

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**
Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Rd, Gamston**

Members Present: Cynthia Stacey, Melvyn Tisbury, Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Sally Griffiths, Richard Fairgrieve & Maria Ubhi

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

5794. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR RESIGNATION – GARY ARKLESS

Clerk confirmed to the meeting that Gary Arkless had resigned from his position as Parish Council Chair and as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect from Monday 5th December '22. Clerk explained that she had notified Rushcliffe Borough Council of the resignation and they had advised that as the resulting casual vacancy on the Parish Council occurred within six months before the day on which the councillor would regularly have retired an election is not held. The Parish Council are free to co-opt to fill this vacancy, but any vacancy not filled may be filled at the next ordinary election due to take place on Thursday 4th May '23.

Clerk explained that Cllr Stacey had kindly agreed to step up to Acting Chair position until a new Chair could be appointed. Clerk explained that although best practice, there is no necessity to have a Vice Chair, so this position will also be filled at the May meeting.

Cllr Stacey explained that she had spoken with Gary Arkless on hearing the news of his resignation and encouraged him to reconsider his decision. County Cllr Upton also noted that he had also tried to persuade Gary Arkless to change his mind. All Councillors expressed their shock and sadness at the resignation and agreed for the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Gary Arkless expressing these sentiments and thanking him for the work he had done.

Clerk to write letter of thanks to Gary Arkless on behalf of the Parish Council.

5795. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Owen sent his apologies due to being on holiday.

Cllr Mason sent his apologies due to ill health.

5796. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5797. ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

5798. MINUTES

TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2022

Cllr Prett asked for clarification of the acronym PSGA in Minute 5790.

Subject to clarification of the above acronym, 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 November '22 Minutes to clarify PSGA acronym as Public Sector Geospatial Agreement.

Cllr Fairgrieve to upload November '22 Parish Council Meeting Minutes to the HP&G PC website.

5799. COUNTY REPORT

County Cllr Upton spoke about progress with the Holme Lane consultation and the draft consultation letter from Neil Lewis. It was confirmed that the final version of the consultation letter had been mailed to Holme Pierrepont residents and their responses were being received by both the Clerk and Notts County Council. Cllr Upton explained that he had not received a copy of the letter that had been mailed out, nor the Clerk, but Cllrs Owen and Stacey had provided sight of a copy of the letter.

Cllr Upton told the meeting that the replacement of the bus shelter on the A52 near Bassingfield is due to take place on 17th January '23. Cllr Upton explained that unfortunately the additional provision of a safety barrier would not be included this year. Cllr Upton has raised the issue, but fears the additional safety feature is unlikely to be funded.

Cllr Upton spoke about the £10 million expansion of Rushcliffe Spencer Academy. Negotiations have taken place with Notts County Council who will be bridging the financial shortfall. This is good news for families currently in catchment as their children will not need to be bussed to Keyworth or East Leake for their secondary school education.

Cllr Upton noted that he would be attending a meeting sometime in March '23 to further discuss the potential relocation of Lady Bay Primary School and the building of a new secondary school on the West Bridgford Football Club (WBFC) side of Regatta Way. Cllr Griffiths spoke about the possibility for the existing Lady Bay Primary School (LBPS) school being expanded upwards. Cllr Upton explained that the existing LBPS was a partly listed building. Cllr Tisbury asked if the current plan was for WBFC to stay on that site, as even now on match days there are tens of cars parked along the grass verge of Regatta Way. Cllr Upton confirmed that the current idea was for the football club to remain on this site.

5800. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler spoke about the Canal Day of Action that had taken place in early December '22. Only a few local residents had turned up to assist the Grantham Canal Society and Councillor volunteers, but nearby residents had provided refreshments for the volunteers which was greatly appreciated. On the day 16 tonne bags of vegetation was removed involving three trips to the tip by Streetwise. Cllr Wheeler wanted to express his thanks and appreciation to James Harrison the Tree Surgeon for help on the day with wood chipping and commented on the much improved aesthetics of the area around that bridge in Gamston.

Cllr Wheeler also spoke about potential use of a large reed cutting boat that clears foliage along waterways but there is the unanswered questions of cost and how we would get it to the right location.

Cllr Wheeler congratulated the Parish Council on their successful Christmastime event and asked how much money was raised for Rainbows Hospice. Cllr Stacey confirmed that around £220 was collected, the highest total to date.

Cllr Wheeler noted that today was the last day for submitting a response to the consultation on devolution. He explained that devolution would involve an extra layer of government sitting on top of County Council level. Cllr Wheeler explained that he was in favour of devolution and in his opinion it would be advantageous when bidding for funding and also the money would be received where it was needed more quickly. The elected Mayor would form a cabinet of individuals from tiers below, ie County or Borough councillors. Cllr Wheeler was asked about whether a precept would be charged. Cllr Wheeler explained that Manchester and Liverpool do charge a precept, but this wouldn't be the case with the Conservatives in the East Midlands.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan for housing. Cllr Upton is the Rushcliffe Borough Council representative on this committee. Cllr Upton explained that last time the plan was reviewed the West Bridgford/Rushcliffe area was assigned a large target for increase in new housing right up until 2038. Consequently, this time our area does not have to take any further development than that already featured in the plan. Cllr Upton explained that it is important to have planned development as without that housing developers can get planning permission on appeal for developments refused at a local level.

5801. PLANNING

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

Cllr Upton explained that Vistry Homes (formerly Bovis Homes) and Taylor Wimpey were gradually progressing towards a strategic masterplan for the entire site. Cllr Tisbury asked when it was anticipated the application would be presented for public consultation. Cllr Upton anticipated in around a year's time.

Discussion took place regarding the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money that would be received by Tollerton Parish Council as the development falls within their Parish. Cllr Tisbury noted that our Parish would be significantly affected by transport issues both during and after the new development. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that despite this we wouldn't receive any CIL money.

Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Consultation

Clerk explained that she had received notification of the above consultation with a deadline date of Tuesday 14th February '23.

Cllr Tisbury to review the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Consultation and make recommendations for a response, if required.

5802. EAST MIDLANDS DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION

Further discussion took place regarding the East Midlands Devolution Public Consultation with a deadline date of 9th January '23. Cllr Tisbury asked why Leicester and Leicestershire were not involved. Cllr Wheeler explained that although the City of Leicester did not choose to be involved, Leicestershire County Council now do want to be included.

Discussion took place regarding whether this extra layer of bureaucracy would result in duplication of roles and therefore job losses. Also, whether it would result in a reduction in County Council budgets. Cllr Wheeler explained that personnel would be seconded up from lower governmental tiers to the devolved Mayoral Authority and there would be opportunities to save money in many areas including adult and children's social care. Cllr Wheeler told the meeting that the creation of a devolved authority would allow access to £1.8 billion of new funding over the next 30 years or so. Cllr Upton noted that it was important that any elected Mayor should ensure that funding is shared equitably.

Cllr Wheeler told the meeting that the timescale if approved would result in mayoral elections in May '24. Cllr Hackett asked what level of accountability there would be of an elected mayor. Cllr Wheeler reassured the meeting that decisions would be made in conjunction with a scrutiny committee with a transparent tendering process.

Cllr Stacey asked if the Parish Council were minded to submit a collective response to the consultation. Meeting agreed to not send any response. Clerk reiterated that it was still possible for each Councillor to respond to the consultation as an individual parishioner.

Cllr Wheeler explained that he would forward on any relevant information he receives pertaining to the devolution consultation and process.

5803. VILLAGE HALL

Monthly Update

Cllr Stacey read monthly update received from the Bookings Clerk.

'Happy New Year to you all and hope you had a wonderful Christmas.

As you can imagine it's been very quiet the last few months. Although the last few days has started to pick up with enquiries.

All regular bookings are coming back, Daisy Baby, Pilates, U3A, Free Spirits, Rainbows, Brownies, ABL, Aebal and Baby Spa.

I had a few moans about the heater not working properly during December. I had a look at the manual and the filters need cleaning regularly. Myself and David Litchfield cleaned them and I'm hoping the issue will be resolved.

There was a small leak under the sink over Christmas, Julia has had that fixed for us and a new tap has been installed.

Clay Creators have been back in touch for holiday bookings through until the end of August.'

Outdoor Clock

Discussion took place regarding a solution to the problem of resetting the time on the Village Hall outdoor clock. Cllr Prett has fully investigated the issue and produced a comprehensive document outlining the options to resolve it. It was agreed that before making a decision it was necessary to establish which electrical circuit the clock was on and if the isolator switch in the ceiling of the porch area relates to the clock. Cllr Tisbury offered to ask a local electrician to take a look at the switch. Clerk noted that the clocks move forward by an hour for British Summer Time on 26th March '23.

Cllr Tisbury to investigate the functionality of the porch ceiling switch. Once established Clerk to label switch accordingly.

Clerk explained that the slabs on top of the retaining wall at the back of the Village Hall had been repaired by David Litchfield. Gary Arkless had spoken about discussing with David Litchfield the possibility of gating off the area behind the hall to prevent children running around the building. The area is still currently cordoned off. Meeting agreed that the cordon could now be removed.

Clerk to remove the cordon tape from the back of the Village Hall.

Clerk explained to the meeting that as yet she hadn't received a response regarding the Village Hall Platinum Jubilee Grant application for £3000 for metal storage cabinets.

Clerk still to arrange Village Hall air conditioning annual service.

Clerk explained that the Bookings Clerk had dealt with two instances of the fire alarm being set off in the same evening just before Christmas, due to crispy bacon being fried in the kitchen. This is the first time ever the smoke alarm has been activated. Bookings Clerk discovered the key to deactivate the alarm was stored in the office.

5804. PLAY PARK

Autumn Leaves

Clerk explained that Gary Arkless had very kindly offered to continue removing the fallen leaves from the playground area at the Play Park each autumn.

New Play Park Equipment

Clerk explained that before Christmas Cllr Hackett had very kindly acquired quotations for various pieces of playground equipment. The equipment was expensive and in order to purchase we would require additional funding. Cllr Stacey noted that any expansion of the Play Park equipment should consider use of the Play Park for Summer Play Days.

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.

8.30pm Cllrs Upton and Wheeler left the meeting.

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.

5805. SPRING NEWSLETTER

Cllr Prett explained that Cllr Owen had agreed to take over the overseeing of the Parish newsletter, freeing some of Cllr Prett's time to spend on applying for additional funding. Cllr Prett to have a newsletter handover session with Cllr Owen.

Cllr Prett to meet with Cllr Owen for a newsletter handover session.

Clerk suggested that a reasonable timescale to work towards would be distribution of the newsletter around Easter and noted that Good Friday falls on 7th April and is 12 weeks away. This would necessitate the newsletter going to print mid-March.

Clerk explained that a clarification of a previous Facebook post pertaining to the Gamston Fields development needs to be included in this edition of the newsletter.

Clerk to forward Gamston Fields text to Cllr Owen.

The meeting suggested other possible articles to include; details of the bleed control kits to be housed in the Parish defibrillator cabinets; explanation of the devolution process and potential resulting layers of government; King's Coronation celebrations and the two Holme Lanes article.

5806. GRANTHAM CANAL

Cllr Prett explained that we may be able to obtain some funding from Rushcliffe Borough Council to purchase a rechargeable battery powered brush cutter device in order to maintain the vegetation along the Grantham Canal within our Parish.

Cllr Prett explained that he had researched the equipment required and filled in the necessary application form on behalf of the Parish Council for review by the Clerk. Discussion took place regarding storage of the equipment if we were successful with the application for funding. Cllr Prett explained that the equipment was not excessively large and could be easily stored within the Village Hall. Discussion then took place regarding the ownership of the land to be maintained and who would operate the equipment for the Parish Council. It was confirmed that this land did not belong to the Parish Council. Meeting decided to not submit application for the equipment.

Clerk to send details of the Parish Boundary to all Councillors.

Clerk to provide Cllr Stacey with printed copy of the Parish Boundary.

5807. FRIENDSHIP BENCH

Cllr Tisbury spoke about the desire for the Gamston Village Breakfast Team to provide a friendship bench in the Parish with their surplus funds. Cllr Tisbury had passed these funds to the Clerk for banking in the Parish current account, and had also applied for additional grant assistance from Borough Cllr Wheeler of £250. Clerk explained that these amounts, plus the surplus from County Cllr Upton's grant assistance for the galvanised steel bench in Gamston totalled £1344.

Cllr Tisbury explained that he had forwarded a proposed location to Borough Councillor Wheeler for approval to site the bench on RBC land off Ambleside. Cllr Tisbury to arrange purchase and siting of bench and accompanying spring bulbs with Parish Clerk once permission has been confirmed by RBC.

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

5808. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Stacey presented the following report to the meeting:

- 1. Christmas Time at Gamston – A wonderful occasion with lots going on and plenty of positive feedback. An excellent sum of £219.73 donated to Rainbows Hospice. Hiring a marquee is the way forward and Karen the balloon modeller is a great find. Thanks to everyone for all their involvement and time.*

2. *Christmas Tree vandalism – we need to have a camera installed next Christmas. Gary had already started to investigate possibilities.*
3. *Flood Wardens at Holme Pierrepont – we continue to monitor the situation keeping an eye on the fluvial and pluvial water and on Gov.UK Flood website.*
4. *Grass cutting for the Parish in 2023 – during the week, I will contact Mark Winter and request a quotation for grass cutting/hedges for the Parish.*
5. *Millennium Wall repair at Holme Pierrepont – the stone mason started work today on repairing the wall damaged by an agricultural vehicle. Thanks to the PC for offering to pay for it. Once completed Alun will put a wooden post in to prevent damage to the wall in the future.*
6. *Coronation Day 6th May – how do we celebrate the Coronation as a Parish Council?*
7. *Holme Lane Byway Open to all Traffic No.12 -Neil Lewis the Countryside Access Team Officer from Notts County Council had sent out letters to residents in the hamlet of Holme Pierrepont asking their opinion on a permanent closure of the unmade road. Replies could be sent either to Neil or Parish Clerk of HP&GPC. Clerk to forward any responses received to Cllr Owen.*
8. *Plans for a Carnival themed Play Day in August.*

Clerk to forward any Holme Lane consultation responses received to Cllr Owen.

Clerk noted that dates had been set for the 2023 Parish events and asked Councillors to please note them in their diaries:

Carnival Summer Play Day - Wednesday 9th August '23

Christmastime Event - Saturday 25th November '23

Discussion took place regarding ideas for Parish King's Coronation celebrations. It was noted that the Coronation was taking place on Saturday 6th May '23 with the additional Bank Holiday being Monday 8th May '23, therefore Sunday 7th May '23 would be the ideal date for any gathering(s). Suggestion was made that a similar process be implemented to that of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, whereby the Parish Council financially contributed towards individual street parties in the Parish.

Cllr Tisbury asked if RBC would be offering funds to the Parishes to arrange larger scale events as they did for the Platinum Jubilee. Clerk was unaware of any such scheme as yet.

Cllr Stacey to investigate as to whether RBC would be providing any funding to Parishes to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he had volunteered to take over the updating of the Parish Council website from Gary Arkless.

Clerk thanked Cllr Fairgrieve for taking on the task of updating the web and asked if he would also consider taking over the posting of occasional notices to the Gamston Community Facebook page as Gary Arkless had done for example adverts for the

Summer and Christmas events. Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he had been thinking about whether in fact HP&G Parish Council should have their own Facebook page. Discussion took place and Cllr Fairgrieve agreed to further investigate the setting up of an HP&G PC Facebook Page with specific reference to Parish Councils.

Cllr Fairgrieve to report back to the next Parish Council meeting on his findings regarding the creation of a Parish Council Facebook page.

Cllr Ubhi very kindly volunteered to take over the checking of the Parish defibrillators. Cllr Ubhi with Clerk to ensure each Parish defibrillator cabinet contains a Bleed Control kit. Clerk asked Cllr Ubhi if she would also kindly take on the responsibility for ensuring that the contents of the Village Hall first aid box are appropriate and in date, to which she agreed.

Cllr Ubhi & Clerk to ensure all Parish defibrillator cabinet equipment is up to date.

Cllr Ubhi to regularly check Parish defibrillator cabinets.

Cllr Ubhi to check VH first aid box.

Cllr Tisbury explained that the Village Breakfast team were organising a pie and peas evening at the Village Hall on Friday 3rd March '23 to raise money for food banks.

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

Clerk to add Councillor Roles & Responsibilities to the February '23 Agenda and circulate blank document to all Councillors for their perusal.

5809. 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.

New Electricity Contract

Clerk explained that the existing electricity contract for both the Village Hall and Play Park expires on 19th April '23.

Currently the standing charge at both sites is 38.12p/day and the unit rate per kwh is 16.49p and 16.92p, respectively.

After much investigation in a somewhat volatile marketplace for Business electricity supply Clerk received quote for a 1 year contract with British Gas with standing charges of 153.79p and 102.69p per day and unit rate per kwh of 63.77p and 64.4p respectively.

However, British Gas Business Lite, which is an entirely online service, with no call centres, but manned web chat service, payment by DD and free smart meter fitting, offered much better rates so Clerk explained she had fixed our supply for 2 years, up to 19th April '25 with standing charge at both sites of 42p per day and unit rate per kwh of 55.90p and 55.74p respectively.

Clerk to carry out required administrative tasks to set up both Village Hall and Play Park British Gas Business Lite accounts for electricity supply from 20th April '23.

Village Hall Hire Charges Review

Discussion took place regarding the previously circulated email regarding Village Hall hire charges. The last time they were reviewed was January 2017 (6 years ago). Clerk explained that the proposed new pricing structure below had been devised after discussion with the Bookings Clerk and considered to be a fair and reasonable increase.

Current Pricing	Suggested New Pricing
Monday to Friday £10 per hour or part hour, 2 hours minimum (Parishioners 20% discount £8/hr)	Monday to Friday £12.50 per hour or part hour, 2 hours minimum (Parishioners discounted rate £10/hr)
Saturday and Sunday £25 per hour or part hour, 4 hours minimum (Parishioners 20% discount £20/hr)	Saturday and Sunday £30 per hour or part hour, 4 hours minimum (Parishioners discounted rate £25/hr)
Refundable Damages Deposit £25	Refundable Damages Deposit £35

Cllr Tisbury asked if the regular hall users had been consulted. Clerk explained that they had not. It was agreed that any feedback from regular user groups on the revised pricing be fed back to Councillors.

After discussion Cllr Prett proposed and Cllr Fairgrieve seconded the motion that the suggested new pricing structure be adopted with immediate effect. Any existing bookings for 2023 to be honoured at the previous pricing and regular groups that use the Village Hall on a termly basis to be informed of the new pricing which will take effect for them after Easter. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried.

Clerk to confirm the new Village Hall hire rates to the Bookings Clerk.

Bookings Clerk to notify regular users of the Village Hall of upcoming changes to the hire price.

Clerk to amend the Bookings Form to reflect new pricing structure.

Cllr Fairgrieve to upload new Bookings Form to the Parish website.

Employee Wage Review

Discussion took place regarding the previously circulated email regarding Employee Wage Review.

As per Minute 4648. Dec 2014 each year on 1st January the Parish Clerk's wages move one SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) recommended spine point, so this year from 31 to 32. This equates to a 3% or 53p increase per hour. Clerk noted that she has now reached the top of the pay scale for this size of Parish Council, spine point 32.

Clerk recommended that the Bookings Clerk's pay increase by £1 per hour (9%) to £11.75. This would equate to an additional £30 pay per month. The Bookings Clerk has been in post for almost a year and is doing an excellent job. The hall is very clean, and bookings are up on pre-pandemic levels. She is extremely conscientious, reliable and uses her initiative. After discussion Cllr Tisbury proposed and Cllr Hackett seconded the motion that Bookings Clerk received a £1 per hour wage increase effective from 1st January '23. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour, motion carried.

Cllr Prett made the recommendation that Susan Toon's fee should also be increased as she worked incredibly hard and long hours on production of the newsletter. Susan currently receives £200 per edition and last received an increase in June 2020. After discussion Cllr Stacey proposed and Cllr Tisbury seconded the motion that Susan Toon's fee for producing the newsletter be increased to £240 per edition. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour, motion carried.

2023/2024 Precept Request

Clerk presented the meeting with a first draft budget for the 2023/2024 precept request as a starting point for discussion. After detailed discussion regarding estimates for each element of predicted income and expenditure for the next financial year ending 31st March 2024 Cllr Tisbury proposed and Cllr Stacey seconded the motion that a total budget of £41,925 was required for the coming financial year, £2,000 of which is to be taken from Parish Council reserves and the remaining £39,925 to be requested as precept. Vote taken, unanimously in favour, motion carried.

Clerk to submit the necessary precept budget documentation to Rushcliffe Borough Council by the 1st February '23 deadline.

Clerk still to submit VAT claim for year to 31st March 2022.

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

5810. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk explained that Nick Marlow from the Gamston Medical Centre would be attending the next Parish Council meeting to talk about Social Prescribing.

Clerk reminded the meeting that the next Town and Parish Council Forum would be taking place on 16th March '23.

Councillors wishing to attend the Forum to contact the Clerk to book a place.

Clerk explained that she had received an email asking to advertise locally for volunteers to become panel members for education appeals.

Clerk to forward email regarding recruitment of volunteer panel members for education appeals to all Councillors.

Clerk to continue setting up Parish Council email addresses for Parish & Bookings Clerks, then for all Councillors and for Susan Toon for newsletter email traffic.

5811. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting ended at approximately 10.10pm.