

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

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

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

#### **5934. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

Cllr Hackett sent her apologies as she was on holiday.

Cllr Owen sent his apologies as he was on holiday.

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

#### **5935. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **5936. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

#### **5937. MINUTES**

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

Cllr Prett noted that Minute 5930. should include the fact that the Bassingfield sign on Tollerton/Bassingfield Lane is also damaged.

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. Cllrs Tisbury and Ubhi abstained as they were not present at the October '23 Parish Council Meeting. Motion carried and Minutes were adopted.

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

Cllr Prett noted matters arising from the Minutes that are not covered by the upcoming Agenda.

Clerk still to perform land registry search on land next to Blotts. Discussion took place. Cllr Tisbury suggested that it was unlikely that the expense of a land registry search would prove fruitful on small rural patches of land and that speaking to local landowners may be a better solution. After discussion it was suggested that contact details be acquired from the electricity sub-station accessed from this patch of land and contact made.

**Cllr Ubhi agreed to investigate whether sub-station has contact details, before paying for land registry search.**

Discussion took place regarding deterring anti-social behaviour at the Village Hall and suggestion that slow growing thorny bushes should be planted above the wall at the back of the Village Hall.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to look into the feasibility of planting thorny bushes above the wall behind the Village Hall.**

#### 5938. 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 spoke about the need for landowners to all concur with the evolving Special Planning Agreement. This document will be circulated for consultation when complete.

Cllrs Stacey and Ubhi thanked Cllr Tisbury for his valuable input to the Parish Council regarding planning issues.

- ii) 23/01922/FUL *Mr David Hackett Land South of South View, Holme Lane, Holme Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, NG12 2LD.*

Parish Council Response : DO NOT OBJECT subject to flooding and agricultural use issues being satisfied.

The applicant has taken on board our previous comments relating to the siting of the building which we consider to be an improvement and will minimise the impact on the views of the neighbour (Beaton House), being shielded in part by existing vegetation and now located end on. Also, the width of the building has been reduced by 0.6m making it less visible to these neighbours, otherwise it is as before. In planning there is no right to a view.

There are still a number of issues outstanding relating to flooding which we don't fully understand, other than water displacement, as this is a shed.

If these issues can be satisfied and the applicant can demonstrate it is a necessary agricultural building, which we think it is, we would recommend not opposing the application.

- iii) 23/01891/FUL Helen McCabe Ther Elms Cottage,  
National Water Sports Centre, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont,  
Nottinghamshire.

Parish Council Response : DO NOT OBJECT

This is a re-application which as far as we can see is very similar to the original application to which we did not object.

The minor differences are as a result of the applicant responding to the suggestions in the consultation process undertaken as part of the original application and our original response is unchanged.

### **5939. VILLAGE HALL**

#### *Monthly Update*

Cllr Prett read monthly update received from the Bookings Clerk.

*'All is well at the hall.*

*InHale (previously branded as DaisyBaby)) is back!! She's only able to run one of her classes at the moment, but hopefully her business will grow again, and she'll be back to normal soon.*

*Would it be possible (not sure on the costs yet) at some point to get the curtains dry cleaned? They are looking pretty grubby. I'm more than happy to take them and sort at a time when the hall isn't being used.*

*I've turned the radiators on in the Toilets and Kitchen now as it's getting quite chilly in the hall.*

*Only one party booked in which is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 4pm-8pm.*

*Looking forward to seeing you all next weekend at the Christmas Event!'*

Discussion took place regarding the curtains, and it was agreed that they would benefit from cleaning but unsure as to whether dry cleaning would be effective at removing the stains. Meeting agreed that this should be revisited in the new year after the Christmas Event has taken place.

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

Clerk raised the issue of a slight increase in the number of fairly late booking cancellations from the Baby Spa Friday booking slot. Up to now they have been credited with the full amount paid towards future bookings. Meeting agreed should monitor going forward and reassess in the New Year.

Cllr Fairgrieve noted that none of the plug sockets in the hall were protected with baby socket covers. Cllr Fairgrieve recommended an effective product that would be low cost and improve safety.

#### **Cllr Fairgrieve to arrange purchase of specific plug socket covers.**

**8.10pm County Cllr Upton & Borough Cllr Viridi arrived at the meeting.**

*PAT Testing*

Clerk explained she was arranging the Village Hall PAT Testing.

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

**5940. PLAY PARK**

*Annual Tree Maintenance*

Clerk explained that James Harrison Tree Surgeon had conducted a review of the Play Park trees and performed the annual maintenance. Clerk explained that there had been some dialogue with the Play Park neighbours on Ambleside regarding overhanging branches. James has removed some but there was ongoing discussion regarding further work.

**Cllr Tisbury to meet with James Harrison to discuss Play Park trees adjacent to Ambleside property and feedback to Clerk.**

*Extended Fence Line*

Clerk explained that the fence extension would be fitted over the next 2 to 3 weeks, depending on weather conditions.

Clerk and Cllr Tisbury to meet on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November '23 with Matt from South Notts Fabrication to agree the revised fence line ahead of a fitting date.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to inform the community on Facebook when a definite installation date for Play Park fencing work is known.**

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

*Play Park Grant Applications*

Cllr Prett explained that there was meeting regarding the next tranche of UKSPF grants on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November '23. Cllr Prett also spoke about the National Lottery Community Fund and the next round of grants from East Midlands Airport.

**Clerk still to arrange meeting with Cllr Prett and Susan Toon to meet to discuss play park grant applications.**

*Sand Pit*

Cllr Hackett had forwarded in her absence, an update to the Clerk regarding her findings regarding the viability of a permanent sand pit at Ambleside Play Park.

Cllr Hackett noted that East Bridgford are planning to remove their sand pit as they have so much sand it is hard to maintain. They get a lot of weeds and leaves in it. They are looking to provide a small, closed sand pit. Newark say theirs is well used, however it is high maintenance and requires weekly inspection and raking. Conclusion is that we will continue to provide the temporary play sand in the summer after the Play Day, but a permanent option is not viable.

#### *Grass Seed*

Cllr Hackett had forwarded in her absence, an update to the Clerk regarding grass seed, confirming that she had raked it into the bare patch of ground at the play park and it was now starting to grow.

### **5941. COUNTY REPORT**

County Cllr Upton apologised for his late arrival due to a clash with a group meeting where the big issues of next year's budget and council tax setting were discussed.

Cllr Upton spoke about the remedial work carried out at the Ambleside/A6011 junction by the external contractors and noted that a decent job had been completed now but preferably this would have taken place in the first instance therefore the road would not have had to close twice. Cllr Prett noted that the cycle sign was still in the hedge and needed reinstating.

Cllr Upton spoke about the ongoing battle to remedy the increasing levels of potholes on the County's roads. Cllr Upton explained he received a constant flow of emails from motorists who have suffered puncture and suspension issues as a result of the poor state of the roads, and cyclists that are also impacted. Cllr Upton explained that the County Council policy is static, and they will not move from the position that any pothole less than a depth of 40mm will not be addressed. Cllr Fairgrieve noted that when potholes are water filled it is impossible to tell how deep they are and are a hazard for all road users. Cllr Upton sympathised, he explained that he forwarded all requests to the relevant Notts CC department but invariably received a standard email response by return.

Cllr Tisbury asked Cllr Upton about the potholes on Main Street, Gamston, some of which had been repaired and other marked for repair. Cllr Upton explained that he had received an email noting that the emergency ones had been fixed and the remaining ones would be repaired 'shortly.' Cllr Upton expressed his frustration at the process. Discussion took place and it was suggested that Cllr Tisbury could write a letter to the Chief Executive of Notts County Council for a response.

Cllr Fairgrieve expressed the opinion that as a resident you often felt like performing the tasks yourself rather than wait for the authorities to help, not just with potholes but such as cutting back of branches overhanging pavements and removing trip hazards.

### **5942. DISTRICT REPORT**

Borough Cllr Viridi also apologised for his late arrival and sent Borough Cllr Wheeler's apologies.

Cllr Virdi spoke about the UKSPF now being open for applications. Cllr Virdi explained that improvements had been made to the process in order to make it more accessible and encourage a more diverse range of applicants. Cllr Virdi noted that the remaining funds would be allocated over two rounds, the last one being in April '24. Cllr Virdi offered his help to the Parish Council with support for any application.

Cllr Virdi told the meeting that the West Bridgford Christmas Lights Switch On was taking place this Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November '23 and would be attended by Vicky McClure's Dementia Choir.

Cllr Virdi explained that the Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards ceremony would be taking place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November '23. Cllr Virdi said there had been lots of nominations including from our Parish, West Bridgford Colts and para-athlete Barney Corral who comes from Gamston.

Cllr Virdi spoke about a spate of organised crime in the Edwalton area that involved car theft. Cllr Virdi explained that the Police had successfully intervened and caught the gang members involved. Recommendation was to not keep car keys close to the front door and also to store them in a Faraday pouch that makes this crime harder to commit.

#### **5943. CHRISTMAS**

##### *Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall*

Cllr Stacey confirmed that everything was in place for a fabulous Christmas event on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November '23 and thanked everyone in advance for all the help they have offered on the day.

Clerk explained that Cllr Ubhi and Bookings Clerk were kindly assisting Clerk to decorate the Village Hall for Christmas on the afternoon of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November '23.

##### *Ambleside Play Park Christmas Tree*

Clerk confirmed that the Ambleside Christmas tree would be delivered to the Play Park on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November '23 around 9.30am and any help would be gratefully received.

Cllr Owen and Cllr Mason confirmed they were available to assist. Clerk noted that this would be the last event David Litchfield worked on for the Parish Council before his retirement in April '24.

## 5944. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### *Holme Pierrepont Flood*

Cllr Stacey updated the meeting on the recent flood event at Holme Pierrepont that had necessitated the closure of Holme Lane. Cllr Hackett in her absence had also forwarded information to the Clerk regarding the flood.

Cllr Stacey explained that lessons had been learned from the experience. Cllr Stacey gave huge thanks to David Hackett for using his tractor to transport the heavy flood signage, including at the Radcliffe-on-Trent end of Holme Lane. Cllr Hackett had noted that going forward we need to inform the Flood Warden Josh Wells that the signs at the Radcliffe-on-Trent end should be put out at that end. Cllr Stacey explained that she had discussed the situation with Josh Wells and explained the reliance on David Hackett to move the heavy signage and whether there was a more convenient place to store the signs in future.

Cllr Stacey confirmed that replacement batteries for the lamps to illuminate the signage had been acquired.

Cllr Stacey also spoke about possible signage required further up Adbolton Lane, nearer to the National Water Sports Centre entrance, to prevent vehicles travelling further towards Holme Pierrepont and then having to turn around and retrace their route.

Cllr Hackett also noted that the sandbags to secure the signage have become slimy and need replacing. Cllr Upton explained that sandbags are available from the Streetwise depot.

Cllr Stacey explained that discussions with Josh Wells were in hand in order to improve and perfect the existing flood process policy.

**Cllr Stacey to continue working with Flood Warden Josh Wells to improve HP flood policy.**

### *Holme Lane Update*

Cllr Stacey provided a report on behalf of Cllr Owen explaining that he was trying to make contact with Neil Lewis for an update, but Neil Lewis had been on annual leave and also unwell. Cllr Stacey explained that the state of the unmade portion of road was particularly hazardous at the moment with huge ditches having been formed from what were originally potholes, the worst she had witnessed in 38 years. County Cllr Upton agreed but explained that as it was not an adopted highway the criteria for repair was different. Cllr Upton concluded that if and when the lane becomes gated and is no longer a through route, this road can be repaired and will not get into this state again so quickly.

### *Village Breakfast Gamston Buddy Bench*

Cllr Tisbury explained that the bench had been purchased and was being stored in a garage. Cllr Tisbury noted that it was extremely heavy. Cllr Tisbury explained that a 3m squared concrete base would be created over the next week or so in the approved location on Ambleside to attach the bench to. Cllr Tisbury explained that the labour for this work was being provided free of charge, just being charged for the materials. Cllr Tisbury noted

there would be temporary fencing around the concrete for a week or so to protect it and then would require a further 3 weeks for the concrete to cure before siting the bench.

Cllr Tisbury explained that the purchase of drill hire would be required when fitting the bench and also some bulbs to plant around that area.

Cllr Prett asked if there would be a litter bin as part of the project. It was explained that this wasn't planned but the area would be monitored. There is already a dog waste bin close to the new bench site.

Cllr Tisbury also mentioned the possibility, if there were sufficient surplus funds, for the purchase of some kind of plastic panelling for the Parish Council metal benches situated near the canal. This would improve the seating in terms of general comfort and also during extreme cold and hot weather.

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

#### *HP Additional Bins*

Clerk explained that she had received confirmation that the additional bins would be provided to Holme Pierrepont without charge and added to the collection schedule, but an exact installation date had not been given.

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

Cllr Stacey explained that the Clerks wages had reached the top of the current NALC bandings and had asked Clerk to consider a proposal for her wage review for 2024, which would be emailed to Cllr Stacey as Vice Chair, for discussion and approval by Cllrs at the next meeting.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked if this would include the Bookings Clerk also. Clerk confirmed that it would.

**Clerk to email a wage increase proposal to Vice Chair for Clerk and Bookings Clerk for circulation, discussion and approval at the December '23 Parish Council meeting.**

Cllr Mason told the meeting that he would be moving house on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November '23 to Village Post Barn in Gamston Village.

Cllr Ubhi confirmed that she had checked all the Parish Defibrillators. Cllr Fairgrieve spoke about an instance of a defibrillator being used and not replaced with dire consequences. Discussion took place regarding the process if a defibrillator was used without the knowledge of the Parish Council.

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



Cllr Prett noted that the printing problems with the Autumn newsletter meant that the St Edmund's Church article included a date that had already been missed. Clerk explained to the meeting that the printers had accidentally picked the wrong file to print and had delivered on time, 1500 copies of the Summer '23 newsletter, consequently the correct copy arrived a few days late.

Cllr Prett explained that WeBCan had been successful in their bid for grant funding from East Midlands Airport and had received £1920 towards tools.

Clerk confirmed that as yet she had not received any enquiries from Bassingfield or Adbolton regarding becoming a Parish Councillor as a result of the flyer included in the Parish News, but she remained optimistic.

**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.**

**Clerk to find contact details for mosaic artist Julie Vernon to progress idea for telephone box floor.**

**9.08pm County Cllr Upton and Borough Cllr Viridi left the meeting.**

#### **5945. 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.**

**Clerk 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.**

Clerk explained that she had investigated the possibility of acquiring a better rate of interest on the Parish Savings Account by transferring reserves to a Post Office Savings Account, but there were special requirements for a Parish bank account that were only

satisfied by certain providers. HP&G PC are with the market leading online Parish Council bank account provider, Unity Trust plc.

Clerk explained that she had received correspondence from the Partnership & Business Support Co-ordinator at Streetwise requesting a meeting to discuss our service agreement. Clerk noted that she was unaware of any current service agreement, other than emptying of the Parish litter and dog waste bins.

**Clerk to meet with Streetwise Partnership & Business Support Co-ordinator at Streetwise to discuss service agreement.**

Clerk explained that she had received notification and forms from Rushcliffe Borough Council regarding Precept Request for '24/'25 Financial Year, with a deadline date for approved documentation of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February '24.

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

#### **5946. CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk mentioned to the meeting that the Grand Switch On of the Sandale Close Christmas lights in Gamston would be taking place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November '23 at 5pm. All donations go to the RSPCA Radcliffe Animal Centre.

Clerk told the meeting that a local school student was holding a Christmas Quiz at the Village Hall on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6.30pm to raise funds for a charity trip to Tanzania.

Clerk had received an invitation to the Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium's first Christmas Memorial Service on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December '23 at 6pm. Anyone can obtain free tickets by contacting Rushcliffe Oaks office.

#### **5947. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.15pm in Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road.**

Clerk noted that Cllr Ubhi will be Acting Chair at the December '23 meeting.

Clerk asked if Cllr Tisbury could assume Acting Chair role at the January '24 meeting. Cllr Tisbury to confirm his availability.

**The meeting ended at approximately 9.20pm.**