Minutes of the Meeting of **Holme Pierrepont & Gamston Parish Council** Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.15pm in **Gamston Village Hall, Old Tollerton Road**

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

In attendance: Julia Barnes (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Roger Upton, Borough Cllr Jonathan Wheeler, Rebecca Logue (Bookings Clerk) & Gary Dykes (Grantham Canal Society Gamston Ranger)

6080. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Cllr Stacey sent her apologies due to being on holiday.

Cllr Tisbury sent his apologies due to being on holiday.

Cllr Ubhi sent her apologies due to another engagement.

Borough Cllr Virdi gave his apologies due to being away in London.

6081. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

6082. ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes proposed to the order of business.

6083. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present.

6084. MINUTES

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

Cllr Prett proposed, and Cllr Hackett seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Vote was taken, unanimously in favour. Motion carried and Minutes were adopted.

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

6085. GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY (GCS) UPDATE

Gary Dykes introduced himself as the GCS Gamston ranger and gave the meeting an overview of the volunteer work he does. The Grantham Canal is 33 miles long with over 30 rangers patrolling its length. Gary explained that the stretch he is responsible for runs from Ambleside to Gamston Bridge at Radcliffe Road. He regularly walks that stretch of the canal, litter picking and carrying out minor maintenance tasks such as cutting back nettles and brambles. Gary, and all the rangers, report larger problems to a GCS work party for resolution.

Gary explained that recently he and some local volunteers had removed 6 trollies from the canal. Gary noted that it was most likely a handful of children causing the problem, and that this could cause significant harm to the wildlife in and around the canal, as well as being dangerous to fool around near water. Discussion took place regarding the fact that Morrisons trolleys are free to access and whether this problem would be reduced by reintroducing the £1 coin access trolleys. It was noted that research suggests that customers using a basket rather than a trolley spend considerably less per shop, and consequently unlikely for the current system to be changed.

Gary noted that he also looks out for any dead fish and if swans and other birds are injured reports these issues to Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary.

Gary explained that using his expertise from his previous career as a software developer he is currently working on a database for all rangers to use. Gary explained that the Canal & River Trust (CRT) had no obligation to maintain the canal, just the towpath. Gary told the meeting how CRT funding has been drastically cut but GCS try and assist by providing materials to help repair the canal banks.

Gary explained the entire length of the canal is classified as either accessible to boats and mooring or 'canal under restoration' which applies to the stretch in our Parish. Gary noted that the volunteer group WeBCan had formally adopted the stretch of canal from Ambleside to the River Trent in order to be able to carry out work within the canal channel. WeBCan have been working on removing reeds from the canal which are increasingly choking the waterway. Where to put the extracted reeds has been an issue. In the Lady Bay section of the canal permission has been given by local landowners to drag the reeds in tonne bags, via paddle boards across the canal, to the edges of the fields to rot down and form mulch and fertiliser. This is not an option available to the Gamston stretch. If reeds are stacked on the canal banks to decompose, the rotting organic matter putrefies generating a rancid stench. Therefore it is essential extracted reeds are taken away but Streetwise charge around £100 per bag for this service. Cllr Hackett asked if the reeds could be taken and burned. Gary explained that the issue was the cost of moving the reeds from the canal bank. Cllr Wheeler noted that any green waste taken from the canal, could not be recycled with regular garden waste as it has been in the water and must be disposed of separately.

Discussion took place regarding ways in which the Parish Council could help to maintain the canal as an asset and amenity for Parish residents and the wider community. Cllr Owen asked if Gary Dykes could prepare an article for our upcoming autumn Parish newsletter. Gary explained that donations from County & Borough Cllrs towards the cost of removing reeds were greatly appreciated. Gary noted that help with clearing the overgrown nettles on the path leading to the bridge near to Morrisons would be a useful project for the Parish Council to facilitate.

Cllr Fairgrieve mentioned the previously identified erosion of the canal bank, close to the Parish Council metal benches, on the opposite side to the towpath, which is worsening and presents a safety hazard for pets, children and adults alike. Gary Dykes asked that Cllr Fairgrieve send him details and he will talk to the CRT and report the defect.

Gary Dykes spoke about the spill weir that feeds into the brook that in turn feeds into Holme Pierrepont where the concrete has been collapsing. The GCS spent two Saturdays repairing this damage.

County Cllr Upton spoke about the use of one of the empty Adbolton Cottages as a base for WeBCan equipment storage. Gary Dykes explained that there were interim plans to position a shipping container on the grassy area between the canal and Morrisons car park for equipment storage. Cllr Upton noted that planning permission would be required for this.

Borough Cllr Wheeler thanked Gary Dykes very much for all he did, it is much appreciated. Cllr Wheeler asked Gary Dykes to send an email regarding any possible community funding that Cllr Wheeler may be able to provide.

Gary Dykes to forward a GCS Gamston Ranger article for the autumn Parish Newsletter.

Clerk suggested when preparing budget for '25/'26 financial year a contribution towards maintenance of the Grantham Canal in our parish could be included.

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

Cllr Fairgrieve to send details of canal bank erosion near parish metal benches to Gary Dykes.

Gary Dykes to email Borough Cllr Wheeler regarding possible community funding for GCS.

8.05pm Gary Dykes left the meeting.

6086. COUNTY REPORT

County Cllr Upton spoke about the longstanding issues with flooding at the A52 end of Bassingfield Lane. Cllr Upton explained that he had made representations on behalf of the houses affected in that area to NCC Highways and National Highways who explained that on top of the work carried out here last year they were 'reviewing all options.'

Cllr Upton spoke about the letter of support from Ben Bradley for a new 3G football pitch on Regatta Way for West Bridgford Colts Football Club. Cllr Hackett spoke about the considerable matchday parking issues on the roadside near to the club. Meeting spoke about the fact that although WB Colts have two off road car parks, reasons parking occurs on the roadside may be that one car park is very muddy during winter months, one is close to the pitches so there is the danger of stray balls hitting parked cars and also parking

on the road ensures a quick departure after games. Cllr Wheeler agreed to raise the onroad parking issue with the WB Colts Chair.

Borough Cllr Wheeler to speak with WB Colts Chair regarding problematic onroad football parking on Regatta Way.

Clerk still to submit a proposal for funding from County Cllr Upton for the agreed bench outside the Play Park railings for people with dogs.

6087. DISTRICT REPORT

Borough Cllr Wheeler told the meeting that he had also supported the plans for a 3G pitch at WB Colts FC.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the Greater Notts Strategic Plan and the need for thorough consideration of the approved strategy to prevent undesirable development being forced upon the Borough. Cllr Wheeler also spoke about the distribution of houses between city and county and the need for the city to generate more income by increasing its' council tax base. Cllr Wheeler explained that most of the city housing development was for students who do not pay council tax.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about a significant amount of fly-tipping at the Morrisons bottle bank where the perpetrator had been identified and fined using an addressed bill discarded amongst the waste. Cllr Wheeler stressed that RBC would pursue fly tippers for fines. Cllr Wheeler reminded the meeting that when disposing of household items, not to place them on the public highway or footpath, as you will be subject to fly tipping laws and risk being fined. Cllr Wheeler explained that all items must be within your own property boundary.

Cllr Wheeler said that a fourth refuse bin would be rolled out in Rushcliffe eventually to recycle glass on a monthly basis. This will be a smaller wheelie bin than the current grey, blue and green bins. Cllr Wheeler noted that a household food waste scheme would also be implemented at some point in the future.

Cllr Mason asked why houses couldn't be built on the land off Regatta Way. Cllr Wheeler explained that this was a flood plain.

Cllr Wheeler spoke about the fact that the WB recycling centre would be moving from Rugby Road to a larger more accessible location in the near future. Cllr Hackett asked why incentivised recycling was not adopted in Rushcliffe, a few pence refunded for each item recycled, which works incredibly well in Australia. Cllr Wheeler agreed that any ideas that would improve recycling rates should be pursued but it was a question of priorities for limited funds, administrating the initiative and the differences in recycling culture. Discussion took place about recycling. Cllr Wheeler explained that a large percentage of blue and green bins collected in the borough are cross-contaminated and therefore the contents are sent to landfill. Cllr Owen spoke about how a punnet of raspberries is made up of 3 elements that are all to be recycled separately and stressed that at source packaging should be made to be easy to recycle.

Cllr Mason asked about the plans for County Hall to be turned into a hotel. Cllr Upton explained that this had been explored 9 years ago but no need had been identified, currently 'options were still being considered' for the building.

6088. PLANNING

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

No update on this application.

ii) 24/01573/FUL Mr & Mrs Hill Rear Dormer Roof Extension 10 Kirkstone Drive, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6NT.

Parish Council Response: DO NOT OBJECT

This is an approximately 2m high by 3m wide dormer roof extension, with a skylight, no window overlooking Mr and Mrs Barr's property.

The Parish Council have taken note of Mr and Mrs Barr's comments and fully reviewed the proposal using Google satellite imagery and Streetview to get a clear idea of the orientation of the respective properties, and see no reason to object.

The addition will be slightly more imposing and cast more shade at certain times of the day but the distance between the properties is sufficient for this not to cause significant detrimental impact. The Parish Council believe neither of these reasons, in themselves, are valid reasons for an application to be declined, although this will be determined by RBC.

Clerk has submitted response to the online RBC planning portal on behalf of the Parish Council.

iii) 24/01576/FUL Danielle Ford Demolition and rebuild of annex including garage conversion into part of annex Rosedene, Old Tollerton Road, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6NN.

Parish Council Response : DO NOT OBJECT

Clerk to submit response to the online RBC planning portal on behalf of the Parish Council.

iv) 24/01634/FUL Mr & Mrs John & Lucie Gregory Single storey rear extension. Alteration to fenestration. (Retrospective) Fox Cottage, Radcliffe Road, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6NR.

Parish Council Response: DO NOT OBJECT

This extension is not visible from the road, and we believe that this is a development of an already agreed planned extension, an alteration necessitated by the discovery of an existing shared foul water pipe. This extension is smaller than that to which we did not object in 2022 and therefore also do not object to this application.

Clerk to submit response to the online RBC planning portal on behalf of the Parish Council.

v) 24/01628/FUL Matthew Heather Single storey rear/side extension includes orangery and side canopy area. Single storey front extension with new front open porch and installation of flue to main roof. 1 Tilberthwaite Close, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6QP.

Parish Council Response: DO NOT OBJECT

The proposed front extension is small and is set well back from the road, the side and rear extensions do not negatively impact any neighbouring property or raise any other concerns.

Clerk to submit response to the online RBC planning portal on behalf of the Parish Council.

vi) 24/01464/FUL Mr Daniel Chambers Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of single storey side and rear kitchen/living/garage extension. Rosewood Cottage, Radcliffe Road, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, NG2 6NR.

Parish Council Response: DO NOT OBJECT

In 2021 more extensive extensions and improvements to Rosewood Cottage were approved (20/02728/FUL) but the building work never happened. Therefore we do not object to the current application (24/01464/FUL).

Clerk to submit response to the online RBC planning portal on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hackett had previously circulated a long-range photograph of a building in Holme Pierrepont which had been approved as a shed/workshop, but Cllr Hackett asked if it had actually been turned into a residential dwelling. Meeting agreed that it was not conclusive from the photograph and more accurate details regarding location were required.

6089. VILLAGE HALL

Monthly Update

Bookings Clerk updated the meeting in person regarding the Village Hall over the last month.

Bookings Clerk noted that InHale Baby Yoga group that had previously hired the Village Hall on a Monday morning had not rebooked for the autumn term due to a drop in attendees, with the hope that they may return in the new year, but Bookings Clerk had not heard anything regarding this to date.

Bookings Clerk told the meeting that a new Pilates group was starting on 8th November '24 with a regular Friday morning slot.

Bookings Clerk explained that the Sanar Yoga group had moved their regular Thursday evening booking to a Tuesday evening.

Bookings Clerk explained that after discussion with the Clerk, £15 had been deducted from the damages deposit for a weekend party booking that had left the hall floor in a very dirty state and it had taken an extra hour to clean. Bookings Clerk noted that this was the first time this had been deemed necessary. Bookings Clerk flagged that the Booking form described this deposit payment as being for damages but for clarity the inclusion of wording regarding extra cleaning should be added.

Clerk to amend Booking Form wording as per above and forward .pdf copy to Cllr Fairgrieve to upload to the website.

Bookings Clerk to receive damages deposit deduction as the extra cleaning required was performed as overtime.

Potential New Regular Booking

Clerk had previously circulated details of a potential new regular Village Hall booking to all Cllrs for their perusal. All aspects of the booking had been documented including the regular nature, two sessions every Sunday throughout the year. The group would only necessitate the parking of two vehicles for their sessions. The group is a Christian sect, all members living outside of the Parish, but there would not be any opportunity for parishioners to ever join the group. After considered discussion and debate it was unanimously agreed that this would not be a suitable regular booking for our community-based building. All other groups that currently regularly using the Village Hall are open to parishioners should they choose to join. The Village Hall is a community asset and if this regular booking were accepted, would never be available to the community on a Sunday, should they wish to use it.

Clerk to telephone prospective regular Sunday hall hire group to explain that unfortunately we will not be able to progress this enquiry.

8.45pm County Cllr Upton, Borough Cllr Wheeler and Bookings Clerk left the meeting.

Seniors Coffee Morning

Cllr Hackett had previously forwarded an idea to the Clerk regarding a weekly winter coffee morning at the Village Hall for older people. Clerk had circulated this idea ahead of the meeting to all Cllrs for discussion.

Cllr Hackett explained that a lot of money and effort was focused on children in the parish, but less on our older residents. Cllr Hackett told the meeting that she had discussed the idea with Cllrs Ubhi and Owen, who were happy to support the initiative with their time.

After discussion it was agreed to trial the coffee morning initiative in December '24, every Monday morning from 10.30am until noon, starting on Monday 2nd December '24. This is the first Monday after the Parish Council Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall event and there will inevitably be left over refreshments that can be utilised for the first coffee morning.

Clerk to create a coffee morning advert for inclusion in the Autumn newsletter, notice boards and for Cllr Fairgrieve to post on Facebook.

Clerk to book Village Hall every Monday morning in December '24.

Handy Man Update

Clerk explained that an excellent handy man, arranged through Mervin Oddjobber, had carried out a day of repairs at the Village Hall and Play Park and, although a little more expensive that David Litchfield our previous handy man, had proved to be punctual, helpful and produced work of a high standard.

Clerk explained that the annual air conditioning service was taking place later this week.

Clerk explained that she had purchased 'Wet & Forget' and would arrange for application on the Village Hall decking at a suitable time in terms of weather conditions and hall availability.

Clerk to arrange application of 'Wet & Forget' on the Village Hall decking and balustrade.

Clerk to produce a key deposit form for new regular hall users when issued with a Village Hall key.

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.

Clerk still to arrange purchase of new Bookings Clerk mobile phone of a similar specification to the Parish Clerk mobile phone.

Bookings Clerk to record answerphone message.

Cllr Fairgrieve to add message to the Bookings website as agreed with Bookings Clerk.

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.

6090. PLAY PARK

New Equipment Update

Clerk explained that she and Cllr Prett were working on Phase 2 of the inclusive play equipment project and were due to meet with Proludic Ltd on site in the near future to plan positioning of the new equipment.

Cllr Owen spoke about the recent receipt of two letters from parishioners praising the Parish Council for their work at the Play Park and he acknowledged that it was rare to receive praise, more likely to receive complaints, but the praise was well deserved.

Slow Close Gates

Clerk explained that she had arranged for South Notts Fabrications (SNF), who relocated the fencing and gate, to take a look at the malfunctioning front gate. Clerk explained that they had removed and rehung the gate and it was now closing satisfactorily, perhaps a little faster than before, but still slowly enough, and at a speed suitable for a gate facing a main road. Clerk noted she had not received the invoice for the work yet, and that she had unlocked the gate and removed the closure signage.

Bench Outside Park Railings

Clerk to progress project to provide a bench outside the side gate at the Village Hall.

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 obtain details for preparing a concrete base for the bench, similar to the Buddy Bench base.

Clerk to arrange purchase and installation of bench.

Autumn Regular Maintenance

Clerk explained that Gary Arkless had kindly collected the leaf blower from the Village Hall before the parish council meeting in order to carry out regular maintenance at the Play Park over the autumn and winter.

Clerk explained that Gary Arkless had noted that on a number of occasions the Play Park bins have been emptied by foxes with rubbish strewn on the ground and suggested that the bins be elevated to prevent this happening.

Cllr Mason explained that the Play Park bins were regularly and efficiently emptied by Streetwise. Meeting discussed the issue of foxes and as this was the first time this had been mentioned agreed to monitor. The suggestion of raising the level of the bins was not considered a viable option, partly due to the height they would need to be raised to, to ensure inaccessibility to wildlife.

Clerk to arrange annual review of Parish trees and woodland.

Clerk to add extra Play Park Repairs budget amount to the '25/'26 precept request.

6091. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Metal Bench Enhancements

Clerk explained that this was on her to do list but had been deprioritised over other packages of work.

Clerk still to contact Mervin Oddjobber to ascertain if they could fit if we supply the bench materials.

Clerk to arrange purchase of Option 2 bench materials.

Holme Lane

Cllr Owen confirmed there was nothing further to report on the closure of Holme Lane at this time as. Cllr Owen understood that an objection report has been written and passed to Notts County Council to escalate through the relevant departments for comment before it is presented to the Group Manager for Highways & Transport for a decision to be made.

Autumn Newsletter

Cllr Owen explained that he had met with the Parish Clerk and Susan Toon to plan the Autumn Newsletter. Cllr Owen noted that Cllr Prett had kindly provided a number of inclusions for the newsletter.

Clerk to create an advert for the Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall event.

Clerk to create advert and article advertising Seniors Coffee Morning.

Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall – Sat 30th November '24 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Clerk confirmed that all plans were in place for the Christmastime event at the Village Hall and thanked in advance all Cllrs that were able to help on the day setting up, during the event and tidying away afterwards.

Cllr Prett noted that we must ensure this year that there is adequate lighting available for Karen Hewitt the Balloon Modeller in the gazebo next to the defibrillator unit.

Cllr Prett also explained that there was some damage to the outside power point at the front of the Village Hall and it would be necessary to purchase a watertight extension cable box large enough to house the outdoor Christmas light plugs and their transformer units.

Clerk reminded the meeting of the plans to advertise the work of the Parish Council at the Christmas event and the necessity for photo ID lanyards for Cllrs and Clerks. Cllr Mason asked if ID arm bands would be provided. Cllr Owen explained that the ID would take the form of a lanyard with photograph ID. Cllr Fairgrieve kindly agreed to investigate provision of photo ID cards and Parish Council lanyards, liaise with Clerk and organise the purchase of these in time for the Christmas event.

Cllr Fairgrieve to investigate lighting options for Karen Hewitt the Balloon Modeller.

Cllr Prett to investigate suitable outdoor extension cable boxes in order for Clerk to purchase in time for Christmas event.

Cllr Fairgrieve to investigate the production of photo ID lanyards for members of the Parish Council for identification purposes at Parish Council events.

Parish Council stall to be added to Christmastime at Gamston Village Hall event.

Clerk confirmed that despite Cllr Ubhi not being able to attend the meeting, Cllr Ubhi had checked all the Parish defibrillators ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Prett explained that he had spoken to EMAS regarding how we ensure that we are aware if any of our defibrillators are used and also how often we should be checking them. EMAS confirmed that we were doing everything correctly to ensure that our defibrillators are accessible and ready for use should they be required.

Cllr Hackett raised the issue of inclusion of an EpiPen (epinephrine autoinjector) in each defibrillator cabinet. Meeting suggested costings should be acquired, also confirmation that they are able to be stored within the cabinets and if it is possible to register them as with the defibrillators or possibly add a sticker to the cabinet as with the bleed kits.

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

Clerk to buy replacement defib pads for HP defibrillator in order for Cllr Ubhi to fit the new equipment and dispose of the out-of-date equipment

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

Cllr Fairgrieve explained that he and his partner had spent five long hours identifying the four-digit code to unlock the Parish Council cable locks. Clerk thanked Cllr Fairgrieve for his perseverance and patience.

Cllr Mason reminded the meeting of the Remembrance Service at St Edmund's Church on Sunday 10th November '24.

Cllr Owen explained that the Holme Lane Flood Wardens for the Radcliffe-on-Trent end of the lane had been agreed through liaison with the Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council. Cllr Owen was delighted to announce that Anne McLeod and Rachel Benzils have agreed to help coordinate any closure of Holme Lane therefore avoiding Holme Pierrepont residents being endangered by travelling through flood waters.

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 gather Summer Play Day games equipment together and make contact with Tara's Angels in the first instance as they are a charity local to Gamston.

6092. 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.

Clerk explained that she had received the Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 from PKF Littlejohn auditors.

Clerk to issue Conclusion of Audit notices for all notice boards.

Clerk 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.

6093. CLERKS REPORT

Clerk explained that she had received a call from Vision ICT with regard to the current format of our HP&G PC website, explaining that it would not be supported beyond November '25. Clerk explained that this would necessitate the purchase of a new website, either from Vision ICT or another provider. Cllr Fairgrieve asked if there was any documentation related to this change. Clerk confirmed that there was not but had been advised that written details would be received next year. Meeting questioned as to whether we actually need a website. Clerk explained that there is a legal obligation for Parish Council's to maintain a website, which doesn't have to be complex, but allows public access to accounting records and a means to acquire approved meeting minutes.

6094. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Cllr Tisbury has agreed to chair this meeting.

The meeting ended at approximately 9.45pm.