

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Rd, Gamston**

**Members Present:** Cynthia Stacey, John Mason, Geoff Prett, Sally Griffiths, Alun Owen, Richard Fairgrieve & Maria Ubhi

**In attendance:** Julia Barnes (Clerk), County Cllr Roger Upton, Borough Cllr Jonathan Wheeler Gary Arkless (previous Parish Council Chair) & Nick Marlow (Rushcliffe Social Prescribing Team).

#### **5812. GARY ARKLESS**

Before the Parish Council Meeting formally started Gary Arkless spoke to the Councillors regarding his recent resignation from the Parish Council. He explained that although the decision he had made was right for him, the fact that he hadn't been able to explain this in person had been troubling him and he felt he had let the Councillors down. He noted that he still felt quite angry about the situation that resulted in his resignation. Cllr Ubhi said that it had been a pleasure to meet Gary Arkless. Gary commented that he felt the Councillors all worked extremely hard for the local community and that the community did not deserve them.

**7.15pm Gary Arkless left the meeting.**

Meeting then individually introduced themselves to Nick Marlow from the Rushcliffe Social Prescribing Team.

#### **5813. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Tisbury sent his apologies due to being on holiday.

Cllr Hackett sent her apologies due a half term visit to look after her grandchildren in Norfolk.

Meg Kozian from the Rushcliffe Social Prescribing Team sent her apologies as she was now unable to make the meeting (Agenda Item 7.).

#### **5814. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **5815. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

It was proposed that Agenda Item 7. Rushcliffe Social Prescribing Presentation be moved to Agenda Item 5. Meeting agreed to change.

## **5816. MINUTES**

### **TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

Cllr Prett noted that reference to the Canal Trust in Minute 5800. should be corrected to read Grantham Canal Society.

Subject to the above amendment, Cllr Fairgrieve proposed, and Cllr Prett seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried and Minutes were adopted.

**Clerk to amend January '23 Minutes to replace Canal Trust with Grantham Canal Society.**

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

## **5817. RUSHCLIFFE SOCIAL PRESCRIBING PRESENTATION**

Nick Marlow talked through a presentation outlining Social Prescribing in Rushcliffe. Nick explained that this was a growing NHS service delivered through GP surgeries. Nick spoke about the substantial number of GP appointments that were made for reasons other than purely medical. Social prescribing provides an avenue to help patients in an holistic way with social, financial, self-care issues offering practical support and links to relevant community groups. The social prescribing appointments offer the patient much more time to discuss their situation, which the GP simply does not have.

Nick explained that the team also play a role in developing programmes to support residents and noted it is a growing area of need. In 2021 there were less than 50 referrals from the Gamston Surgery, increasing to more than 100 referrals in 2022.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked if all referrals were received via a GP surgery as, currently, it can be difficult to get a GP appointment and questioned whether an individual could self-refer. Nick replied that self-referral was the optimal scenario, but that was not possible at the moment as this would potentially lead to the service being overwhelmed at this time. Nick noted that community nurses are now also able to refer. Nick also said that the Social Prescribing service can signpost patients to relevant local groups that can be accessed directly.

Cllr Stacey asked how the success of the scheme was measured. Nick explained it was difficult, but both quantitative and qualitative measures were in place. Reference to level of wellbeing on a recognised scale throughout intervention is recorded. A reduction in GP appointments will show a level of success. Qualitative feedback is also collected at the end of involvement with the service.

Cllr Owen asked if Nick would produce an article for the next Parish News.

Cllr Prett asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do to assist with setting up groups. Nick thanked Cllr Prett for his suggestion but explained that there is a need to involve more people with the existing groups, especially in accessing people suffering from social isolation, rather than with group infrastructure. Clerk noted that the Parish

News is distributed through nearly 1500 letterboxes around the Parish, reaching individuals that may not have access to electronic means of communication.

**Nick Marlow to produce newsletter article for Spring edition of Parish News with photograph, and forward to Parish Clerk.**

**7.40pm Nick Marlow left the meeting.**

#### **5818. COUNTY REPORT**

County Cllr Upton spoke about budget setting at the County Council and explained that the Councillors Allowance had been reduced from £5k to £3k per annum for each County Cllr.

Cllr Upton explained that he, and Parish Councillor Owen, were meeting with Neil Lewis this week at County Hall to discuss the Holme Lane consultation.

Cllr Upton told the meeting that he had met with parishioner Diane Kidger at Bassingfield to discuss various issues pertaining to the village of Bassingfield including flooding of the roads, blocked road gullies, overgrown hedgerows, Holly Farm planning application and detail regarding the potential listing of the building. Cllr Upton explained that the meeting had been useful, and he had reported the various issues to be rectified.

Cllr Upton explained that unfortunately the replacement of the Bassingfield bus shelter on the A52 had been delayed again and the works were now due to take place in March '23.

Cllr Upton said that he had attended the Canal & River Trust AGM and noted that with specific reference to the works required on the Grantham Canal there were two somewhat conflicting debates, whether to dredge in order to provide a leisure route for tourists with boats; or less invasive works to optimize the habitat for wildlife. Either option would require a significant amount of funding to achieve.

Cllr Stacey thanked Cllr Upton for his support with the issues Bassingfield are experiencing and commented that they ask for very little and often get forgotten as part of the parish.

#### **5819. DISTRICT REPORT**

Borough Cllr Wheeler spoke about the fact that RBC Council Tax Bands A to D was being frozen for the coming year and the increase for Bands above that has been limited to less than 7p per week. During the cost of living crisis the Council do not want to put up taxes and noted that Nottinghamshire, as opposed to Nottingham City, had no debt and low council tax. Cllr Wheeler added that the green bin charge has also been frozen.

Cllr Wheeler explained that the new Bingham Leisure Centre, Community Hall and Employment Hub formally opens next week, and that investment was due to be made into Cotgrave and Keyworth leisure centres.

Cllr Wheeler told the meeting that Greythorn Drive play park was to receive some investment for improvements.

Cllr Wheeler also spoke about the imminent opening of the new crematorium. The new facility will be a vast improvement on the City Council run Wilford Hill crematorium.

Cllr Wheeler told the meeting that there was some concern over the energy efficiency of Gamston Community Centre. Investment was required to install a new energy efficient boiler and replace the insulation with the correct type.

Cllr Wheeler said that he thought there would be some funds available from RBC for Parishes wishing to host events to celebrate the Kings Coronation in May '23. However the Coronation weekend takes place just days after the local elections so it may be difficult to ensure capacity of volunteers to organise a large Parish-wide celebration event at that time. Cllr Wheeler reminded the meeting that if any celebration necessitated the closure of any road, County Cllr Upton should be informed prior to the event. Cllr Stacey had brought to the meeting a beautiful framed embroidered sample that she had created in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of our late Queen Elizabeth II.

Cllr Wheeler explained that RBC free trees had been planted at the Hook at Lady Bay to form a wood.

Cllr Mason asked about the situation regarding the West Bridgford Bowls Club losing their home at Rushcliffe Arena. Cllr Wheeler explained that there was much greater demand for the space to be used for other classes, and that RBC are looking at other ways to support the bowls club.

## **5820. PLANNING**

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

Cllr Wheeler spoke about some possible confusion regarding a Nottingham Evening Post article that implied that building had started on site. Cllr Wheeler explained that it had been made very clear that an overall masterplan for the site was required before any planning permissions being granted. However, Vistry Homes, who are one of the landowners, have started carrying out environmental impact assessments on their land in preparation for future applications, but no building works have started.

Discussion took place regarding school provision for this site and the wider area. Cllr Wheeler explained that Notts County Council would decide what schools are required, with a rapidly declining birth rate in mind.

Cllr Griffiths noted that the same was said at the time of the existing Gamston development and originally no primary school provision was included in this plan. However, the area attracted a large number of young people that have children and a primary school was required.

Cllr Wheeler explained that he was attending a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March '23 with WB Football Club to discuss the land that they occupy off Regatta Way. It is anticipated that the football club will stay on this site in conjunction with some school provision as this is the only land Notts County Council own in the borough so they would only have to fund the build cost.

Lady Bay Primary School was discussed and it was noted that it was in a state of disrepair four years ago. The fact that it is a listed building increases the cost of any build and repair work considerably.

In conclusion, Cllr Wheeler reiterated that the Borough Council were firmly committed to a full masterplan for the site being produced before any building permissions are granted. Traffic management would be a significant challenge for the area. Cllr Wheeler noted that any new development must not adversely impact the existing Gamston area and any large footfall from the proposed new estate to existing Gamston should be mitigated as far as possible.

Cllr Stacey asked if there had been any progress with the solar farm near Bassingfield. Cllr Wheeler had not heard anything further regarding this. Cllr Wheeler added he would always prefer an option of siting solar panels on existing buildings rather than taking green space including good farm land.

Cllr Mason asked about the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the fact that much of the accommodation in the City centre is for students and that does not generate any income as it has no tax base. The Edwalton housing development was also mentioned with reference to the lack of an holistic master plan and consequently the area is somewhat devoid of facilities.

Cllr Mason asked if County Hall had been sold. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that no decisions had been made as yet regarding its future, but it was increasingly inefficient and needed a lot of money investing in its maintenance. Cllr Wheeler explained there was the possibility that they could sell that site and change its use, but retain Trent Bridge House.

ii) 22/02124/FUL Ms Sally Roberts Change of public space to private residential garden; single storey side/rear extension (Retrospective) 38 Patterdale Close, Gamston, Nottinghamshire NG2 6PW

*Deadline for comment : Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February '23*

Parish Council Response : DO NOT OBJECT

Whilst the Parish Council does not condone the practise of beginning works and applying for retrospective planning permission, they do not object to the changes proposed in this application, just in future would advise seeking permission before starting works.

## **5821. VILLAGE HALL**

### *Monthly Update*

Cllr Stacey read monthly update received from the Bookings Clerk.

*'Everything is running smoothly at the hall.*

*I have emailed all the regular bookings to inform them of the price increase from April '23 and so far everyone seems ok with it. No issues so far with any party bookings/enquiries either.*

*We have had the heating serviced as I had a few complaints of it not working properly. I have been taught how to use it now and been advised to not have the temperature turned up past 24 degrees. We have also been trialling keeping the heating on a low constant temperature (18 degrees). The hall itself is much warmer and we will look into the difference in costs. Although I have been advised the cost difference will be minimal.*

*Also, the tea urn doesn't work anymore. Not sure why or what's happened, but Julia is aware.*

*I had a message last weekend from Rosie Farrow, part of the Gamston Fellowship Group. Unfortunately, the group has disbanded. She has asked to collect the keyboard in the cupboard and hand their keys back at some point this week.*

*Busy half term in the hall:*

*Tuesday – Clay Creators (8am-5pm)*

*Wednesday - U3A Science*

*Thursday – ABL and Aebal*

*Friday - Baby Spa (9am-3pm)*

*Saturday*

*Sunday – Party (1pm-5pm)'*

### *Outdoor Clock*

**Cllr Tisbury to give an update on the outdoor clock at the March '23 Parish Council meeting.**

Clerk noted that in mid-January extremely high winds had ripped through the fixings for the Village Hall banner. Cllr Tisbury kindly retied the banner at the time and suggested that thicker fixings are used in future. Clerk explained that she had acquired new fixings to be used in conjunction with cable ties, which would hopefully withstand high winds.

**Cllr Fairgrieve kindly agreed to look at the new banner fixings.**

**Clerk to provide Cllr Fairgrieve with the new banner fixings.**

## **5822. PLAY PARK**

### *New Play Park Equipment*

Clerk explained that the Play Park could accommodate one or two new pieces of equipment. It had been previously agreed to look at inclusive equipment, possibly a saucer swing and a roundabout. Clerk explained that in order for any further progress to be made, funding needs to be secured.

Cllr Mason suggested approaching Nottingham Forest, Notts County and Nottinghamshire Cricket Club for funding. Cllr Stacey agreed this was a good idea but requires someone to actually do the work in contacting these organisations.

**Cllr Prett to seek advice regarding equipment choices from associated charities.**

**Clerk to arrange meeting to formulate a plan for the next phase of Play Park enhancements with Parish Clerk/Geoff Prett/Janet Hackett/Maria Ubhi/Alan Owen.**

Cllr Fairgrieve noticed that some areas of the Play Park are showing signs of significant wear and tear, despite a full repaint last year. He explained the paint was peeling off high footfall areas such as the circular steps and considered this was not reasonable after such a short time. Cllr Mason noted that he would attend to areas of the play park equipment where the tape was becoming frayed.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to take pictures of the areas of wear at the Play Park and circulate to Clerk and Councillors.**

**Clerk to resubmit grant application to East Midlands Airport Community Fund.**

**Clerk still to complete setting up new Parish Clerk email address.**

**Meeting to then look at National Lottery Community Fund application.**

**Parish Council to apply for Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme grant assistance 2023-24 once open, accompanied by Cllr Upton testimonial.**

**Clerk to acquire revised quote for repainting Play Park picnic tables and notice boards in Spring 2023.**

**Clerk to arrange annual electrical inspection of Play Park electrical bollards early in 2023.**

## **5823. SPRING NEWSLETTER**

Cllr Owen has taken over the responsibility for putting the Parish News newsletter together from Cllr Prett. Cllr Owen explained that he had met with Cllr Prett for a handover meeting that had been extremely useful but he considered that Cllr Prett significantly underestimated the amount of work he was involved with on each issue.

Cllr Owen explained he had also subsequently had a meeting with Susan Toon and Clerk regarding the process and discussed a range of articles that could be included in the next edition including; information regarding the new Cllrs, Bleed Control Kits, HP Millennium garden wall repair, gardening article from Skylarks Nature Reserve, wild flower planting areas in the Parish, King's Coronation Parish celebrations and the newly formed local Grantham Canal group.

**All articles and inclusions for the next newsletter to be received by Cllr Owen and Susan Toon by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March '23. Aim for newsletter to go to print by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March '23 in order to distribute around Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April '23 Easter weekend.**

Clerk noted that there was a correction of Gary Arkless' Gamston Fields text from the previous edition that was to be included in this newsletter.

**Clerk to check the precise wording for Gamston Fields correction with Leader of the Borough Council Cllr Robinson.**

Cllr Stacey wanted to express her thanks and appreciation for all the diligent hard work Cllr Prett had put into the production of the excellent Parish News newsletter over the years.

#### **5824. GRANTHAM CANAL**

Cllr Prett explained that he had attended the recent meeting of the Gamston and Lady Bay Canal group on behalf of the Parish Council and was now our representative on the WeBCan Committee (West Bridgford Canal Committee). Cllr Prett said there were in excess of 50 people present who discussed issues along the Grantham Canal within our area.

Cllr Prett noted that the current pressing issue is the blocked culvert under the Lady Bay Bridge for which volunteer work parties have been formed to work at weekends on resolving this issue.

Cllr Prett spoke about the other areas of discussion including involvement with the Environment Agency, local fishermen, the interaction with local reservoirs and wildlife issues. Cllr Prett also explained that a crowdfunding scheme had been initiated.

Cllr Prett told the meeting that he will sit on WeBCan Committee meetings on behalf of the Parish Council and feedback any pertinent information. Cllr Prett explained that he had asked the WeBCan secretary for an article for the Parish News.

**Cllr Owen to follow up WeBCan Parish News article from Secretary Kathleen Dunmore.**

Cllr Owen asked what had been discussed with specific reference to the Gamston section of the canal. Cllr Prett explained that the immediate focus was on the Lady Bay section of the canal.



## **5825. VILLAGE BREAKFAST GAMSTON BUDDY BENCH**

Clerk explained that as Cllr Tisbury not present at the meeting, Gamston Buddy Bench would be added to the March '23 for an update then.

**Cllr Tisbury to update the March '23 meeting on the Village Breakfast Gamston Buddy Bench.**

**Borough Cllr Wheeler to confirm in writing, permission to locate bench on proposed site.**

## **5826. COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

### *Holme Lane Update*

Cllr Owen spoke about the upcoming meeting with County Cllr Upton and Neil Lewis to examine the responses from the initial consultation and draft a response in reply. 12 responses had been received out of a possible 22, which Neil Lewis considered a good return. Of those 12, 3 objected and 9 were in favour of the proposals. Cllr Ubhi noted that the occupants of The Rectory hadn't received the initial consultation. Cllr Stacey explained that she had resolved this issue.

Cllr Owen said that some of the objections to the proposal had flagged up important logistical considerations. For example, if the road between Holme Pierrepont and Radcliffe-on-Trent is closed by the flood wardens due to flooding, an element of the road closure due to flood process, must be that the unmade section of the road should automatically be opened. This needs to be an integral part of the flooded road closure process. Cllr Stacey wanted to express her thanks to Cllr Owen for all his ongoing work on this project. In turn Cllr Owen expressed his thanks to County Cllr Upton for his invaluable input.

### *2023 Grass Cutting Contract*

Cllr Stacey referred to the documentation she had previously circulated to all Cllrs that included the 2023 quotation for Grounds Maintenance across the Parish, the increase in costs on the previous year and a breakdown of the work involved, including the new cutting regime for areas of the Parish that have been planted with wildflower seeds.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked if there was any way that we could reduce these costs. Cllr Stacey explained that comparable quotes had been acquired on a number of previous occasions and had always been more expensive than Mark Winter. Cllr Stacey noted that the process of acquiring these comparable quotations was extremely time consuming, and also that Mark Winter did a truly fantastic job in maintaining the Parish grounds. He is extremely conscientious and produces an excellent result.

Cllr Owen proposed and Cllr Mason seconded the motion that the 2023 Grass Cutting Quotation from Mark Winter be accepted. Vote taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried.

**Clerk to send formal letter of acceptance of quotation to Mark Winter.**

### *A52 Gamston to Bingham Study*

Clerk spoke about the previously circulated email from a Senior Transport Planner at Jacobs that had approached the Parish Council for a response regarding sustainable travel on the above stretch of road. Jacobs have been employed on behalf of Highways England.

Cllr Griffiths questioned whether there would be any benefit in submitting a response, and whether it would indeed be considered at all. Discussion took place regarding various issues with this stretch of road for all forms of transport and also whether we are minded as a Parish Council to formulate a response to this request, and if so who will write it.

**Cllr Owen kindly agreed to write a draft response to the request to be circulated to all Cllrs.**

**9.15pm County Cllr Upton left the meeting.**

### *HP&G PC website and possible Facebook page*

Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he was getting to grips with the behind-the-scenes functionality of the website. Cllr Fairgrieve noted that ultimately we should try and drive more traffic to the website and for the information held there to be relevant, useful and up to date.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to continue to update and maintain the HP&G PC website.**

Cllr Fairgrieve has also spent time investigating the creation of a Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council Facebook page, but was unable to do much without actually physically setting it up. Discussion took place and it was agreed that Cllr Fairgrieve would set up a Facebook page. Parish Clerk to also be added as a Group Administrator on the page. Clerk noted that the look and feel of the Facebook page should be consistent with our other communication channels ie the website and newsletter.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to set up HP&G PC Facebook page, with Group Administrator access for Parish Clerk.**

Cllr Fairgrieve encouraged any Cllrs to contact him if they had any questions or ideas regarding either the website or Facebook page.

**9.30pm Borough Cllr Wheeler left the meeting.**

### *Councillor Roles & Responsibilities*

Cllr Stacey explained that Gary Arkless had initiated the process of collating a revised schedule of Cllr Roles & Responsibilities when he was Parish Council Chair.

Discussion took place regarding allocation of roles. During discussion Cllr Griffiths explained that she was not planning to stand at the next election in May '23 and therefore it would not be sensible to take on any extra responsibilities. Cllr Griffiths confirmed that

she would remain a Councillor until the May '23 elections but regretfully life had changed for her and she would be stepping down after then.

Cllr Stacey expressed that she was very sad to hear that news and thanked her for all her work for the Parish Council.

Cllr Stacey spoke about the plans that were being formulated for the Carnival Summer Play Day taking place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August '23.

Cllr Owen spoke about King's Coronation celebrations around the Parish. A picnic was to be held in Holme Pierrepont for residents. Financial contributions are to be offered to individual street parties in the Parish with an identical process to that of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr Mason explained to the meeting that he was upset by Gary Arkless' departure from the Parish Council and that he would miss him greatly. Cllr Mason commented that Gary had been a helpful Parish Council Chair who worked well with people and Cllr Mason expressed his thanks to him.

Cllr Mason told the meeting the sad news that a colleague at the Cardiac Support Group that he had known for many years had very recently passed away.

Cllr Ubhi explained to the meeting that she had reported a fly tipped settee situated half way down Holme Lane. A homeless man is also living in a car along this stretch of road. Cllr Owen noted that he had provided this gentleman with details of services that he could access that may be of help to him. Discussion took place regarding ways of preventing the increasing problem of rural littering and fly tipping. Cllr Ubhi suggested that CCTV camera signage, even without actual working cameras, may discourage this anti-social behaviour. Cllr Fairgrieve asked whether closing of the unmade road, by reducing through traffic, may alleviate the fly tipping problem.

Cllr Owen spoke about the excellent repairs to the Millennium Wall in Holme Pierrepont and explained that he had attempted to replace the rotten wooden post to provide a buffer from vehicles to prevent future damage to the wall. Cllr Owen had tried to dig but the ground was too hard. Cllr Owen then approached Cllr Hackett and her family to see if they could help, who confirmed that ground in that area contains concrete and would damage their drilling tools so unfortunately were unable to help. Cllr Owen explained that he would install an alternative solution using reflective material to ease traffic away from the wall.

**Cllr Owen to purchase and install reflective material to protect the newly repaired HP Millennium Wall.**

**Gamston and Adbolton Councillors to invite a guest Parishioner to attend the next Parish Council meeting.**

**5827. 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 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.**

**5828. CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk reminded the meeting that the next Town and Parish Council Forum would be taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> March '23 and places had been booked for Cllrs Mason, Griffiths, Hackett and Ubhi.

**Any other Cllrs wishing to attend the Forum to contact the Clerk to book a place.**

Clerk spoke about the previously circulated email regarding Confirmation of Membership to Rushcliffe Community & Voluntary Service (RCVS). Clerk confirmed there was no fee for membership.

Clerk explained that she would be attending an online Parish/Town Council Elections Briefing on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March '23 being presented by RBC Electoral Services Department. The briefing will cover what candidates need to do to submit a nomination, cover the key dates and changes to the elections this year.

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

**5829. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Lane, Gamston.**

**The meeting ended at approximately 10.15pm.**