the new section of fencing are not security nuts and therefore could be easily removed.

**7.45pm County Cllr Upton and Borough Cllr Wheeler arrived at the meeting.**

Clerk again thanked County Cllr Upton for the kind contribution of £1,000 towards the cost of extending the Play Park fence line from the County Councillor's Divisional Fund.

### *Play Park Grant Applications*

Discussion took place regarding revisiting applications for grant assistance to provide new equipment for the Play Park.

Cllr Owen asked Cllr Wheeler if there was a published list available yet of the beneficiaries from the first round of the UKSPF grants.

**Cllr Wheeler to confirm list of RBC beneficiaries so far from UKSPF.**

### *UKSPF*

The second round of UKSPF grant applications are now being received by RBC. Borough Cllr Wheeler suggested ringing RBC ahead of submitting another application would be a good idea.

**Clerk to arrange meeting with Cllr Prett and Susan Toon to discuss UKSPF in the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**Clerk still to acquire 2 PSPO signs from RBC to affix to perimeter fencing close to each entrance gate.**

## **5955. COUNTY REPORT**

County Cllr Upton apologised for his late arrival due to a clash with a group meeting. Cllr Upton explained that these meetings would always coincide and of the 6 Cabinet members present 3 are invited to the HP&G Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Upton explained that the Combined Authority of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire has been approved and that the next step would be to elect a mayor in May 2024.

## **5956. DISTRICT REPORT**

Borough Cllr Wheeler spoke about the West Bridgford Lights Switch On event and also Celebrating Rushcliffe awards.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about a recent motion that had been approved at Full Council whereby 50% of houses in any new development must include swift bricks to encourage and accommodate the iconic local bird.

Cllr Wheeler explained that a new leisure facility has opened in Rushcliffe Arena called X-Treme Air that can be booked onto and is great fun.

Cllr Wheeler noted that the area had sadly experienced a spate of theft of copper wire from electric car charging points including The Goose and Gamston Lock. Cllr Wheeler said that thousands of pounds of damage is caused for just tens of pounds worth of copper.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about an increase in car crime in the area by criminals intercepting car signals. Cllr Wheeler explained that this can be prevented by storing car keys in a Faraday pouch, remembering to also store any spare keys within the pouch.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the resubmitted planning application for the Land East of Gamston and noted that there were a few cosmetic changes to the application, but he had not fully studied them as it is irrelevant until the masterplan Special Planning Document is available.

## **5957. SPRING NEWSLETTER**

Cllr Owen explained that he had been thinking about inclusions in the next Parish Newsletter and endeavoured to involve some of the younger people in the Parish. Cllr Owen spoke about getting local children to write a piece of text explaining what it is like to be a child in all parts of the Parish.

Cllr Owen also spoke about including a regular section in the newsletter signposting Parishioners to wellbeing resources available locally. Cllr Wheeler mentioned the Big Green Book that is available in Rushcliffe detailing social prescribing resources.

Cllr Owen said it would be great to find someone that was a child in Gamston before 1984 when the Gamston estate was built to provide content for an article describing what it was like to live in the area then. Cllr Wheeler suggested contacting Carolyn Kearton as a starting point.

**Clerk to forward email contact details for Carolyn Kearton to Cllr Owen.**

Cllr Owen encouraged Councillors to write something for inclusion in the newsletter.

Cllr Owen told the meeting that the amount of work Cllr Prett had put into the newsletter had been underestimated.

## **5958. COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

### *Holme Lane Update*

Cllr Upton explained that he had emailed Neil Lewis with regard to the improvements to the lane and the fact that the TRO order ends in 2023.

Cllr Owen spoke about residents' concerns for the gates and explained that these could be mitigated by use of a keypad that only the residents have the code for, as the installation of automatically closing electric gates would incur a significant extra cost.

Cllr Upton spoke about site meetings with Laura Trussler regarding various highways issues, explaining that the weather has been bad and lots of officers have been off work ill, so progress was slow. Cllr Upton told the meeting that a streetlamp had been removed from the end of Holme Lane on The Green in Radcliffe-on-Trent which was making that end of the road dark and dangerous.

### *Village Breakfast Gamston Buddy Bench*

Cllr Tisbury explained that the bench would be sited once the concrete was fully cured and when weather conditions allowed. Cllr Tisbury explained that the bench would be fitted by a local parishioner who would not be charging for their time. Cllr Tisbury noted that he would buy some wine as a thank you and reclaim from the Village Breakfast funds held by the Parish Council.

Clerk suggested that news of the new friendship bench should be included in the next newsletter, along with a photograph.

### **Councillors still to investigate ideas for plastic panelling for the existing metal Parish Council benches.**

### *HP Additional Bins*

Clerk explained that an exact installation date for the bins had not been given.

### **Clerk to recontact Streetwise for HP additional bins installation date.**

Cllr Stacey spoke about the recent Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall Parish event explaining it had gone well, was good fun but also hard work. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, but it was a shame that it was so busy as anyone helping at the event wasn't able to experience the individual attractions. Clerk noted that she had briefly heard the choir when delivering refreshments to them and they sounded wonderful and would have like to have listened to their whole performance.

Cllr Stacey explained that she had sent the donation collection buckets to Rainbows Hospice for counting and would email the amount collected when she received the information.

Discussion took place regarding the work involved in putting on community events as the Parish Council is just a small group of volunteers who are not getting any younger and also the fact that David Litchfield retires in April 2024. David Litchfield is an incredibly hard worker who we will miss very much. Clerk suggested that local Scouts or Guides or Duke of Edinburgh Award students might be able to volunteer to help out at our future events.

Cllr Stacey explained that she had been in contact with Josh Wells regarding flood provision for Holme Pierrepont and that he was trying to contact Blotts for permission to store flood signage on their premises. The signage is extremely heavy, and this would ensure it is available closer to where it needs to be positioned. Cllr Hackett confirmed that the signage was very heavy to manoeuvre and walking through flood water was dangerous.

Cllr Stacey noted that the recent flood event had enabled the flood warning process to be tested and consequently refined for the future.

Cllr Owen raised subject of the email that been previously circulated by Cllr Stacey regarding recommendations for wage increases for the Parish Clerk and Bookings Clerk. Clerk asked if she should leave the room at this point, majority of Cllrs said this wasn't necessary. Cllr Owen thanked the Clerk for her hard work and proposed the motion that the recommendations in the email were agreed.

Clerk thanked Cllrs for their kind words and told the meeting that the pay increase for Bookings Clerk was also well deserved as Bookings Clerk continues to work diligently to a high standard and is conscientious and reliable.

Cllr Owen proposed that on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year the Parish Clerk wages continue to move one SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) spine point; that on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 the Bookings Clerk hourly rate increases to £13 and that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 the payment to Susan Toon for her work on each Parish Newsletter increase to £265. Cllr Hackett seconded the motion. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried.

**Clerk to implement wage review from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

Cllr Prett updated the meeting about the planting of 300 trees at Skylarks Nature Reserve, replacing trees that were burned in the fire in August 2022.

Cllr Prett also spoke about WeBCan and the work they have been doing. Cllr Prett asked that we bear in mind a possible donation from the Parish Council towards their work, especially as they are not able to reclaim VAT on their purchases, increasing their costs.

Cllr Tisbury explained that he had met with the Parish Council Tree Surgeon to discuss the requests from a property neighbouring the Play Park for further pruning of the trees bordering their property. Cllr Tisbury explained that the residents had built an extension right up to the Play Park boundary fence and were complaining about the trees in that area. The Tree Surgeon had noted that there was evidence that the residents had hacked at the trees from their side of the fence in a potentially damaging way to the trees. Cllr Tisbury explained that the Tree Surgeon had agreed to carry out some further pruning at some point.

Cllr Ubhi confirmed that she had checked all the Parish Defibrillators.

Clerk explained that she had received correspondence from a Parishioner in Bassingfield questioning the battery life of their village defibrillator. Cllr Ubhi had provided Clerk with details of the Holme Pierrepont defibrillator to compare. Clerk to investigate potential issues with Parish defibrillator batteries.

**Clerk still to ascertain the process should a Parish defibrillator be used without the Parish Council knowing.**

**Clerk to investigate potential issues with Parish defibrillator batteries.**

**Clerk still to invite Gary Dykes, Grantham Canal Society Ranger for the Gamston section of the canal to a future Parish Council meeting in 2024.**

**9pm County Cllr Upton and Borough Cllr Wheeler left the meeting.**

## **5959. FINANCE**

### *Financial Statements & Payments for Approval*

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

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

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

### *2024/2025 Financial Year Precept Request*

Clerk explained that the Precept Request deadline date was Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February '24, which would necessitate an approved Precept Request at the January '24 Parish Council Meeting.

Discussion took place regarding possible changes to income and expenditure. Clerk noted that the work currently undertaken by David Litchfield would need to be carried out by someone else. After discussion it was suggested that Clerk approach Gary Arkless, previous Parish Council Chair, to ask if he would be happy to help with this work.

Cllr Tisbury suggested that the Parish Council should buy a retirement card and gift for David Litchfield next spring.

**Clerk to prepare and distribute a draft budget for '24/'25 Financial Year for review, amendment and approval at January '24 Parish Council meeting.**

**Clerk still to submit paperwork to add Cllr Owen as Unity Trust Bank signatory.**

**Clerk still to generate documentation to add Cllrs Fairgrieve and Ubhi as Unity Trust Bank Account signatories.**



#### **5960. CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk asked if Cllrs would support a small thank you gift for Gary Arkless for the fantastic work he had done over the autumn keeping the Play Park free from fallen leaves and keeping pathways cleared. Gary Arkless has also maintained the Parish leaf blower. Cllrs unanimously agreed.

**Clerk to buy and deliver to Gary Arkless a thank you gift on behalf of the Parish Council for the volunteering in leaf blowing and tidying the Play Park.**

Clerk explained that Cllr Ubhi had kindly investigated sub-station contact details near Blotts and forwarded photograph to Parish Clerk, which indicated that the sub-station only displays an emergency telephone number. Cllr Tisbury agreed to look into the land ownership in the area before performing a land registry search on land next to Blotts.

**Cllr Tisbury agreed to investigate land ownership of sub-station area, before paying for a land registry search.**

Clerk explained that she had received notification of WeBCan Christmas Drinks, upstairs at the Poppy & Pint on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December '23, 7.30pm until 9.30pm with a guest speaker Rev Robert Breckles, author of A History of Lady Bay.

#### **5961. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.15pm in Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road.**

Cllr Tisbury confirmed he would be able to assume Acting Chair role at the January '24 meeting.

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