

Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council**
Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road**

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

In attendance: Julia Barnes (Parish Clerk), Borough Cllrs Jonathan Wheeler & Davinder Viridi, Gary Dykes (Grantham Canal Society (GCS) Gamston Ranger) & Dr Darren Anderson

6125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ubhi addressed the meeting as the Acting Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Hackett sent her apologies due to being on holiday.

County Cllr Upton gave his apologies due to a clash with a Group meeting.

6126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

6127. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

6128. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Local parishioner Dr Darren Anderson has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Attendees at the meeting introduced themselves to Dr Anderson and in turn Dr Anderson introduced himself and gave the meeting some background information and explained his reasons for his interest in the Parish Council.

Cllr Owen suggested reading the Parish Council Management Plan would give a good overview of the functions of the Parish Council. Clerk asked where Dr Anderson had heard about the Parish Council vacancies. Dr Anderson said he hadn't seen a specific vacancy but got the details from the Ambleside notice board.

Clerk to email Parish Council Management Plan to Dr Anderson.

Dr Anderson to attend future Parish Council meetings.

Gary Dykes, GCS Gamston Ranger updated the meeting on activities pertaining to the Grantham canal in Gamston.

Gary explained that there has been some confusion over the process for contacting GCS via the website to notify of any issues along the canal. Gary noted that a new contact

email address had been established to report a problem. The address is reportaproblem@granthamcanal.org and it is monitored by GCS volunteers who will forward the details to the appropriate authority. Gary reiterated that this should be used for any issue within the water and along the towpath (WB side of the canal).

New GCS email address to be advertised in next edition of Parish News.

Gary Dykes to provide GCS article for next edition of Parish News, with information pertaining to Gamston.

Gary spoke about a recent meeting with the Morrisons store manager regarding positioning of a shipping container on Morrisons land at the back of the store, close to the canal towpath, to house canal maintenance equipment.

Gary spoke about the potential need for planning permission and the associated costs. Gary also mentioned that it was possible to find out before submitting a full application as to whether that would be required, but that would also incur a cost. Gary told the meeting that RBC planning department had suggested it was likely that full planning permission would be required.

Gary asked the meeting if this could be raised with Borough Cllr Wheeler when he arrived at the meeting, to ask if there could be any financial assistance from his Cllr Allowance to fund the planning process or possibly waive the pre-planning assessment fee.

Gary explained the container will be painted Brunswick Green to blend in with the environ and would be surrounded by harris fencing to deter graffiti. Gary noted that a physical presence along the canal hopefully would result in increased volunteer recruitment.

Cllr Fairgrieve suggested that a notice board could be positioned on the side of the shipping container. Gary agreed that was a good idea to advertise planned volunteer work parties.

Gary noted that local volunteers had worked on felling the damaged willow tree that had fallen into the canal during the Christmas storms, and they had also removed all the resulting rubbish.

Clerk to raise issue of planning permission costs associated with GCS shipping container with Borough Cllr Wheeler.

7.50pm Gary Dykes left the meeting.

6129. MINUTES

TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2024

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

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

6130. PLANNING

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

See Minute 6133. District Report.

- ii) 24/02191/FUL Suzy Lyon Two storey and single storey extension with associated parking, bin store and landscaping works Gamston Medical Centre, Ambleside, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6PS.

Deadline for comment : Friday 31st January '25

Application has been assigned to Cllr Tisbury for assessment, who made the initial observation that there were no obvious causes for concern, but the application was lacking in some detail. Cllr Tisbury noted that with increased building in the area there were extra pressures on the medical centre, but the number of doctors and residents is not given. Cllr Tisbury expressed concern for the parking provision as there is limited scope for increasing that. Cllr Tisbury suggested the plans could go further and make the single storey element, two storey with parking underneath.

Cllr Prett spoke about his involvement with the Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG).

Cllr Fairgrieve noted that the planned extension to the nearby Paper Moon nursery may also necessitate an increase in parking spaces.

Cllr Tisbury also spoke about the three proposed industrial units on the same site that will also inevitably create a demand for parking in the area.

Cllr Tisbury to draft a suggested response to the application and circulate to Cllrs ahead of the deadline date.

Cllr Owen asked Cllr Prett if he would kindly draft an article for the next Parish News regarding the Medical Centre and PPG, tying into the proposed extension to the surgery.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to speak with Cllr Tisbury once he has looked at this application.

6131. VILLAGE HALL

Monthly Update

Clerk read out the Bookings Clerk monthly update.

'All is well at the hall. As usual it was very quiet over the Christmas and New year period and all regular hirers back now.

I have a lady called Poppy wanting to trial a regular monthly booking on a Friday evening. She is a nature wellbeing practitioner and mindfulness guide and looking to run some indoor mindful and meditation sessions. She runs mostly outdoor sessions but looking for a monthly indoor session, she's trialling Friday 7th February to see how it goes.

I am going to write Aebal (Thursday evening group) an email this week about general housekeeping and the food in the fridge. I do normally try keep an eye on dates of their food etc, but in the new year I had to throw out yoghurts that were dated November and mouldy carrots. We have many other groups that wish to use the fridge facilities and having mouldy out of date food isn't ok.

Ann, who runs the Friday morning group, has done really well last term and is continuing, and possibly looking to extend her times, which is great. She is now a keyholder.

I have been in touch with Hayley who ran the Inhale baby group on a Monday about her getting the keys back to me. We don't want to find ourselves in the same situation as before where we lost track of who had keys.

I took the Christmas decorations down last weekend after the party we had in, they had asked if they could stay up for their party. All safely away in the cupboard. Will take the bottles to the bottle bank in the next week or so.

Had a small complaint about the heating on Friday but I think it was just turned up too high and hopefully you can all tell me its working perfectly.

Parties this coming month:

Saturday 18th Jan and Sunday 2nd Feb.

Also I wanted to say a massive thank you for Grace's gift and letter! She absolutely loved it, and it was such a lovely gesture to send it to her. Thank you all :)'

Clerk still to amend Booking Form wording to include damages and cleaning deposit and forward .pdf copy to Cllr Fairgrieve to upload to the website.

Warm Hub Coffee Morning

Cllr Owen explained that the Warm Hub coffee morning continued to run throughout the Christmas and New Year period and that it was a pleasant and interesting group, with one new person attending today. In order to try and expand the reach it was suggested that a local leaflet drop be organised. Cllr Owen encouraged any Parish Councillors that were free on a Monday morning to drop in to the Warm Hub coffee morning as it is worth attending.

Cllr Fairgrieve to continue to advertise the Warm Hub Coffee Morning on Gamston Community Facebook page.

Clerk to create Warm Hub posters for Parish noticeboards.

Clerk to create Warm Hub leaflets for distribution at Bel-Air mobile home park.

8.15pm Borough Cllr Wheeler & Viridi arrived at the meeting.

Clerk still to arrange application of ‘Wet & Forget’ to the Village Hall decking and balustrade.

Clerk to arrange for the outdoor power point cover at the front of the Village Hall to be replaced.

Clerk still to check insurance policy regarding liability for accidents if the large Village Hall gates and/or Village Hall door are accessible to hall hirers via a key stored in an outdoor keypad.

Concrete drop bolt base still to be created in order to prop open large Village Hall gates.

Clerk and Bookings Clerk still to arrange washing of the curtains at a launderette at a convenient time.

6132. COUNTY REPORT

County Cllr Upton had sent the Clerk an email to explain there was nothing new to report on County issues pertaining specifically to the Parish, other than the Government has now issued a White Paper promising unitary councils which will mean the end of Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council in the next couple of years.

6133. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler spoke about the upcoming new household recycling centre that is to be positioned next to the gritting depot off the A52, which is in close proximity to the Parish. Discussion took place as to how this would be accessed from the A52, and

concerns were raised over safety. Cllr Tisbury asked about the positioning of the site on green belt land. Cllr Wheeler explained that there were very few viable sites that NCC have the budget to purchase.

Cllr Tisbury asked if the original recycling centre site on Rugby Road would be sold for residential property development. Cllr Wheeler explained that there would be a high cost to rid the site of methane contamination in order for it to be suitable for residential development.

Cllr Fairgrieve noted that a reduced speed limit and traffic lights would be essential for safe access to the site as it is such a busy road. Cllr Wheeler agreed to pass that opinion on to the relevant personnel.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to raise the Parish Council concerns over safe accessing of the new recycling centre site and the suggestion that a reduced speed limit and traffic lights will be essential.

Borough Cllr Viridi spoke to the meeting about the Government White Paper that was issued before Christmas with proposals for local government reorganisation.

Cllr Viridi explained that the theoretical intention was to make government more efficient and cost effective by reducing tiers, but as it was early days the practicalities were yet to emerge. Cllr Viridi noted that as a borough and county all existing forms of structure will disappear and be replaced by a new structure. Cllr Viridi explained that the devolution deals that had created mayoral combined authorities would remain.

Cllr Viridi spoke about new electoral boundaries and elections but noted that this would not affect the next round of Borough elections. Cllr Viridi recognised that this process was in its infancy and there were a lot of unanswered questions. Cllr Viridi explained that by March 2025 the City and County councils are to produce an outline plan of the changes they would like to see implemented, and that is to evolve into a firm plan by September 2025. If no plan is forthcoming there is the possibility that changes will be imposed by Government.

Cllr Owen asked about the proposed impact on Parish Councils, the lowest tier of local government and whether they would disappear. Cllr Tisbury suggested that the lowest tier of local government would in fact grow with the changes. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that there was only one line pertaining to Parish Councils in the entire White Paper.

8.45pm Dr Anderson left the meeting.

Cllr Wheeler reiterated that in December 2025 kerbside glass recycling would be introduced across RBC. Households will be able to opt in for a 180-litre bin, smaller than the existing grey, blue and green bins, to be collected once every 4 weeks.

An opt in food waste recycling scheme is to be introduced in 2026. Cllr Wheeler explained that investment is needed in a facility to be able to recycle this type of waste.

Cllr Prett asked who is responsible for the provision of litter bins in bus stops. Cllr Prett explained that correspondence has been received regarding the eastbound bus stop on Radcliffe Road opposite The Lock public house regarding litter in the bus shelter. Cllr Wheeler noted that there was not a high footfall in this area and the source of the debris is more likely to be rubbish thrown from car windows.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to speak to County Cllr Upton regarding the possible addition of a waste bin to this bus shelter.

Planning

20/03244/OUT *Land East of Gamston*

Clerk raised the correspondence received from Bassingfield resident Diane Kidger in relation to the above application. Mrs Kidger had asked in her letter to both the Borough and Parish councils, ‘*As my local councillors can I please ask you to support Bassingfield in your response to the Gamston Fields planning application?*’

Cllr Tisbury explained that the position of the Parish Council is that we object to the application until a whole scheme masterplan is agreed and in place, and at this time there is no masterplan.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked about the stakeholders meeting that was due to take place before the end of January 2025. Cllr Wheeler explained that disappointingly this would not be taking place.

Discussion took place regarding the differing views of the two major developers regarding a link with this area and the rest of Gamston, either a roundabout or signalled junction. Cllr Tisbury noted that he had suggested back in 2010, when discussions were first taking place regarding this development, that it would in effect be a new town that must be self-sufficient in terms of services. It was noted that planning law is changing, and the developers are aware of that.

Meeting discussed and agreed for Cllr Tisbury to write a letter of support for Rushcliffe Borough Council’s insistence on a supplementary masterplan for the entire development before any housing applications are approved, to our local MP on behalf of the Parish Council. Letter to emphasise the importance of the local planning process and a disapproval of circumventing this process by contacting the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Tisbury to draft letter to local MP regarding Gamston Fields development and circulate to all Cllrs and Clerk.

6134. PLAY PARK

Phase 2 Inclusive Play Equipment Update

Clerk explained that the Phase 2 equipment had been installed, and the two Play Park notice boards had been relocated to the park boundary and noted that the play park was looking good, and the new equipment was already being well used.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked if the football table had been placed at the correct height as it was too high for small children to access. Cllr Prett noted that the specification for the equipment could be checked against the height of installation.

Cllr Prett and Clerk to check the table football game specifications against the actual installation.

Path Works

Clerk told the meeting that Ainsley Asphalt had been selected by her and Cllr Prett to carry out the path works at the Play Park, and work was due to start on Monday 20th January '25, anticipated to take 2 days. Clerk explained that during the works the play park would be completely closed and residents would be notified via a Facebook message kindly posted by Cllr Fairgrieve.

Cllr Fairgrieve to post an information message regarding park closure on Gamston Community Facebook page ahead of path works starting.

Clerk to liaise with Ainsley Asphalt during works.

Clerk explained that there was still a considerable amount of work required by herself and Cllr Prett to satisfy the requirements for the final grant payments towards the project.

Cllr Stacey thanked Clerk and Cllr Prett for all their hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

Clerk and Cllr Prett to meet to complete all work required for final grant payments from RBC and NCC.

Clerk still to arrange interim MUGA clean by Bingham Ground Services to coincide with the Phase 2 equipment opening event.

Clerk still to forward a proposal to County Cllr Upton for supply and installation of seating for dog owners with children to rest outside the Play Park area.

Clerk to arrange for a concrete base for the bench, similar to the Buddy Bench base, to be created.

Clerk to arrange purchase and installation of bench.

Cllr Prett and Clerk still to further investigate and obtain quotations for the addition of brightly coloured graphics on the Play Park tarmac paths.

6135. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Holme Lane

Cllr Owen explained that a West Bridgford Wire article released on 17th December '24 regarding the gating and permanent closure to cars of Holme Lane caused a considerable amount of confusion, as it did not include in the list of key holders, all residents of the

hamlet of Holme Pierrepont. All previous communication had assured residents that they would have key holder access, and the support received for the scheme relied upon this.

Cllr Owen explained that he had liaised with VIA and Notts County Council and HP residents before Christmas, to ascertain definitive clarity on the situation. Cllr Owen quoted a letter of assurance received by residents in July '24 that stated residents would be granted key holder status to the lane.

Cllr Owen read to the meeting his response to key stakeholders as a result of the WB Wire article. Cllr Owen stressed that the HP community need reassurance of the previously confirmed detail regarding key holders, especially after the recent flooding of Holme Lane between Radcliffe-on-Trent and HP. Cllr Owen noted that when this flood situation reoccurs after the installation of gates, residents without keys would be trapped in HP for vehicular access.

Cllr Owen to forward the associated documentation previously received on to the Clerk.

Cllr Owen to liaise with County Cllr Upton, VIA & NCC regarding written clarification for all residents that they will be afforded key holder status once the lane is closed to vehicular traffic.

Clerk to support requirement for written clarification regarding key holders by drafting letter on behalf of HP&G Parish Council, if required.

Cllr Mason expressed his disappointment at the lack of County Council action regarding resolving the potholes in the area.

9.30pm Borough Cllrs Wheeler & Viridi left the meeting.

Cllr Stacey spoke about the recent flooding of Holme Lane between HP and Radcliffe-on-Trent. Cllr Stacey explained that she notified the HP residents that the access road to Radcliffe-on-Trent was impassable. Cllr Stacey and her husband transported and positioned the HP flood warning signage, causing some damage to their car.

Cllr Stacey noted that a small sign was required for positioning near Jubilee House, to notify residents that the road beyond is flooded.

Cllr Stacey explained that she had received notification from Rainbows Hospice that the amount we collected at the Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall event was £163.10. Cllr Stacey expressed slight disappointment at this total and commented that year on year the amount donated was gradually reducing.

Cllr Fairgrieve asked if it was obvious that the event was raising funds for Rainbows Hospice. Cllr Stacey confirmed that this was communicated on all advertising and at the event.

Cllr Stacey spoke about the upcoming 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May '25 and asked the meeting if they would like for her to arrange the flying of a commemorative flag at the Village Hall and bell ringers at HP, as she had done last year for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Meeting thanked Cllr Stacey and agreed that they would appreciate this recognition of the VE Day anniversary.

Cllr Stacey to arrange commemorative flag flying and bell ringing for 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Bassingfield Notice Board

Cllr Ubhi had previously circulated a picture of the Bassingfield notice board demonstrating the problem with visibility. Clerk to provide locations and notice board keys to Cllr Fairgrieve in order for him to visit each of the Parish notice boards and report back on their condition and functionality.

Clerk to provide Cllr Fairgrieve with location details of Parish notice boards and spare keys in order to carry out independent assessment and report back to a future PC meeting.

Cllr Ubhi confirmed that all the Parish defibrillators had been checked ahead of the meeting.

Clerk to update Parish defibrillators status on The Circuit website after Cllr Ubhi's monthly check.

Clerk noted that she and Cllr Prett had received communication from local resident regarding repairs to the Parish Council telephone box glass and the question of a mosaic floor to historically represent the area.

Clerk, Cllr Prett and local resident to arrange meeting to discuss suggestions for Parish Council telephone box.

Cllr Hackett still to carry out further investigation regarding inclusion of EpiPens in our defibrillator cabinets.

Cllr Fairgrieve to investigate costs and functionality of alternative Parish Council website providers over the next year.

Cllr Fairgrieve to share links to 'The Village Idiot' Facebook posts pertaining to our parish with Parish Councillors.

Clerk still to contact Mervin Oddjobber to ascertain if they could fit if we supply the bench materials for the metal bench at the canal side.

Clerk to arrange purchase of Option 2 metal bench materials.

Quotations still to be obtained for the paving work required to the Millennium Garden at Holme Pierrepont, possibly combining with the work to close Holme Lane as and when that occurs.

Clerk still to make contact with Tara's Angels in the first instance as they are a charity local to Gamston regarding gifting summer play day sports equipment.

6136. 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.

2025/2026 Financial Year – Discussion and Sign Off Precept Request

Clerk had previously issued Cllrs with a first draft budget for the 2025/2026 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 2026, Cllr Tisbury proposed and Cllr Stacey seconded the motion that a total budget of £46,110 was required for the coming financial year, £2,500 of which is to be taken from Parish Council reserves and the remaining £43,610 to be requested as precept. This equates to a 5.7% increase on the previous year. Vote taken, unanimously in favour, motion carried.

Members Allowance

Discussion took place regarding the level of Members Allowance, currently at £60. Suggestion was made to remove Members Allowance altogether. Cllr Tisbury proposed a reduction by 50% to Members Allowance to £30 each. Vote was taken. All Cllrs in favour except Cllr Mason. Motion carried.

Hall Hire Fees

Discussion took place regarding the level of hall hire fees and the infrequent nature of increase and meeting decided it was preferable to apply a small increase annually rather than a large increase intermittently.

Clerk to liaise with Bookings Clerk for input regarding hire hall fees increase and implementation of the change.

Clerk to submit the necessary precept budget documentation to Rushcliffe Borough Council by the 31st January '25 deadline.

Clerk still to provide Conclusion of Audit file for Cllr Fairgrieve to upload to the Accounts area of the HP&G PC website.

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.

Clerk to submit VAT reclaim for financial year ended 31st March 2024.

6137. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk explained that she had received an email via the HP&G PC website complaining about an individual associated with the Parish Council that had approached the parishioner at home asking for removal of garden waste from the front of the property. The correspondent stressed that he was currently clearing his garden, the waste was neatly and safely stacked on land that clearly belongs to him by evidence of the title deeds and therefore was entitled to leave his property there.

Clerk asked if anyone had any information regarding this correspondence. Cllr Mason explained that he had approached the householder as he thought the items should be removed.

Clerk still to help organise a work party to clear nettles on path leading up to bridge near Morrisons.

6138. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as **Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.15pm in Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road.**

Cllr Stacey agreed to chair this meeting.

The meeting ended at approximately 10.15pm.