

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road**

**Members Present:** Cynthia Stacey (Acting Chair), John Mason, Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Alun Owen & Richard Fairgrieve

**In attendance:** Julia Barnes (Clerk), Borough Cllr Jonathan Wheeler, Borough Cllr Davinder Viridi & Jonathan Appleby (Parishioner)

#### **5976. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

Cllr Tisbury sent his apologies due to being away on holiday.

Cllr Ubhi sent her apologies due to being away on holiday.

County Cllr Upton sent his apologies as he was recuperating from a period of ill health.

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

#### **5977. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **5978. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

#### **5979. MINUTES**

##### **TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

Cllr Fairgrieve proposed, and Cllr Prett seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Cllr Owen abstained as he was not present at the January '24 Parish Council Meeting. Motion carried and Minutes were adopted.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to upload January '24 Parish Council Meeting Minutes to the HP&G PC website.**

#### **5980. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Parishioner Jonathan Appleby was given the opportunity to speak to Cllrs. Mr Appleby had previously contacted the Clerk by telephone and email on a number of issues

regarding the Parish and the Parish Council, but he explained that on this occasion he would like to address the parking issue around Gamston Village Hall. Mr Appleby explained that other local residents would like the opportunity to also address the Parish Council on other issues so would speak about those at another time.

Mr Appleby noted that he had lived in the area since 1998 and the problems created by vehicles parking around the Village Hall was getting worse. Vehicles were parking along the narrow stretch of Main Street off Old Tollerton Road, some also parked across the kerb, making it dangerous for both pedestrians and road users. Mr Appleby explained that before Christmas he had felt it necessary to interrupt one of the groups using the Village Hall to highlight the unacceptable nature of their parking.

Mr Appleby noted that there are many owners of expensive motor vehicles in the area, including himself, that risk damage to those vehicles trying to negotiate the inconsiderate parking. Mr Appleby also noted the necessity for emergency vehicle access at all times and for local residents to be able to access their properties. Mr Appleby thought that it was only a matter of time before a collision would occur and had thought that perhaps the siting of a convex safety mirror on the corner of Main Street and Old Tollerton Road would be beneficial for increased visibility.

Discussion took place and it was explained that the Parish Council were very aware that the Village Hall has no designated parking. Every hirer was given parking information asking them not to park on the narrowest part of Main Street off Old Tollerton Road and also to relay the message to every attendee of the event or regular hall booking. Clerk explained that the Bookings Clerk had specifically recontacted the regular Monday and Friday groups to reiterate the parking advice as a result of Mr Appleby's observations. Clerk noted that hall hirers were encouraged to walk or cycle and there is a cycle rack at the Village Hall that is noted on the parking information. Clerk also explained that the reduction in hall hire costs for Parishioners was partly to incentivise local use of the hall and therefore hopefully result in fewer vehicles, although realistically realising this does not guarantee the absence of vehicles. A no parking sign is affixed to the large gate for access at all times. Spring bulbs were planted along the hedge side of Main Street and the Village Hall dog waste bin also sited there to discourage parking. Clerk noted that double yellow lines have been discussed in the past but are not a viable option as there have been no accidents and policing of the lines would not be possible in terms of traffic warden or Police personnel. Clerk noted that there had been spikes in inconsiderate parking over the years and Parishioners had made her aware of this, but recently she had not received any parking complaints until now. Clerk explained that inconsiderate parking anywhere was ill advised and thoughtless and the Parish Council discouraged it and want to be a good neighbour to local residents but cannot forbid legal parking. Cllr Stacey explained that we are obliged to follow legal rules and regulations.

Mr Appleby said that the attempts made by the Parish Council to prevent any obstructive and inconsiderate parking were clearly not working and wanted to know what we would be doing about the issue.

After discussion it was agreed that some additional signage would be devised to display along the hedge side of Main Street. Cllr Fairgrieve to investigate associated permanent signage costs, and to devise a lower cost temporary solution to assess effectiveness of signage.

Cllr Prett noted that in the past the rear hand gate on Main Street had been locked. Clerk noted that this would necessitate the use of the other two side hand gates on Main Street and Old Tollerton Road. Meeting decided not to pursue at this time.

Cllr Hackett explained that the grassed area behind the vehicular access gate was fitted with rubber matting and could accommodate a number of vehicles and suggested that should be opened up for use by hall hirers. Cllr Hackett noted this would be particularly useful when loading and unloading heavy or bulky equipment. Clerk noted that this area had been used in the past at Parish Council events for marquees and loading and unloading. Clerk explained that regular use by the public had not been facilitated as it was considered reversing either in or out of the gateway situated on this blind bend would perhaps be even more dangerous than on street parking. However, after discussion it was agreed to revisit this idea.

Councillors agreed that they would review the parking information provided and amend if it could be made any clearer. Revised documentation to be issued to users, website updated, and a note included in a future newsletter.

Clerk asked Mr Appleby if he would take a photograph at times when he deemed the parking around the Village Hall to be unacceptable, with dates and times, and email them to the Clerk for collation and to enable patterns of parking to be identified.

**Cllr Fairgrieve to create temporary parking signage and to investigate costs for a permanent signage solution if deemed beneficial.**

**Parish Council to revisit idea of allowing public access to parking in Village Hall grounds.**

**Councillors to review parking information for clarity and reissue, repost on website and note in a future newsletter.**

**Mr Appleby to email Clerk with evidence of perceived parking issues.**

Councillor Stacey asked Mr Appleby if he had any other comments to make. Mr Appleby explained that he would like to debate the fencing and exclusion of dogs to the Play Park but would like other residents, who also had strong feelings on the matter, to accompany him at a future Parish Council meeting.

## **5981. VILLAGE HALL**

*Monthly Update*

Cllr Stacey read out the Bookings Clerk monthly Village Hall update.

*'All is well at the hall. All regular bookings are back and happy.*

*I have emailed BabySpa (Friday) and Inhale (Monday) regarding the parking issues and sent them the flyer to send to their clients as well. I will ensure the flyer and a note*

*goes out to everyone who books also. Inhale have replied and said that they already send out the flyer to all their clients.*

*We have been getting an increased amount of enquiries about the hall for evening hires. Anniversaries, parties, bridal/baby showers etc. I am obviously being very cautious about what we book in later in the evenings due to the locality of the hall and local residents, but I was wondering if we had any ideas how can could deter this from the start? The booking form says the hall needs to be vacated by 10pm Sun-Thurs and 11pm Fri-Sat. Surely this wording states that we can cater for late night events? We do state that alcohol is not allowed on the premises, and this does immediately deter a few of those bookings.*

*We have our first weekend booking this year on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.*

*Clay creators are back over February half term too, Tuesday and Wednesday.'*

After discussion regarding evening hire of the Village Hall it was decided for the time being to leave the timings as is, to reiterate to hirers considerate use of the hall and keeping external noise to a minimum and to stress strict adherence to the no alcohol policy. Evening hire of the village hall to be closely monitored. Clerk explained that alcohol is permissible at Parish Council events, for example mulled wine at Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall, as there are always Parish Council representatives present throughout.

### *Golden Orchard*

Cllr Prett explained that he had been successful in applying for a Golden Orchard allocation of 5 free fruit trees and accompanying plaque in recognition of the Golden anniversary of The Tree Council. Cllr Prett explained that a selection of fruiting trees would be delivered in the first week of March and that planting would take place, with the assistance of U3A Gardening Group, Gamston Brownies and James Harrison Tree Surgeon, sometime before the end of March '24.

Cllr Prett anticipated that the trees would be planted together as an orchard in the Village Hall grounds if the conditions are suitable and space allows. Alternatively it was suggested they could be planted near the Gamston Buddy Bench on Ambleside. James Harrison to advise.

Clerk noted that the planting of new trees would necessitate sufficient space for the trees to reach maturity without overcrowding and also that a watering rota would be required during the summer months when the plants are young. It was noted that watering of plants would be much easier at the Village Hall as there is an outside tap. Clerk suggested maybe the Brownies could include watering the trees as part of their weekly meetings, although they break for the summer during the school holidays.

Cllr Owen thanked Cllr Prett for his excellent work in procuring the fruit trees and suggested some community use of the resulting fruits.

**Clerk to contact U3A Gardening Group to discuss planting of Golden Orchard.**

**Clerk to contact Gamston Brownies to discuss planting of Golden Orchard.**

**Clerk to contact James Harrison to discuss planting of Golden Orchard.**

#### *Village Hall Projector*

Clerk explained that she had recontacted Nottingham HiFi regarding the ongoing issues with the projection equipment. Clerk has been advised to carry out some DVD testing of the equipment to assess whether the issues are related to our equipment or that being used by the hall hirers, and feedback to Nottingham HiFi.

**Clerk to test Village Hall projection equipment at a time when the Village Hall is free and feedback to Nottingham Hi-Fi for their further comment.**

#### *PAT Testing*

Clerk confirmed that she had arranged for PAT Testing, with the company that Radcliffe-on-Trent use, for the following week.

Clerk noted that one of the Radcliffe-on-Trent workforce was undertaking training to do in house PAT testing with the associated testing equipment, with a view to possibly offering this service to other Parish Councils for a fee.

**Clerk to organise the equipment to be PAT tested and put back in place afterwards.**

**Meeting to revisit purchase and planting of spiky plants at back of Village Hall and also in Play Park.**

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

## **5982. PLAY PARK**

#### *MUGA Vandalism*

Cllr Stacey thanked Cllr Prett for his swift actions on cleaning the recent vandalism of the Play Park MUGA. Cllr Prett explained that there was a significant amount of particulate to remove, his clothes were contaminated, and an aerosol had been taped to the centre spot and ignited, taking over an hour to clear. Cllr Prett also noted that he had reported the incident to the Police.

Cllr Mason explained that he and David Litchfield had examined the damage to assess whether any repairs were possible, but they didn't seem to be required.

**Clerk to arrange for Bingham Ground Services Ltd to assess the damaged area of MUGA at some point.**

#### *Leaf Blowing*

Clerk explained that Gary Arkless had very kindly carried out leaf blowing at the Play Park and surrounds throughout the winter. Gary Arkless had also kindly taken the leaf blower to be serviced and it would be due for collection in around 10 weeks time.

Clerk explained that unfortunately Gary Arkless would not be available in future to carry out this task, nor would David Litchfield as he is retiring, so an alternative arrangement needs to be put in place from autumn '24.

**Clerk & Cllrs to research alternative solutions for Parish Council maintenance person work and also Play Park leaf removal in the autumn.**

Cllr Fairgrieve commented that when he had been at the Play Park recently, the wet pour surface surrounding the play equipment and rocks had become very mossy and slippery over the winter. Clerk explained that Streetwise offered a playground jet washing service.

**Clerk to obtain a quotation from Streetwise for jet washing Play Park.**

#### *Grant Applications*

Cllr Prett explained that he, the Clerk and Susan Toon had put considerable effort into applying to the UKSPF for a grant of £25,000 towards the inclusive play equipment project at the Ambleside Play Park. This amount will purchase a bucket swing, trampoline and fund works on the footpaths. Cllr Prett noted that we are hopeful for a positive outcome and will also be applying for a £16,000 National Lottery grant to fund additional equipment as park of the same project.

**Cllr Owen noted that an update on the project would be included in the Parish Newsletter.**

Cllr Mason told the meeting that he continued to keep a check on the Play Park and that all the equipment was looking fine. Cllr Mason explained that the benches could do with a coat of paint.

Discussion took place regarding the paths within the play park. Clerk explained that Cllr Prett had discovered that one of the existing picnic tables was in fact a wheelchair accessible table. Clerk noted that an additional pathway to that and the large rocks would be included in the scope for the footpath works as part of the larger play park project.

### **5983. SPRING NEWSLETTER**

Cllr Owen explained that progress was being made on the next edition of the Parish News, which was due to be published in around 6 weeks time.

Cllr Owen noted that he had a number of subjects to include in this edition including; Golden Orchard, Geocaching, Charge of the Light Brigade William Roberts article, Gamston Buddy Bench, Vice Chairs Introduction, impact of Waterside Bridge project, local school children's view of the area : then and now, Rushcliffe Community Volunteer Service (RCVS) information,

**Cllrs to forward any articles they may have to Cllr Owen for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter.**

**Cllr Owen to contact Headteacher at PGPS for any update for the newsletter.**

**Cllr Owen, Susan Toon and Clerk to meet and progress the production of the Spring Newsletter.**

Cllr Mason noted that he had received a flyer through the post for a homecare company.

**8.30pm Borough Cllrs Wheeler & Viridi arrived at the meeting.**

### **5984. COUNTY REPORT**

County Cllr Upton had forwarded a brief update to the Clerk along with his apologies for the meeting. Cllr Upton noted that the proposed closing of the unmade section of Holme Lane in Holme Pierrepont continues at its slow pace. Cllr Upton had forwarded a request from a resident for double yellow lines on the junction of Staveley Way and Ambleside to County Highways, but it had been rejected due to lack of any accident history. Cllr Upton explained that the timetable for the "Masterplan" for the Gamston Fields housing site is slipping due to the developers needing more time on highway issues.

Borough Cllr Wheeler added to this County update by also explaining that the multiuser route following the old mineral railway line from Holme Pierrepont to Cotgrave Country Park had sadly been closed. This was due to unauthorised excavations by local residents into the supporting soil bank. This had rendered it structurally unsound with a dangerous sheer drop from what was the cycle and walking path. Cllr Wheeler noted the cost to rectify this damage may run into millions of pounds and is anticipated for the process to take years rather than months.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the temporary speed limits along the A52 from Gamston to Radcliffe-on-Trent. Cllr Wheeler explained that it had been agreed that the Police would be protecting the overnight work force from threats from local residents whilst working on the road improvements.

Cllr Wheeler also noted that County Cllrs were due to attend the budget meeting next Thursday where the proposed Council Tax level would be agreed. Cllr Wheeler told the

meeting that although Council Tax was going to rise, it would be below the maximum allowable increase and consequently one of the lowest increases in the UK.

## **5985. DISTRICT REPORT**

Borough Cllr Wheeler spoke about the proposed relocation of Rushcliffe Borough Council customer services office into West Bridgford Library. Cllr Wheeler explained that the combination of the two resources would form a perfect partnership in terms of access for residents. The move will also reduce the amount of rent paid in order for RBC to provide a face-to-face service which many people still value as important.

Cllr Wheeler told the meeting about developments at Edwalton Golf Course with a renovated meeting space and new food and drinks offering including a pizza oven. Cllr Wheeler noted that RBC had provided the golf course with some new portable defibrillators. Cllr Wheeler said that in addition to the golf facility, this was a beautiful location to enjoy the walking rights of way and stop off for a beverage.

Cllr Wheeler explained that Saturday marked the lunar new year and RBC had hosted a full programme of events at the Julien Cahn Pavilion in West Bridgford. The event was incredibly well attended by around 2 thousand people. Cllr Wheeler noted that there was a large Hong Kong and Chinese population in the area that were keen to engage with the community they are living in.

Jonathan Appleby confirmed that there was a huge Chinese and Hong Kong population in the Parish and wanted to know what steps the Parish Council were taking to engage with these people.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the recent spate of graffiti and fly tipping in the area. Jonathan Appleby spoke about threatening behaviour in the area from hoodie wearing youths and the need to engage with perpetrators to find out why they are behaving in this way. Cllr Wheeler explained that the more incidents that are reported by residents to the Police the more resource will be allocated to our area and consequently an increase in Police patrols. Cllr Wheeler noted that he meets on a quarterly basis with the Police to discuss local crime. Cllr Owen spoke about the decimation of many youth services that previously engaged with the young, as funding has been squeezed in that area. Cllr Owen spoke about boxing clubs proving to be successful in engaging with youth and providing an outlet to channel positive behaviours.

Cllr Mason raised the issue of potholes on Main Street and his frustration at the lack of action to resolve them. Cllr Wheeler explained that Cllr Upton had reported the potholes to Notts County Council, and they have been logged for repair but no date for this work is available at present. Cllr Wheeler noted that the damage cause to the county's roads over this wet winter period is six times that of the previous winter, which is a huge increase to the cost of materials required and staff to carry out the work.



Borough Cllr Virdi told the meeting that the RBC cabinet meeting tomorrow would be focussing on medium term financial strategy over the next 5 years. Cllr Virdi explained that there was a challenging economic environment making budgeting difficult.

Cllr Virdi spoke about investments RBC were making to promote economic growth across the borough, including the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station as part of the East Midlands Freeport and also the East Midlands Mayoral Authority.

Cllr Virdi explained that RBC would be presenting robust proposals, and any efficiencies or cost savings would not result in significantly cutting any valuable services. Cllr Virdi mentioned a small amount of grant funding that could be made available for grants to individuals for flood issues; flood store resilience and climate change net biodiversity objectives.

Cllr Mason raised the issue of potholes on Main Street. Cllr Virdi reiterated that this was a County Council issue and County Cllr Upton would be his cabinet point of contact.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked about the reduction in business rates income from Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station when it closes. Cllr Virdi confirmed that this income stream would cease once decommissioned but the potential is huge for the regeneration of that site as part of the East Midlands Freeport.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about reed clearance funded by RBC taking place along the canal in our locality. The work involves use of a Canal River Trust specialist amphibious vehicle. Cllr Wheeler praised the excellent work carried out by regular volunteer groups of residents to clear reeds from the canal by hand over the winter months. Cllr Wheeler explained that all of this work would improve water retention levels in the canal.

## **5986. 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 progress with this application and explained that the last two regular meetings scheduled to review progress with the Special Planning Document (SPD) had been cancelled by the developers.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked if repeated delays may risk central government stating RBC are being unreasonable and enforce progress. Cllr Wheeler explained that RBC want the meetings to take place to progress the plans. Cllr Wheeler added that RBC are fully aware that this development will happen but need to ensure it does not adversely affect the surrounding communities, and creation of the SPD with agreement from all parties is key to the success of this.

- ii) *23/02315/FUL Mr Michael Panayi Single storey front and rear extensions including garage conversion. 17 Millbeck Close, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6PY.*

Parish Council Response : Do Not Object

The application is essentially to convert the existing single garage to a habitable space, increasing the width to include a porch for the house entrance, plus a single story extension to the rear for additional kitchen/dining space.

There are several similar garage conversions/extensions that have been made in the immediate area, over the years, and we see no special reason, taking into account locations/outlook etc, to raise any concerns over this application.

Cllr Fairgrieve assessed the application and circulated his thoughts to Cllrs. Clerk submitted the above response to RBC Online Planning Portal before the deadline date.

- iii) *24/00126/FUL Mr Paul Horn Construction of a pedestrian bridge and cycle bridge over the River Trent, with connecting ramps and steps, lighting, hard and soft landscaping and wetland/pond area. In addition to the main bridge, a connecting bridge over Trent Basin is proposed which will provide connections to the main bridge and will form part of east-west riverside path on the north bank. Demolition of Unit 5 Poulton Drive. Temporary compound and haul routes on both sides of the river, with connections to the existing adopted highway. Land East of Lady Bay Bridge, Trentside Footpath, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire.*

Clerk explained that we were asked to assess this application as an adjacent Parish Council but noted that the resulting connections would impact our Parish.

Discussion took place regarding the proposals. Cllr Fairgrieve considered this development would be a positive asset providing joined up connections from residential areas to local waterways. Cllr Owen agreed that there was enormous potential for a positive benefit from this. Cllr Owen noted that he cycled frequently and asked how the bridge would be accessed as connections in this area on foot or cycle are currently not easy to navigate. Cllr Owen explained that there was a fantastic opportunity to access the river and Colwick Park using this new route but asked if the impact on The Hook in Lady Bay had been considered. Cllr Owen also stressed that the developments must be simple to navigate and easy for children to use also, but there was great potential and the promotional videos released WB Wire looked superb. Cllr Fairgrieve and Cllr Wheeler discussed pedestrian/cycle access to and from the proposed development and the existing Gamston area and both agreed that a bridge of some form would be required over the A52 Lings Bar to achieve a "connected development" meaning that cars were not the only safe method of travel relating to the new development. Meeting agreed for Clerk to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council expressing our support for the proposals.

**Clerk to submit supportive response to RBC Online Planning Portal ahead of the deadline date of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February '24.**

Clerk explained that she had circulated a first round RBC Planning Department Public Consultation asking for views on what topics, types of development and places the authority-wide Design Code should focus on, including which places in Rushcliffe you consider to be well designed and also the opposite. Deadline for responses is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February '24.

**Cllrs to respond to the RBC Public Consultation as individuals by the deadline date if they are so minded.**

Cllr Prett spoke to the meeting about a suggestion from WeBCan whereby individuals undertaking Community Service could possibly serve this by working on the canal, the initial suggestion being to tidy up the unkempt area at the end of Garsdale Close. Cllr Wheeler stressed that this would require permission from each of the various landowners involved and although rehabilitation work is needed and desirable, this high-risk initiative would necessitate a huge amount of paperwork to assess this risk and associated insurance to be in place.

**9.40pm Borough Cllrs Wheeler & Viridi left the meeting.**

#### **5987. SUMMER PLAY DAY**

Cllr Stacey explained that an initial meeting had taken place with the Clerk to progress this years Summer Play Day, using the template that had been put together for the 2020 Summer Play Day that couldn't take place due to Covid-19 – 'Sport for All'.

Cllr Stacey noted that the Summer Play Day would be taking place on the afternoon of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August '24 and would appreciate help on the day from as many Cllrs as possible.

Cllr Stacey explained that there would be all the usual attractions, sport themed bouncy castle, sand pit, ice cream van and balloon modeller. Clerk to investigate a climbing wall and also approach local sports teams NFFC, NCFE, Notts CCC and Nottingham Rugby for any support they can offer. Cllr Stacey explained that we intend to offer other sporty attractions such as skipping, netball, catch and elastics. Cllr Stacey also noted that Cllr Prett has some celebrity sporting connections that may be able to attend and open the event with the Rushcliffe mayor.

Clerk reminded the meeting that David Litchfield would no longer be able to assist us with setting up and packing away of the Play Day due to his imminent retirement. David Litchfield's help has been invaluable over the years and transporting of the equipment from the Village Hall to the Play Park using his trailer has been an enormous help. Discussion took place regarding solutions to this problem for the coming year. It was suggested that a van could be hired for the day if budget allowed.

## 5988. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### *Holme Lane*

Cllr Owen updated the meeting on progress, noting that the state of the road before Christmas had become atrocious, exacerbated by the incredibly wet weather. Cllr Owen asked for Neil Lewis to come and witness the state of the lane in person and Neil Lewis agreed it needed urgent attention. Cllr Owen explained that the huge potholes were filled in January and within 2 days the subsequent rain turned the entire road into a dangerous slurry swamp. Cllr Owen noted that the situation was slightly improved as the road dried out.

Cllr Owen explained that in terms of closing the road to through traffic, VIA and Notts CC were currently looking at the legal liability specifying who can and can't access the lane through the resulting gates. Cllr Owen explained that resolution was now some months away, even if it is possible. County Cllr Upton is however pushing for a decision to be made by April '24.

### *Village Breakfast Gamston Buddy Bench*

Clerk explained that Cllr Tisbury had, along with members of the Village Breakfast team, installed the Buddy Bench on the grassed area off Ambleside leading to the Village Hall. Clerk noted that it looked great and had seen numerous people using it recently.

Clerk noted that Melvyn's wife Sonia had provided photos and some text for inclusion in the next Parish Newsletter, explaining that surplus Village Breakfast funds had been used to purchase the bench and that the Breakfast Team would be very willing to show volunteers how to take over the running of the Village Breakfasts. Cllr Mason asked how he could book a place at the Village Breakfast. Clerk explained that Covid stopped the Village Breakfasts taking place, but new volunteers would be welcome to take over. Cllr Mason asked where the Village Breakfast money was kept. Clerk explained that it was all held within the Parish Council bank account and was shown separately on the summary page of the monthly finance figures.

**Gamston Buddy Bench article to be included in Spring Newsletter.**

### *Holme Pierrepont Flood Process*

Cllr Stacey told the meeting that a new sign 'No Access to Radcliffe-on-Trent' had been produced by Josh Wells, Notts County Council Flood Advisor but unfortunately Blotts are not able to store the signage. Cllr Stacey explained that she is going to ask Robert Brackenbury at Holme Pierrepont Hall if he could locate a suitable storage place somewhere inside their gates.

Cllr Stacey asked if Cllr Hackett had been able to contact the stables on Holme Lane in Radcliffe-on-Trent to ask if they can store and display the flood signage for that end of the lane. Cllr Hackett explained she hadn't as yet but didn't actually know the stable owner. Cllr Owen kindly offered to accompany Cllr Hackett to speak with stable owner.

**Cllr Stacey to liaise with Robert Brackenbury regarding the storage of flood signage.**

**Cllrs Hackett & Owen to visit stable owner in Radcliffe-on-Trent regarding flood signage storage and process.**

*HP Additional Bins*

Cllr Stacey confirmed that an additional bin had been installed on Holme Lane towards Radcliffe-on-Trent, but it was black instead of red, so less visible than anticipated. Clerk explained that although a red bin had been requested, the black bin could take regular rubbish as well as dog waste.

**Clerk to chase up additional bin near to Skylarks Nature Reserve entrance.**

*Management Plan*

Cllr Owen noted that the Management Plan document he had written was almost three years old and required review and updating in April '24. Cllr Owen stressed that the document needs to be read and reviewed in order to be useful.

**Management Plan due for review April '24.**

Cllr Prett explained that the Canal River Trust amphibious vehicle was clearing reeds in the canal today. Cllr Prett noted that there was further work required after the bird nesting season at a cost of £400 per day.

Cllr Prett told the meeting that WeBCan had carried out around 50 work sessions along the canal, and this had highlighted the need for first aid training. Cllr Prett explained that funding and a venue would be required for the training and suggested we may be able to offer use of the Village Hall for this purpose.

**Cllr Prett to liaise with Clerk and Bookings Clerk regarding use of the Village Hall for WeBCan First Aid Training.**

Cllr Prett explained that the litter picking bags now provided by RBC were too small to use with the existing litter picking hoops, so he has had to purchase appropriately sized bags.

Cllr Hackett explained that she had forwarded an idea to the Clerk regarding incentivised recycling that she had seen in operation in Australia. Cllr Hackett explained that all kinds of recycling was collected by individuals bringing the items to a central processing machine. Cllr Hackett noted that small amounts of cash were given in exchange for recycling items, that the machine checked for suitability. Cllr Hackett praised the cleanliness of the streets and pavements in Australia and stressed the amount that it costs local authorities to recycle in the UK, and that just a small amount of contamination can result in large quantities of UK recycling being sent to landfill.

Cllr Stacey had previously circulated to all Cllrs an up-to-date quotation for Parish Grounds Maintenance for the coming year from Mark Winter, which represents approximately a 4% increase on the previous year.

Cllr Owen proposed, and Cllr Prett seconded the motion that the 2024 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.**

#### *Parish Defibrillators*

Clerk explained that Cllr Ubhi had checked all the parish defibrillators just before departing for holiday.

Clerk explained that she and Cllr Ubhi had met to progress investigations into potential issues with Bassingfield and Holme Pierrepont defibrillator batteries. Clerk noted that both units had been returned to the manufacturers for checking, in the interim loan defibrillator units were in place. The original units have now been returned, Bassingfield unit was confirmed as fine, the Holme Pierrepont unit needed a software update, and is now also fine. The Holme Pierrepont unit would have functioned accurately if needed, but the battery display wasn't reliable, showing more remaining battery than was actually available.

**Clerk to email Bassingfield resident regarding defibrillator query and confirm working well.**

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

Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he would be posting on Facebook our advertisement for new Parish Councillors, ideally from the currently unrepresented areas of Adbolton and Bassingfield. Cllr Fairgrieve explained that the advertising flyer that had been hand delivered to each address in Adbolton and Bassingfield by Cllrs Owen and Hackett had resulted in zero interested applicants.

**Clerk to forward electronic copy of Parish Councillor recruitment advertisement for posting on Facebook.**

Jonathan Appleby suggested that the Parish community had no idea who their Parish Councillors were and recommended that they should be spending their time talking to Parishioners and engaging with them about the local issues that were important to them. Mr Appleby told the meeting that he meets many people as part of his job and living in the area and they talk to him about local issues and consider him to be a local spokesperson.

Clerk explained that the Parish Council currently consists of 8 volunteer members of a possible 10 and 2 part time paid staff. Clerk added that every Parish Councillor works incredibly hard and achieve so much in the hours they volunteer. Parish Councillors also

have jobs and other responsibilities and their volunteer work with the Parish Council is motivated by making the area a better place for us all to live and work in.

Mr Appleby repeated that Parish Councillors should knock on residents' doors to introduce themselves and ask them about what matters to them. Cllr Fairgrieve thanked Mr Appleby for the suggestion.

**Clerk still to contact Morrisons supermarket to ascertain what happened to the defibrillator that was used before Christmas.**

**Clerk still to investigate the possibility of disposing of the monthly Gamston Litter Pick rubbish at Morrisons supermarket.**

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

**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.**

#### **5989. FINANCE**

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

Clerk issued copies of the month's financial transactions and details of payments and presented a summary of the finances.

**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 confirmed that she had submitted the necessary precept budget documentation to Rushcliffe Borough Council by the deadline date.

**Clerk still to submit VAT claim for year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

**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.**

## **5990. CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk explained that the next Town & Parish Forum is due to take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March '24 at Rushcliffe Arena.

**Cllrs to contact Clerk to book place on Town & Parish Forum.**

### *Holme Pierrepont Sub-Station Land Ownership*

Clerk explained that Cllr Tisbury had sent the following update regarding the land ownership of the Holme Pierrepont sub-station area.

*'No success with National Grid. Couldn't find any way to get plans without payment with no certainty of a positive result. National Grid don't usually own more land than they need for a sub-station, but I have no experience of rural settings.'*

Meeting discussed way forward and suggestion was made that using the concept of adverse occupation we could place bollards to prevent parking.

**Clerk to add Holme Pierrepont sub-station area to March '24 Agenda.**

Cllr Mason asked again about who to contact regarding the repair of potholes on Main Street.

## **5991. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.15pm** in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road.**

Cllr Tisbury is due to Chair this meeting. Clerk to confirm with Cllr Tisbury if he is able to assume Acting Chair role at the March '24 meeting. Clerk confirmed that should Cllr Tisbury be unavailable; Cllr Mason is next on the list to Chair.

**The meeting ended at approximately 10.40pm.**