

Annual Parish Meeting of Gamston with West Drayton & Eaton Parish Council

Minutes of **Gamston with West Drayton & Eaton Annual Parish Meeting** held on the 8th May 2025 at Gamston School, the meeting commenced at 6:15pm. **Council Members & Officer Present:**

Cllr Simon Chandler	Chairman
Cllr Donna Ramsden	Cllr Tom Adam
Cllr Sarah Argent-Cook	Cllr Richard Harding
Cllr Richard Vernon	Cllr Heather Salmon
Julie Tisi	Clerk/RFO

Also Present: 1 members of the public

1. Introductions

Cllr Chandler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Appointment of Chairman

Cllr Chandler chaired the meeting.

3. Apologies

The Parish Council resolved to accept apologies from Cllrs Mee, Davies, Moakes and Worthington.

4. Parish Council Chairmans Report

I would like to extend a personal note of thanks to all my fellow councillors for their continued commitment and invaluable assistance in ensuring that the Parish Council remains a strong and active voice for the communities we serve.

Over the past year, we've made great strides in improving accessibility, from enhancing our website to publishing informative monthly reports in The Idle Times detailing our meetings. Notably, we also designed a Parish Council logo and introduced an Action Plan to guide our work. In July, we were pleased to welcome Cllr Heather Salmon as the new representative for Gamston. A special mention must go to our amazing Clerk, Julie Tisi. None of what we do would be possible without her. Julie's relentless dedication to finding the right people to answer the questions raised by our residents is truly commendable. Her efficiency is unmatched — often providing minutes the very next day — ensuring councillors have all necessary information while discussions remain fresh in our minds. Thank you, Julie.

Another key member of our team is the Lengthsman. Sadly, in September, we accepted the resignation of our first Lengthsman, Glenn Rutherford. We extend heartfelt thanks to both him and his wife for their dedication and contribution to improving the Parish. In October, we welcomed Chris Fox as our new Lengthsman, and we hope residents will offer him a warm welcome as he begins his duties across our villages.

Our relationship with the District and County Councils has been mixed. While we've faced frustration at times due to delays or lack of support on several key issues — including road quality, pedestrian safety, and planning matters — we have worked hard to keep communication lines open. Our aim remains to ensure that all agencies deliver on their responsibilities. At Cllr Ogle's last meeting, we thanked him sincerely for his many years of support and positive action on behalf of our Parish.

Our Parish Beat Manager, PC Marsh, and the wider police service have continued to offer reliable support whenever needed, and we thank them for their ongoing dedication to community safety.

Throughout the year, we've persistently engaged with Highways to address ongoing concerns. These include the long-standing flooding at Dover Bottom, poor road conditions on Church Lane, and — after five years of lobbying — the successful installation of signs and bollards in Eaton. We also continue to push for progress on Muttonshire Hill, the footpath from Rockley to Markham Moor, and the reopening of the footpath from West Drayton to Rockley.

Among other positive initiatives, the Parish Council has been actively involved in flood preparedness, including supporting the Community Flood Signage Scheme. We have also worked to help secure CCTV approval for Eaton and have begun shaping a future for the Five Villages Trust to become the charity it was originally intended to be.

5. Five Villages Trust Report

FVT Progress Report

This year, the FVT has continued to develop a robust framework for the charity through a series of meetings. This work is aimed at updating the charity's Terms of Reference and establishing a lasting structure to guide future members.

As part of this process, two key committees are being developed to work collaboratively on behalf of the Trustees to deliver the charity's vision: a community-based facility that promotes the health and wellbeing of all residents in our Parishes.

- The Strategic Committee will oversee the overall direction and financial management of the charity. Acting on behalf of the Trustees, this committee will ensure that all funding is allocated and spent in accordance with the charity's core values.
- The Operational Committee, currently in the process of being established, will be responsible for the practical delivery of the Trust's activities. This includes managing the day-to-day operations of the facility, handling bookings, and overseeing events.

All those involved remain committed to creating a facility that serves the entire community and can operate smoothly and efficiently.

Opening Balance 1st April 2024 **£ 1,529.28**

Closing Balance 31st March 2025 **£ 1,975.88**

Receipts:

28 th June	£500 Gamston C of E School
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Payments:

30 th June	£18 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge
31 st October	£5.40 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge
30 th November	£6 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge
31 st December	£6 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge
31 st January	£6 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge
28 th February	£6 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge
30 th March	£6 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge

To be discussed in more detail during the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

6. Gamston C of E Primary School Report - Prepared by: Chris Edwards, Headteacher

1. Introduction

Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School continues to thrive as a nurturing environment where pupils are encouraged to "Be the best you can be," embodying our vision to "Shine like lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). Our core values of Kindness, Resilience, and Hope guide our daily practises and interactions.

2. School Context

- Number on Roll (NOR): 111
- Pupil Premium (PP): 7%
- English as an Additional Language (EAL): 9%
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): 13%
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP): 1%

3. Recent Achievements

- 9th Ranked School in Nottinghamshire: In January 2025, we were delighted to share the news that our school had been ranked the 9th highest achieving primary school in the whole of Nottinghamshire in new government performance data.
- OFSTED Inspection: We are proud to report that our recent inspection (March 2024) resulted in a "Good" rating across all areas, including Leadership and Management, Quality of Education, and Early Years. This reflects our commitment to providing a high-quality educational experience for all pupils.
- Curriculum Development: We have made significant strides in enhancing our curriculum, particularly in supporting pupils with SEND. Our subject leaders are actively working to ensure that all pupils can access the curriculum effectively.
- Reading Initiatives: We have implemented new strategies to develop reading fluency among our pupils, which has shown promising results in improving literacy skills.

4. Community Engagement

- Partnerships: We actively cultivate robust relationships with local organisations and the broader school community. This commitment strengthens our community ties and creates enriching opportunities for our pupils to engage meaningfully with the wider community.
- Events: Our school has hosted various events that promote community involvement, including half-termly church services, Christmas and summer fayres and Macmillan coffee mornings.

5. Future Priorities

- Continuous Provision in EYFS: We are focusing on developing continuous provision in our Early Years Foundation Stage to enhance learning experiences for our youngest pupils. This includes significant building alterations planned for summer 2025.
- Ongoing Improvement: We remain committed to our school improvement priorities, ensuring that we provide the best possible education for all pupils.

6. Conclusion

We appreciate the ongoing support from the parish council and the community. Together, we can continue to create a positive and enriching environment for our pupils.

Meeting closed at 6.25pm