

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**
Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road**

Members Present: Melvyn Tisbury (Acting Chair), John Mason, Janet Hackett, Geoff Prett, Alun Owen, Richard Fairgrieve & Maria Ubhi

In attendance: Julia Barnes (Parish Clerk), Borough Cllr Jonathan Wheeler & Rebecca Logue (Bookings Clerk)

5992. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

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

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

5993. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5994. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

5995. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Cllr Fairgrieve proposed, and Cllr Hackett seconded, that the recently circulated HP&G PC Rules for Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings document Version 1.2 February 2024 be added to the HP&G PC website. Vote taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried.

Cllr Fairgrieve to add Public Participation Version 1.2 document to the HP&G PC website.

5996. STANDING ORDERS REVIEW

Discussion took place regarding existing HP&G PC Standing Orders. Cllr Prett suggested that best practise would be to look at the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) Model Standing Orders as a starting point.

Cllr Prett kindly agreed to review the latest NALC Model Standing Orders against our current version and circulate proposal for adoption by.

Clerk to forward latest version of NALC Model Standing Orders (April 2022) to Cllr Prett.

Cllr Prett to circulate proposal for revised HP&G PC Standing Orders for discussion and eventual adoption.

5997. MINUTES

TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12th FEBRUARY 2024

Cllr Fairgrieve asked whether any parishioners attending Parish Council meetings should be anonymised in the Minutes. Cllr Tisbury explained that we need to encourage local involvement in Parish Council matters and work in conjunction with the community, as in the instance of resolution of the open spaces issue. Cllr Owen agreed that the work the Parish Council does is on behalf of the community, and he has for some time, advocated that Parish Councillors invite a parishioner to attend meetings as a guest, for them to gain an understanding of the work the Parish Council does and hopefully get involved in some way. Clerk noted that parishioner could be noted as attending the meeting and also a summary of their input therefore the Minutes do not need to be changed in this respect.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked that the following be added to Minute 5986 i. *'Cllr Wheeler and Cllr Fairgrieve discussed pedestrian/cycle access to and from the proposed development and existing Gamston area and were both in agreement that a bridge of some form would be required over the A52 Lings Bar to achieve a "connected development" meaning cars were not the only safe method of travel relating to the new development.'*

Cllr Fairgrieve noted that Minute 5988. *'had had'* should read *'has had.'*

Subject to the above amendments 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 February '24 Parish Council Meeting. Motion carried and Minutes were adopted.

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

7.35pm Bookings Clerk Rebecca Logue arrived at the meeting.

5998. VILLAGE HALL

Monthly Update

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

'I have emailed all regular bookings with the updated parking flyer and asked them politely to share this with all their clients and customers. So far I've had replies from Aebal, BabySpa and U3A Wine group acknowledging the email. I will email the new parking flyer to all the weekend bookings as they come in and resend when we sort

key collection arrangements, but this will be more difficult to manage as kids party invites don't usually come with parking instructions. If we have one for the kitchen worktop/door, one for the notice board inside the hall and maybe one for the outside notice board, this may help any ad hoc visitors become aware.

BabySpa are starting to become quite frustrating and a little rude towards me now. Moving forward I've asked for Danielle to let me know their dates for the following month by the 20th of the previous month and for the invoice I send to be paid by the end of the previous month. Although she's still not paid for March yet.

Everything else is all well at the hall. I've recently wiped all the walls but there's some tougher marks on some walls.

Events at the hall this month are, Tuesday 26th March and Sunday 7th April.'

Main Street Parking

Discussion took place regarding the initiatives that have been implemented over the last month to improve the parking situation on Main Street. Cllr Fairgrieve has revised the parking instructions and created a clearer parking map of the area. All regular hall users have been reminded of the parking instructions and the information on the web page updated. Signage has been placed along the hedge side of Main Street adjacent to the Village Hall politely asking motorists to not park along that stretch of road to avoid causing an obstruction.

Clerk confirmed that she had received in total three emails from parishioner to inform her of perceived unacceptable parking on Main Street. Clerk noted the message received by the Bookings Clerk from one of the U3A Wine Group organisers regarding an unpleasant and intimidating interruption of their meeting on 28th February '24 by a local resident asking them to move their vehicle. Bookings Clerk explained that the U3A groups have used the Gamston Village Hall for their meetings for over 9 years without incident.

Cllr Fairgrieve noted that he would be happy to email U3A Wine Group to apologise for the interruption. Cllr Hackett reiterated that it would surely be useful to give the large gate key to hall users so they could park some vehicles on the matting to the side of the Village Hall, within the Village Hall grounds.

Cllr Tisbury asked the meeting what parking around the Village Hall by hall users is considered to be acceptable. Cllr Tisbury noted that it is essential that emergency vehicles are able to pass through, and that buggies and wheelchairs are able to use the pavements.

7.50pm Borough Cllr Wheeler arrived at the meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the hall interruptions, and it was agreed that the Clerk contact the local resident to reiterate the process for complaint regarding perceived inconsiderate parking. Clerk to stress that entering the Village Hall when privately

hired is trespass and that the hall hirers would be within their rights to call the Police to remove any individual interrupting their booking. Clerk also to stress that there are a number of groups that use the hall including baby and children's groups and sessions with vulnerable adults, who may find unexpected intrusions even more unsettling. It was also noted that parking around the Village Hall is not always associated with bookings at the Village Hall and one occasion the hall was in fact empty when there was a perceived parking problem around the hall. Parishioners to contact Clerk with evidencing of parking issues with dates and times.

Clerk to contact parishioner that has been entering Village Hall unannounced and stress the correct procedure for complaining about parking.

Bookings Clerk spoke about the issues that she has been experiencing over recent weeks with the BabySpa booking on a Friday. Friday is currently reserved as a regular booking for BabySpa but increasingly cancellations are made by them at fairly short notice. Bookings Clerk has been trying to implement a cut off for confirming dates for Friday bookings, with payment made in advance, so that any unbooked Fridays could be offered to other potential hirers. Councillors expressed the fact that other Village Halls would not allow such irregular bookings without some recompense.

Bookings Clerk to open bookings if confirmation and payment has not been received monthly in advance for regular hirers.

5999. COUNTY REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler presented the County report on behalf of County Cllr Upton. Cllr Wheeler spoke about the night road closures on A52 to improve the road condition and also resolve the flooding issue at the junction with the A52 and Bassingfield Lane.

Cllr Wheeler noted that there is an ongoing consultation regarding the future use of the County Hall building in West Bridgford. Cllr Wheeler spoke about how, in its current state, it is incredibly inefficient noting that the heating system warms the entire building even though it is only around 30% occupied. Cllr Wheeler estimated that it would take around £52 million to fully renovate the building. Cllr Wheeler encouraged responses to the consultation regarding the future of this iconic building.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the disagreement regarding the lease of the City Ground stadium and the possibility that Nottingham Forest FC may move to a new site west of the city.

Cllr Wheeler explained that as the weather improved, permanent patching solutions would be applied to the many areas of potholes across the County. Cllr Mason asked about the repair of the potholes on Main Street Gamston and was frustrated that Cllr Upton did not tell him anything. Cllr Wheeler said that although it was no consolation, the problem of potholes is countrywide. Cllr Mason stated that there was money available to carry out repairs on the A52 but not fix the potholes on Main Street. Cllr Wheeler explained that the funding for the A52 work was from central Government, whereas Main Street Gamston repairs were under the Nottinghamshire County Council remit.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the fact that during the 19 days of overnight works on the A52, Holme Lane through Holme Pierrepont will also be closed, to prevent any traffic rat-running through the hamlet. Cllr Owen explained that he had contacted National Highways using the provided telephone details for clarification as the communication appeared to suggest the road closure in Holme Pierrepont would be all day, not just overnight. Cllr Wheeler explained that he thought the closure was between 8pm and 6am. Cllr Owen said that he had received verbal confirmation that it would indeed be all day. Cllr Wheeler asked Cllr Owen to check the road the following morning at 6am and if it were indeed still closed, to contact Cllr Wheeler who would query the situation with Highways England.

Cllr Owen to contact Cllr Wheeler in the event that Holme Lane is still closed during the daytime during the A52 road works.

Cllr Tisbury asked Cllr Wheeler about the use of County Hall in relation to the creation of a unitary authority. Cllr Tisbury spoke about the potential efficiencies the unitary authority may bring and consequently potentially even less of County Hall being occupied. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that the mayoral election would be taking place on Thursday 2nd May '24 and that a temporary headquarters for the mayoral legal entity exists in Chesterfield. Cllr Wheeler explained that a board meeting on 20th March '24 will take place organising the new authority ahead of the election of the first mayor.

Cllr Wheeler mentioned the relocation of RBC Customer Services within West Bridgford Library. Cllr Mason enquired as to where the Police desk was, as it was not present in the library. Cllr Wheeler explained that the Police hub is located in the Fire Station, but that is not customer facing. Cllr Wheeler reiterated that any Police matters should be reported by telephone to either 101 or in more urgent or serious circumstances 999.

Cllr Hackett spoke about the fact that the fencing preventing access to the mineral line leisure route from Holme Lane is repeatedly removed. Cllr Wheeler expressed his disappointment at the damage to the mineral line and the fact that resolution of the problem is not expected to be speedy. Cllr Hackett spoke about the additional land that has been purchased close to the damaged site and the need to closely monitor any development on that site.

6000. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler told the meeting that RBC Council Tax increase had been set at 2.55% equating to a weekly increase on a Band D property of less than 8p per week, the lowest in Nottinghamshire and amongst the lowest 25% in the country.

Cllr Wheeler explained that as part of the budgeting process the amount of funds allocated to Canal & River Trust has been reduced, however noted that RBC are the only borough in Nottinghamshire to give any funding at all to them and they also have other funding streams.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the provision of council housing and the policy decisions being made whereby new developments must provide a certain percentage of affordable housing. Cllr Wheeler noted that Rushcliffe has the second lowest waiting list for housing in Nottinghamshire.

Cllr Wheeler also spoke about facility grants to assist in allowing patients to return from hospital to a home that is adapted for their needs. Cllr Wheeler explained that there was an inevitable delay between getting the necessary work completed and the patients returning to their homes.

Cllr Wheeler explained that the car parking charges in West Bridgford were due to increase by a small amount and explained that no increase in charge has been made for the last 7 years. Cllr Wheeler explained that the income from the car parks pays for their upkeep including resurfacing and this ensures that the people that use the car parks pay for this work.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about some problems with management charges for homeowners on new developments. Cllr Wheeler explained that these charges are used to maintain the communal spaces and grass verges, but in some cases charges are applied if a householder wants to erect a shed in their garden or remortgage their property.

6001. 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 explained that the application received from Vistry has been validated. Cllr Wheeler reiterated that the Special Planning Document (SPD) is still required for the overall development before any building is approved.

Cllr Tisbury spoke about the developers struggling to reaching an agreement on the SPD and the allocation of responsibilities for green spaces and communal facilities.

Cllr Mason asked why members of the Parish Council were against the building of the new houses. Cllr Wheeler explained that the housing development was going to happen, but it was important that the entire development was considered before building begins to ensure that the existing Gamston area is not adversely affected by pressure for services from the new homeowners.

Clerk noted that there was a public exhibition arranged by Vistry Homes at the Gamston Community Hall on Friday 22nd March '24 regarding the proposed developments East of Gamston and North of Tollerton. Stakeholder session taking place between 2pm and 3pm, with the general public session between 3pm and 7.30pm. Cllrs Owen and Fairgrieve hoped to be able to attend one of the sessions.

- ii) *24/00306/FUL S Leddington Erection of side extension, porch and new entrance canopy with addition of timber feather boarding and painted brickwork. The Goose at Gamston, Ambleside, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6NA.*

Deadline for comment : Friday 22nd March '24

Cllr Tisbury kindly agreed to circulate his thoughts on this application to Cllrs ahead of the deadline date.

6002. VILLAGE HALL

Golden Orchard

Clerk explained that she was due to take delivery of the Golden Orchard trees the following day. Clerk noted that she had spoken with James Harrison, Tree Surgeon regarding the planting of the trees, which he was very happy to help us with, but stressed that the new trees would need a summer watering regime for the first three years until they became established.

Clerk explained that she would be contacting the Brownies and also U3A Gardening Group to ask for assistance to plant the trees.

Clerk to contact Brownies, U3A Gardening Group and James Harrison to arrange for planting of Golden Orchard trees in the Village Hall grounds.

Spiky Plants

Cllr Fairgrieve updated the meeting with regard to the procurement of spiky plants for the rear of the Village Hall and also for both ends of the perimeter railings at the Play Park. Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he had investigated the purchase of pyracantha plants at a local nursery but that would cost double compared to online retailers. Locally 6 pyracantha plants plus delivery would cost £70 compared to 10 slightly smaller plants online for £30 plus VAT. Cllr Fairgrieve added that he would also require some well-rotted organic matter and he would be very happy to carry out the planting.

Cllr Tisbury proposed, and Cllr Owen seconded the motion that 10 pyracantha plants plus some organic matter be purchased online by Cllr Fairgrieve for planting as detailed above. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried.

Cllr Fairgrieve to arrange the procurement and planting of spiky plants at the Village Hall and Play Park.

Clerk still 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.

6003. PLAY PARK

Grant Applications

Clerk explained that she had spoken with the Project Implementation Officer at RBC regarding our application for UKSPF funding and had been informed that decisions on successful applicants was imminent.

Clerk noted that should we be successful, that would precipitate a series of tasks to initiate the project, and also make the necessary applications for additional funding from other sources to satisfy the match funding element of the UKSPF agreement.

Clerk noted that County Cllr Upton had very kindly offered to allocate the remaining £214 in his Community Development Fund grant budget towards the Play Park equipment project.

Clerk reminded the meeting that David Litchfield was due to retire on 5th April '24 and suggested that a card and gift be purchased as a thank you for all his hard work over the years. Meeting agreed a budget of around £50 and suggested a travel theme.

Clerk to arrange purchase of retirement card and gift for David Litchfield.

Cllr Mason noted that the Play Park was well used and that he was arranging for David Litchfield to touch up the paint on the picnic benches and steps to the slide.

Clerk explained that she had arranged for the annual Play Park Safety Inspection to take place in June '24.

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

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

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

6004. SPRING NEWSLETTER

Cllr Owen explained that he, the Clerk and Susan Toon had met to progress creation of the Spring Parish News. Cllr Owen added that there were plenty of articles and first drafts had been circulated for proof reading by the newsletter team and Cllr Prett.

Cllr Owen told the meeting that the finalised printed newsletter should arrive within the next four weeks.

6005. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Holme Lane

Cllr Owen updated the meeting on progress explaining that he had been informed that gating the road and only allowing certain people access was considered to be a potential problem. County Cllr Upton was due to raise this issue at his next regular meeting with Jane Baines at VIA.

Holme Pierrepont Flood Process

Cllr Owen spoke about progress made in improving the Holme Pierrepont flood process. Cllr Owen explained that he had spoken with the Parish Clerk at Radcliffe-on-Trent to explain the difficulties for Holme Pierrepont residents to transport road closure signs through flood waters to place at the Radcliffe-on-Trent end of Holme Lane. Cllr Owen suggested that it would be more sensible for the signage to be stored in Radcliffe-on-Trent and displayed by Radcliffe-on-Trent residents during a flood event. Cllr Owen explained that the Parish Clerk was responsive to that suggestion and that he and Cllr Hackett were arranging to attend a Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposal in greater detail.

Cllrs Owen and Hackett to attend a Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council meeting to discuss display of road closed signage during a flood event.

Millennium Wall

Cllr Owen reported that unfortunately the Millennium Wall in Holme Pierrepont had been hit again by a vehicle. Cllr Owen explained that he thought he would be able to carry out the repairs himself. Discussion took place regarding the Millennium Garden, and it was suggested that the slabbed area needed to be cleaned possibly by jet washing.

Clerk to include jet washing of the Millennium Garden area in Holme Pierrepont to the Streetwise quotation for jet washing of the Play Park.

Gloworm Festival

Cllr Owen spoke to the meeting about the Gloworm Family Festival taking place at Holme Pierrepont Country Park over three days between 16th and 18th August '24. Cllr Owen explained that the festival is anticipated to attract over 20 thousand visitors over the weekend and was flagging this up as a potential traffic issue, especially for the residents of Holme Pierrepont. Clerk confirmed that no information had been received regarding this. Meeting suggested a letter from the Parish Council to raise concerns over the potential traffic issues to ask for reassurance that this has been considered and mitigating measures devised ahead of the event.

Clerk to write letter to Holme Pierrepont Country Park to ask about traffic considerations for the upcoming Gloworm Festival.

Metal Bench Enhancements

Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he had carried out some initial investigations into the possibility of adding buddy bench material to the metal benches near the canal to improve their comfort levels and useability throughout all the seasons. Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he would investigate further and report back to the Parish Council meeting at a future date.

Cllr Fairgrieve to report back to the Parish Council regarding possible enhancements to the metal benches.

Sub-station Land in HP

Cllr Hackett explained that the new litter/dog waste bin near Skylarks Nature Reserve had been positioned on the opposite side of the road close to the problematic area by the sub-station land. Cllr Ubhi noted that as the bin was being regularly emptied by Streetwise the land around there was now much tidier, presumably due to regular attendance by Streetwise.

Clerk explained that she had received email and postal information from Land Registry, that she had not requested, but pertained to this area. Cllr Tisbury kindly offered to take the paperwork and decipher the information provided

Cllr Tisbury to interpret the Land Registry information received by the Clerk.

9.30pm Borough Cllr Wheeler left the meeting.

Cllr Prett told the meeting that the Gamston Litter Picking Group had collected their 700th bag of litter.

Cllr Prett spoke about new metal fencing and bridge at Skylarks Nature Reserve.

Cllr Hackett asked if there was a regular window cleaner at the Village Hall. Bookings Clerk explained that annually windows are cleaned inside and out by her window cleaner.

Bookings Clerk to arrange for Village Hall windows to be cleaned inside and out.

Cllr Owen spoke about the Parish Council Management Plan and suggested that a sub-committee comprising Cllrs Owen and Prett be created to review the document. Cllr Prett kindly agreed to join the Management Plan review sub-committee.

Management Plan due for review April '24.

Parish Defibrillators

Cllr Ubhi explained that all the parish defibrillators have been checked and are functioning correctly.

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

Cllr Ubhi raised concerns over the new seating arrangement whereby public seating is positioned near to the hall door. Cllr Ubhi referenced advice given during her career within the NHS whereby it was best practice when working with the public to have clear escape routes from any situation. Discussion took place and meeting agreed that the

layout of the room to be reversed with members of the public sitting at the air conditioning end of the room.

Bookings Clerk to set up Village Hall for Parish Council Meetings with tables and chairs for the Public at the air conditioning end of the room.

Clerk explained that she had carried out the Bookings Clerk role whilst the Bookings Clerk was on annual leave and wanted to revisit the booking hours advertised on the Village Hall Booking Form. Clerk explained that in her opinion 10pm weekdays and 11pm at the weekends end time were too late. Clerk and Bookings Clerk noted that the residential location of the hall was not conducive to late night bookings. Clerk also mentioned that she had felt vulnerable cleaning the hall alone at night and did not want to ask Bookings Clerk to do work she herself felt uncomfortable doing.

Discussion took place and Cllr Prett proposed and Cllr Owen seconded the motion that the latest booking hours should be changed to 8pm, with a note that any extension to that time limit strictly by prior approval by the Parish Council. Vote taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried.

Clerk to update bookings form and any associated documentation to reflect the revised booking hours.

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

Clerk still to speak with 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.

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.

6006. 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 Prett & Tisbury kindly agreed to sign off and authorise month's payments online.

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

Financial Year End 2023/2024

Clerk explained that the Parish Council financial year end was 31st March and that after that date she would be preparing the annual accounts for internal audit and eventual sign off for submission for external audit by PKF Littlejohn.

Clerk told the meeting that Unity Trust Bank had experienced difficulties with the insolvency of a third-party supplier resulting in an inability to provide new cheque books or paying in books. Clerk explained they now have a new third-party supplier on board and will be issuing new cheque books and paying in books in the near future.

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

6007. CLERKS REPORT

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

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

Clerk noted that the St Edmunds Church and Holme Pierrepont Hall Open Day is taking place on Sunday 14th April '24 between 11am and 4pm.

6008. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Cllr Mason is due to Chair this meeting.

The meeting ended at approximately 9.55pm.