

Meeting of Gamston with West Drayton & Eaton Parish Council

Minutes of **Gamston with West Drayton & Eaton Parish Council Meeting** held on the 13th Oct 2022 at Gamston School, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

Council Members & Officer Present:	Cllr Simon Chandler	Chairman
	Cllr Donna Ramsden	Cllr Tom Adam
	Cllr Richard Harding	Cllr Vincent Mee
	Cllr Richard Vernon	Cllr Jane Worthington
	Cllr Gregg Davies	
	Ed Knox Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer	

Also, Present
6 Members of the Public
County & District Councillor John Ogle

Queen Elizabeth II - Following the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022, protocol and Section 243 of the Local Govt Act 1972 prevented the calling of a September meeting. A Book of Condolence was arranged at each church within the three parishes with any flags was flown at half-mast during the required mourning period. A copy of the Proclamation of King Charles III was displayed in all the noticeboards in the parishes and a copy has been included as an appendix to this month's minutes.

➤ Adjournment – 10 Minute Public Forum

The following was discussed:

- A member of the public raised the issue of the overgrown hedge on the entrance to the school, on the farmland side of the road. The member of the public was advised how to report this via the MyNotts App or online portal to the Notts County Council who handle overgrown hedge complaints restricting the visibility on the highway.
- A member of the public representing Thatcham, gave an overview of the development of the vehicle testing facility at Gamston Airport, then held a questions and answers session. The existing airport operations will continue, the testing facility is on the 2nd runway. Thatcham hope to install an office building, once the planning application process has been followed.
- A member of the public explained how they have tried for 34 years to get the pavement improved from Rockley to Markham Moor. Later on in the meeting, the Chairman raised this matter with County Cllr Ogle for escalation with the County Council.
- The remaining members of the public expressed their views and objections to the retrospective Rockley planning application (further down on the agenda) and the Council advised that it agreed with them and has also objected. The members of the public have also objected directly to the planning dept.

93/22 To Approve Apologies for Absence

After discussion, Cllr Mee **Proposed**, Cllr Harding **Seconded** the Council resolved to **accept** the apologies of Cllrs Howard & Moakes.

94/22 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

After discussion, Cllr Ramsden **Proposed**, Cllr Vernon **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

95/22 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

96/22 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

Dist & County Cllr Ogle: arrived at 7:25pm and provided an update to the Council, which included a discussion on the Notts on Demand Bus Scheme, the Devolution Deal and the STEP Fusion Plant at West Burton. The full STEP and Devolution reports Cllr Ogle provided by email were:

- **West Burton Site for Nuclear Fusion STEP:** "STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) is an ambitious Government Led programme to design and construct a prototype fusion power plant. The first example of its kind in the world.
Fusion power will provide a reliable and virtually limitless source of low carbon energy to meet expected increases in future energy demand.
Fusion power differs significantly from nuclear fission as it does not produce the same type of highly challenging wastes. The process is also safe. If any disturbance occurs, the plasma cools and within seconds the reaction stops. It's important to note that fusion energy will sit alongside renewable energy sources - such as wind and solar to create a diverse energy portfolio to serve the country's needs.

The process of building and operating the plant will be led by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). As a result, the UKAEA launched a nation-wide search to find a suitable site to build its new prototype STEP fusion power plant at the end of 2020.

A bid document for the West Burton A power station site was prepared by the County Council and its partners, due to the imminent closure of the coal fired power station. This is now expected to be after this winter, and will not affect the Fusion plans.

The West Burton bid focused on the site's central location in the country and its close proximity to a wide range of complementary research and development and manufacturing facilities along with high-quality academic institutes. The West Burton site also provides a large amount of land which could be developed further to act as a wider campus for not only the fusion energy plant but training facilities and a range of complementary uses. The site has a direct rail connection and river access to enable people and goods to be moved to the site sustainably. The UKAEA made their final site recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy over the summer of 2022. The decision to select West Burton as the home of STEP was formally announced on 3rd October.

Benefits of STEP

The decision to make West Burton the home of STEP will bring massive long term economic benefits not only to the local area but to the region as a whole. This will be in the construction of the power plant, research and development activities and the supply chain as a whole. Training opportunities in high skilled areas will also be significantly boosted.

- The construction and operation of the fusion power plant will employ a significant number of people. Nuclear power plants (of a similar scale) employ between 500 to 1000 people and during the construction process can swell to 3500 workers or more at the peak.
- Research into fusion energy shows it is creating 4000 jobs annually (direct employment and related activities)
- Supply chain – the UK already has a thriving private sector fusion industry and a significant proportion of this is in our region. The STEP project will reinforce and expand on this.
- The UKAEA are planning to build and invest in training facilities in the local area which will give local people the opportunity to gain training and, ultimately, highly skilled jobs.

Process Going Forward

Given the recent announcement, the timescales/process going forward is still being developed. However, it is important to note that the UKAEA are placing a great deal of importance on working with and consulting with the local communities.

An initial public event will be taking place at West Burton power station on Thursday 6th October. However further public events will be taking place over the coming weeks at a variety of locations across Bassetlaw. The purpose of these events will enable the UKAEA to introduce themselves and provide information to local communities.

The UKAEA will still be required to undertake detailed site assessment work and the preparation of a full planning application as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project along with gaining all the necessary consents prior to any construction work taking place on the site.

- Expected future timescale

October 3rd 2022	Location of STEP site announced
2024	STEP concept design approved
2032	Detailed engineering design and all relevant permissions and consents to build the plant sought
2040	Fusion plant to begin operating

All questions from the public should be directed to communications@step.ukaea.uk

Devolution Deal for Nottinghamshire

The Devolution Deal for Nottinghamshire the Government confirmed that a £1.14 billion devolution deal is on offer for Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Derby, and Derbyshire: £1.14 billion devolution deal for the East Midlands. More details about the deal are available on the website here: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution-a-brighter-future-for-the-east-midlands :

Devolution: summary of the deal

The Government has confirmed that a £1.14 billion devolution deal is available for the East Midlands over the next 30 years. The deal covers Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire. All four city and county council leaders have signed up to the deal.

The four councils will continue working together to develop details of the deal. Each council will take a report through their respective council meetings. There will also be a public consultation later this year to ensure that the voice of residents, businesses and partners is fully heard.

After the deal is confirmed there will be opportunities to build and enhance on it over time. There is a lot still to be agreed, and this is the beginning of the journey, not the end. We're determined to build on this deal over time, as other areas have done. The new mayoral combined county authority (MCCA) will be considered at future national government spending reviews.

Governance

- The two city and two county councils would be constituent authorities, who would each appoint two members to the combined authority – 8 members in total, plus the elected mayor.
- There would also be up to 8 non-constituent members, including up to 4 representatives from district and borough councils. The government requires the two city and two county councils and the mayor to have a majority on the governing group.
- The government expects emergency services, health, and business to be represented.
- The mayoral county combined authority (MCCA) could create committees which can include representatives from city, county, district, and borough councils, and other stakeholders.
- Audit and Scrutiny Committees will be set up.
- Some of the powers held by the MCCA and/or the mayor would be national government powers. Some would be powers already held by the city and county councils. There are no plans to give the MCCA/mayor any District or Borough Council powers.
- The four councils and other partners are working with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to identify the best way to integrate the work of the LEP into the new combined authority.

Resources

- East Midlands Fund, including capital and revenue each year over a 30-year period.
- Capacity Funding in 2023-4 and 2024-5 to support the MCCA in early stages.
- Devolved Capital Funding in 2024/5 to support the building of new homes.
- Capacity funding to support the pipeline of housing sites.
- Further capital to support the delivery of shorter-term housing and net zero priorities.
- Capacity funding to support the preparation of Local Transport Plan.
- Responsible for devolved funding for projects within the Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) and Levelling Up Fund (LUF) major capital programmes.
- Fully devolved Adult Education Budget.
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for non-transport functions.

New devolved functions and powers of the mayor and MCCA

- Designation of a Mayoral Development Area, with consent of relevant District and Borough Councils.
- Housing and land acquisition powers, housing supply, land development and regeneration, commercial space, and infrastructure, working closely with Homes England. Relevant District and Borough Council consent also needed where Homes England compulsory purchase powers are being exercised.
- Business rate supplement and option of a Council Tax precept to fund Mayoral functions are part of the framework, but no plans to use the precept as can be avoided by capacity funding.
- Power to draw up a local integrated transport plan and strategies, as well as bus franchising.
- Transport functions, including setting up and coordinating a Key Route Network, smart integrated ticketing, may run enhanced concessionary fares schemes.
- Work with national government and Great British Railways to ensure Integrated Rail Plan, including HS2, Midland Main Line electrification etc. maximise regeneration impacts.
- Economic development and regeneration.
- Adult education and skills. Supporting development of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP).
- Retrofit measures, clean heat coordination, and local energy plan, generating new jobs.
- Duty to take action to improve public health given to MCCA as well as constituent authorities.
- Work closely with Police and Crime Commissioners on public safety.
- Work with local partners on long-term governance model for fire and rescue services.
- Working with national government to explore initiatives to address homelessness, domestic abuse, community safety, social mobility, and support for young people.

Frequently asked questions and answers

Q) What is devolution?

A) Devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national government to local government.

Q) What sort of devolution deal are we looking at in the East Midlands?

A) We are looking at a devolution deal to set up a combined authority. If the deal is approved by central government, it would create a new East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority. This is known as a 'level deal'. Level 1 and level 2 deals offer considerably fewer transfers of powers and budget from central government.

A combined authority is a legal body created through national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.

A combined authority is more than an informal partnership or even a joint committee. It empowers member councils to be more ambitious in their joint working, taking advantage of powers and resources devolved to them from national government.

Q) Why are we doing this?

A) We are doing this:

- to address underfunding in the East Midlands
- to focus spending on local priorities
- to work together across services and use local knowledge to get better value for money
- to bring in new investment, better training, and job opportunities, and upgraded and more connected public transport to the area
- to be more self-sufficient and have more responsibility for the future of the local area
- so that more major decisions can be taken by locally elected politicians who better understand local issues, and can be held to account more easily
- Ultimately, the reason we are doing this is to make sure that services across the region are the best they can be, for the benefit of our residents.

Q) What would happen to existing local councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire? Will they be merged, so they no longer exist?

A) We are not talking about merging councils together. If the devolution deal is successful, all local councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire - including Nottingham City and Derby City – will continue to exist, as they do now.

Q) What powers would councils lose if they became part of a combined authority?

A) None. This is about central government devolving powers to the region, not individual councils giving up power to the region. Local councils will continue to make the decisions over local issues.

Q) What would happen to local council services?

A) There will be no immediate changes to local council services if the devolution deal is agreed. In the longer term, some services might be delivered on a regional rather than local basis, if this is deemed more efficient or better value for money.

Q) Why would more local decision making be better?

A) Local decision making tends to result in better local economic performance, as policies are tailored to the needs of specific areas.

Local leaders often know and understand the areas much better than politicians and civil servants based in the capital, and their knowledge and experience can deliver what is appropriate and what will work for their region, especially when they work with nearby public and private sector partners.

Q) Why do we need an elected regional mayor?

A) One of the conditions for a level 3 deal, which offers the most local powers and funding, is having an elected mayor. The role of an elected regional mayor would be to look at major issues which affect our whole area, a prominent, accountable person who can look at the big picture and give the region more of a voice.

A mayor with a clear and direct mandate, strong accountability, and the power to make change happen, could be a powerful driving force for the East Midlands.

If approved, the mayor would work together with leaders of local councils to create a strategy for the wider area. This is a critical role, and it is essential that this person should be democratically accountable.

Local councils would still be responsible for most public services, such as waste management, schools, recreational facilities, and so forth. The mayor would focus on wider issues that span across the area, like transport, regeneration, and employment.

Q) What powers are you asking for in the devolution bid?

A) We are focussing on key areas including transport and infrastructure, business growth, inward investment, strategic regeneration, employment, employment skills, supporting young people's journey into adulthood, and community safety.

We believe that these are areas the entire region would benefit from, in terms of greater investment and more decision making at a local level.

Q) Isn't this just adding another layer of bureaucracy?

A) This isn't about adding a layer of unnecessary bureaucracy but moving resources and decision-making powers which already exist from London to the East Midlands and making all of this democratically accountable to the people who live here.

Devolution is mainly about strengthening regional arrangements. If a combined authority deal was approved, it would come with new wide scale powers not currently available at a local level.

These new powers would be exercised across the whole region, with the consent of local councils in our area. This is because they would add value by addressing issues like transport that benefit from being planned on a wider geographical basis.

Q) If devolution is about getting access to more funding, why couldn't we have that in the first place?

A) The East Midlands has long been overlooked, in comparison to other areas like the West Midlands and Greater Manchester in terms of government investment. Public spending per person is lowest in the East Midlands at £12,113 – 10% below the UK average.

The government has made it clear through their Levelling Up White Paper that they believe more local decision-making leads to better outcomes for communities, and so the greatest benefits are attached to devolution deals which include more local accountability.

Q) Will this mean a rise in Council Tax? Haven't the four main councils involved in this asked for powers to raise money through more Council Tax in their bid?

A) In our bid to the government, we have asked for everything that is potentially on offer, as we don't want to rule anything out at this early stage. We have included the power to raise money through Council Tax because it might be used at some point in the future.

Of the nine existing mayoral combined authorities, eight have this power, but only two have ever actually used it. So, this is a possible option, not a foregone conclusion.

Q) What happens if we don't have devolution?

A) It would be a major missed opportunity. We'd miss out on the chance of getting more funding for services in our region, and the efficiency of working at scale.

We could potentially get left behind compared to other areas who are part of devolution deals, giving them a bigger voice, as well as being able to make more major decisions locally, near the people they affect.

It's likely we would have less influence over future government investment priorities, less financial certainty, would have to compete more for national funding, and we could lose the chance for a guaranteed funding stream.

Ultimately, we'd lose a big chance to improve public transport, get more investment for business growth, bring in more jobs, skills, and training, and improve the places where we live and work, as well as potentially much more.

Devolution is all about getting a better deal for our area, and we don't want to miss out.

Q) Which areas have devolution arrangements like the one planned for the East Midlands? Which other areas are looking at setting this up?

A) Nine combined authorities with elected mayors currently exist in England:

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Greater Manchester
- Liverpool City Region
- North of Tyne
- South Yorkshire
- Tees Valley
- West Midlands
- West of England
- West Yorkshire

Other areas were invited by the government in February 2022 to start formal negotiations to agree new devolution deals, with the aim of agreeing a number of these deals by autumn 2022:

- Cornwall
- Derbyshire and Derby
- Devon
- Durham
- Hull and East Yorkshire
- Leicestershire
- Norfolk
- Nottinghamshire and Nottingham
- Plymouth and Torbay
- Suffolk

Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council have sent the government initial proposals to negotiate a combined devolution deal.

97/22 To receive an update on Highways Matters Raised with Notts County Council/Bassetlaw District Council and to escalate a list of outstanding items with Notts County Council via the County Cllr where necessary

The following outstanding items have been chased by the Clerk in between meetings, and Cllr Ogle was asked if he can assist with escalating issues where necessary:

- **Notts County Council – Temporary Interactive Speed-sign - Item Closed – Temp Speed sign installed in September.**
- **Dog Fouling – Item Closed – Contact details for the Dog Warden have been passed to Cllr Moakes, who has left a message with the dog warden regards obtaining the signage etc.**
- **Holme Lane Dykes @ Rockley –** The Notts CC Drainage Manager visited Rockley and has advised “From what I could see of the downstream side ditch from the junction area of Holme Lane, it isn't too bad. It wouldn't hurt if some minor clearance was carried out but I don't think, at least from my initial inspection, that the ditch level is causing the problem. That said, it may be that it is obstructed further downstream. We'll need to get the vegetation trimmed back to be able to get a good look at it. In the first instance I want to get the culvert under Holme Lane checked. Please see the plan below:



Ditches are in blue, the highway culvert in orange. The outlet of the highway culvert is partially collapsed. It's directly adjacent to a large tree and there is a possibility that it may have been damaged by roots from the tree. I'll get a job raised for my colleagues in the Drainage Maintenance team to attend to jet and CCTV the culvert. I can't give you a timescale for this at present, but it will hopefully be sometime next month. I'll feedback further once the investigation of the culvert is completed.

Cllr Harding and the Drainage Manager met on Tues 5th July who emailed the PC to advise: “Our jetting and CCTV unit attended Holme Lane this morning, they have checked the following culverts:

- From Absolute Koi down to its outfall on Holme Lane
- under Holme Lane
- under the A638

All were running. There was minor silt build up, which was cleared, but nothing to block up the system and hold water back. The ditch that is the main cause of concern appears clear between the outfall of the culvert under Holme Lane to the inlet under the A638. Our team have recommended that I get the levels checked, as it may be that the culvert under the A638 is set marginally higher than the one under Holme Lane. If that is the case then it would explain why water stands upstream. A member of the public provided video footage of the historic issues and our team mentioned the minor build-up of wood and debris at the inlet to the culvert under the A638. They cleared it whilst they were there. Aside from that, the video only really shows that, at the time it was taken, the ditch was clear with only minor leaf build up at a few points. Did anyone experience any flooding at the time that the video was taken? I think that one of the problems is that for water from the ditch near Absolute Koi access to get under Holme Lane, it has to meet the ditch alongside Holme Lane head on. That is as likely to be a cause of water back up in the ditch near to your business as anything else. **I'll get the invert levels of the culverts checked, I'll contact the riparian owner of the ditch to recommend that they regularly inspect and clear the inlet of the culvert under the A638.** 14.07.2022 The Clerk has emailed the Drainage Manager to ask when the items in bold above will be undertaken. Reply advised 11.10.2022 “there's no progress with that as yet and won't be **until November** at the earliest as I have several schemes either in progress or due to start over the next few weeks. Please do let me know if further problems are experienced.”

- **County Council Highways Potential Solutions for Eaton Speeding –** After discussing the speed tube data and potential ways forward with County Cllr Ogle earlier this year, the Council resolved that the Clerk shall email the County Highways Manager to request their guidance and ideas for what potential ideas there could be for Eaton, including but not limited to Dragons Teeth, Village Gateways, an Interactive Speed Sign. The Council understands there might not be funding at County to pay for these, or Central Govt Criteria met for funding, but if the Highways Manager can give guidance to what may be physically possible and the actual costs of these, the PC can discuss potential grant funding options. 14.10.2022 The Highways Manager has confirmed that Eaton will be assessed by the County Council via a Feasibility Study which is aimed to be completed before 31/03/2023.

- **High Friction Surfaces** – The Clerk reported that the County Council Highways Manager has advised that the red and cream coloured high friction surfaces which were installed often on road bends won't be replaced in future. The Highways Manager advised "the funding for this type of work is now not available and no more replacements of this type of surfacing will be carried out in Nottinghamshire unless a carriageway resurfacing scheme is undertaken." However, we will look to renew the high friction surfacing at Muttonshire Hill, Gamston, you recently reported (image below) but **please be aware that this is an exceptional instance and isn't something we can repeat elsewhere**. Update 16.09.2022 from the Highways Manager "The HFS renewal work is due to be carried out w/c 16



January 2023."

- **West Drayton Road Resurfacing and Verge Grips Issue** – In July County Cllr Ogle advised he is working with the County Highways Manager regards road resurfacing priorities and the road towards Eel Pie Farm has been identified as a potential location for this work. Cllr Adam to provide a photo looking eastward towards Eel Pie Farm, Markham Moor showing the grass verge to the right which needs grips cutting into it by the County Council, this is because it floods here in winter due to a local resident who has dug out the dyke on the right and covered the grips so the water can't get away. Additionally, the state of the road with potholes has caused it so the water cannot get away. At the July meeting the Council asked County Cllr Ogle looks to include this section of road for resurfacing and the team at the same time comes to install the drainage grips. 14.10.2022 County Cllr Ogle advised that it is down for attention on Via's to do list. Cllr Adam asked for an estimated lead time for the works. Cllr Ogle advised the Council to ask the Highways Manager. Cllr Chandler asked if County Cllr Ogle could do anything to escalate the Verge Grips element of this request so that standing/freezing water doesn't occur over the winter.
- **Overgrown hedges and trees on Rectory Lane, Gamston (Ref CSC 430607863)** - Cllr Worthington advised she initially reported these to the County Council on 18.06.2022, chasing this a month later at the end of July, and the Highways Coordinator advised that "the job had been passed on to Corporate Properties who were going to cut the hedges and crown lift the trees and if the work hadn't been carried out within a couple of weeks, chase it with her again." The work still hadn't been completed by 17.08.2022, Cllr Worthington emailed the Highways Coordinator, no reply received, Cllr Worthington rang the Highways Coordinator on 05.09.2022, no answer and left a message with a colleague who said 'she would call back later today, but didn't call back'. The Clerk emailed the Highways Manager to escalate this matter on 05.09.2022. A reply was received to state that these will be dealt with within 6 months of June 2022.

New Items to report:

Please note – As per County Cllr Ogle's comments, in the 1st instance, cllrs and members of the public should report all new highways matters (street lights, overgrown hedges/trees, pavement/road problems/drainage etc) via the on-line Notts County Council website or MyNotts App, themselves, then, should no action have been taken by NCC, bring it to the Parish Council meeting for escalation.

- None.

98/22

Finance:

Monthly Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the Financial Information circulated by email before the meeting, the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record. Cllrs signed the bank statement and bank reconciliation.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RBL	Lamppost Poppies	£75.00
Notts CC Via Ltd	Initial Tree Inspection	£240.00
NALC	New Cllr Training x 1 Delegate	£45.00
Gallagher Local Council Ins	Insurance Renewal 2022	£680.73
North Notts 1 st Responders	S.137 Donation	£100.00
Cllr Chandler	Items from X2Connect Ltd for Phone Box Maintenance/Restoration	£174.47
Total Payments		<u>£1,121.52</u>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Concurrent Grant	£20.50
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Street Cleaning Grant	£281.00
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Precept	£3,231.00
Total Receipts		<u>£3,532.50</u>
<u>Bank Balance</u>		
The Current Account Balance		<u>£15,847.63#</u>
Direct Debits, and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE, already approved unanimously.		
#£10,000 ringfenced as the Council's reserve fund.		

3. To consider a small grant request from North Notts 1st Responders:

The 1st Responders wrote to say that we have responders throughout Bassetlaw: *"We are sent out to up to 8 miles from our address and annually provide many hours on call to medical emergencies for the East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust. We are often being the First Person on Scene to resuscitate the patient. We had a complement of 35 volunteers over the year. We have our own, leased, marked, Skoda Scout Car to assist us with our work, at a cost of £4,500 p.a. We continue to work with Bassetlaw Food Bank with food deliveries, and support local events with First Responder cover.*

We need your support for a small donation towards the purchase Entonox Pain Relief Units and Infant/Child Pulse Oximeters, as part of an agreed development with EMAS. We cover the Five Villages within your parish council area and the Group Coordinator advised that he has been on emergency calls in both Eaton and Gamston. We now have responders in Milton and East Drayton, who also come to your parish when needed." After discussion, Cllr Worthington **Proposed**, Cllr Mee **Seconded** and the Council **Resolved** that £100 be donated.

99/22 To progress organising a Parishes in Bloom

After discussion, the Council **resolved** to not pursue the idea of parish council owned flower planters, instead it would investigate the ideas of Wildflower Meadow areas on stretches of the grass verges on the entrances and exits of each village. After further discussion, Cllr Vernon **Proposed**, Cllr Ramsden **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** that up to £200 of flower bulbs be purchased by Cllr Vernon and planted in the roadside verges as soon as practically possible.

100/22 To Progress a Neighbourhood Hood Watch Scheme - Cllr Ramsden

As the Council has welcomed Cllr Ramsdens idea for a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the scheme is being developed the item no longer needs to be a standard item on the Council agenda.

101/22 To discuss any new planning applications received and note any responded to via the scheme of delegation

Since the previous meeting the parish council responded via the scheme of delegation as follows:

- **22/01022/CAT - Works to Trees in a Conservation Area T1 (Spruce) Fell, T2 (Leylandii) Fell 16 Rectory Lane Gamston Retford.** The Council **resolved** that it has no objections and supports this tree works planning application. Leylandii are not good and spruce do have a life expectancy.
- **22/00842/CAT Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Removal a of Silver Birch and a Walnut Tree Old Elms Rectory Walk Gamston.** The Council **resolved** that it has no objections to the application.
- **22/01053/TPO | Works to Trees Subject to a TPO (B000231) - Fell T1 T2 and T3 Horse Chestnut Trees | Jamia Al-Karam Eaton Hall.** The Council **resolved** that T1 & T2 need to be removed immediately as they are unsafe and are likely to cause damage to vehicles passing them or worse injury to pedestrians walking beneath them. T3 appears to have already been removed. During a discussion on site with one of the parish council members, it was agreed by the applicant, that once removed replacements should be planted.
- **22/01087/COU Full Planning Application for the Change of Use of Land to Construct New Internal Junction Spur for External Vehicle testing Purposes, as well as Associated Drainage and Landscaping Works - Gamston Airport Ollerton Road Gamston -** The Council **resolved** that it has no objections to the application.
- **22/00064/FUL | Erection of a Stable Block Containing 7 Stables, Tack Storage, Shower and WC's | Land South of Mill Lane Rockley Nottinghamshire Appeal Reference No APP/A3010/22/3303498 –** The Council **Noted** the notification from Bassetlaw Planning that Bassetlaw had refused the application and the applicant has now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate in London, who will make the final decision on the matter.
- **22/01228/COU Change of Use of Land to Retrospective Retention of the Siting of a Storage Container for the Benefit of Keeping Horses on Site - Land Off Mill Lane Rockley -** The Council **resolved** to object due to the following reasons: The Council believes that the applicant has only submitted a retrospective application due to complaints made by residents and claiming ignorance to the planning process is no defence which the Parish Council should not condone. Whilst the applicant has the right to seek retrospective permission, previous applications both prospective and retrospective sought on this piece of land and parcels of land in the immediate vicinity were rejected. Ref 16/00639/COU & 13/01320/COU on the Bassetlaw planning portal.

The retrospective application seeks to change the use of the land to enable the keeping of horses, which would be required if the applicant is using the container to store horse feed, as the horses are being supported rather than just grazing. There is no mention of the land surface being changed in the retrospective application from the original grassed area, to being covered in crushed limestone and 20mm round gravel, thus reducing drainage, disrupting the natural wildlife habitat and eroding the sanctity of the parcelled agricultural land which has been protected previously.

The Parish Council wishes to highlight to Bassetlaw Planning Department the following key considerations of the shipping container storage:

- The main issue in this case is the effect of the proposal on the character and appearance of the recognised heritage area.
- Retrospective planning, concerning that this may be repeated.

The appeal site lies towards the end of a heritage row of terrace cottages and to the side of 'Grade' listed houses. The container is in a prominent position next to the road and visible from surrounding countryside and from lower main road (A638). The container and field shelter represent a significant visual intrusion and are an incongruous addition to this location. Their cubic nature is a very different form to any of the development nearby and they sit uncomfortably against the adjacent terrace of houses and heritage site.

Following retrospective planning the previous colour scheme on the container was changed. Moreover, because of the scale of the container and its prominent position, the Parish Council concludes that the harm could not be mitigated by screening. Rather the Council considers any screening around the container would draw further attention to the untypical form of the development in this area of heritage.

The Parish Council concludes for these reasons that the development significantly harms the character and appearance of the immediate area and the surrounding countryside and is therefore contrary to policies. For the reasons given above, that the appeal should be dismissed."

The Council will forward the additional comments raised in Public Forum to the District Council, regards a business being registered to the field, and horses being kept in a commercial way at the field to Bassetlaw Council.

102/22 To Progress obtaining a defibrillator for West Drayton

The Chairman thanked the Rockley Cllrs for their successful efforts in obtaining a defibrillator for Rockley. Cllr Ramsden advised that the Heartbeat Trust agreed for the Parish Council to adopt the defibrillator with immediate effect, therefore the Council would now be able to be responsible for its insurance, checks and future replacement of pads and batteries. Cllr Harding agreed to obtain the make/model of the unit and the expiry dates of the pads and batteries for the Clerk to add to the Council's asset list.

Cllr Ramsden agreed to pass on the contact details of the Heartbeat Trust to Cllr Davies so that he can start to repeat the process for West Drayton, advising that it will require local residents to make some donations towards the unit.

103/22 To discuss the findings of the inspection of the trees beside the highway at the parish council land to the east of 19 Eaton.

Approximately 10 trees require various tree surgery works and a further 15 require the removal of climbing ivy, and at ground level brambles/nettles strimming back, before inspection can be undertaken. The Clerk has obtained a quote from Toparia Summits Ltd who are used by several other parish councils in Bassetlaw. After discussion, Council **resolved** that Cllr Chandler will speak with the Forestry Advisor Tree Inspector at Notts County Council to see if an extension to the deadline of 10th November can be obtained, and clarify exactly what/how much vegetation is required to be removed, so that it can be ascertained whether or not volunteers could be used to clear some of the vegetation. Once this has been clarified, Cllr Mee agreed to get a 2nd quote for the tree works.

104/22 To progress the restoration of Gamston Red Phone Box

The Council **noted** that the majority of the work is now complete. Following obtaining the various parts and paints, all that remains to be completed is a slight adjustment to the door and the paint to be handed to the team working on the phone box to complete the project.

105/22 To pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge & adopt the new Dignity at Work Policy

NALC, SLCC and One Voice Wales request that all Parish Councils consider signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge demonstrating a commitment to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector. They have advised that: "even Councils who currently abide by the principles of Civility and Respect, it may not always be the case, you don't know who might join the Council in the future and try to use bullying and harassment to achieve their goals – having considered this now and put in place the recommended policies and procedures, Councils are well prepared to nip such behaviours in the bud.

Council's signing the pledge must update their policies and procedures by adopting the NALC Dignity and Work Policy. It is approved for use by both SLCC and NALC and focuses on challenging all inappropriate behaviour, rather than just bullying and harassment, having a zero-tolerance approach and the aim of dealing with concerns before they escalate.

There is no place for bullying, harassment, and intimidation within our sector and signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge is one of the ways a council can demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector, and to demonstrating positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

By signing the Pledge, the council is agreeing that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles, and that it:

- has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
- has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a Dignity at Work policy
- will seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme
- supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the civility and respect, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.”

After discussion Cllr Harding **Proposed**, Cllr Davies **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** to sign the pledge and adopt the Dignity at Work Policy with immediate effect. A signed copy is included as an Appendix to these minutes.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda item was closed the members of the public due so that the Council can discuss information which is relating to an individual for example Contracts of employment, salaries, financial or personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

106/22 To Adopt/Update Various NALC Formal Documents

The Clerk has reviewed the existing formal documents of the Council and worked through the list provided by the previous Clerk of missing documents/policies and those which need up dating. Cllr Worthington has undertaken a proof read and minor corrections were made. After discussion, Council unanimously **resolved** to adopt the following policies and procedures with immediate effect:

- Grievance & Disciplinary Procedure
- Financial Regulations
- FOI Publication Scheme
- Code of Conduct
- Health & Safety Policy
- Petitions Policy
- Risk Assessment
- Public Participation Policy

106/22 To discuss the Village Warden Role to incorporate Lengthsman duties

The Council **noted** the contents of the County Council Lengthsman Scheme which included the agreement that the Council will receive £960 per year, for an initial 3-year period, on the provision of an invoice from the Council to the County Council, in January each year together with the previous 12 months reports of the Lengthsman activities (with 'before and after' photos where possible) to the County Council. Activities can be carried out on land which is under the ownership or responsibility of either the County Council or Parish/Town Council, the work can be undertaken by a Parish Council employed Lengthsman or by a contractor (or mixture of both) including but not limited to:

Minor Highways works:

- Additional Grass cutting
- Bus shelter cleaning
- Siding up; cutting out encroaching grass from footways with a spade
- Rights of way (communicating with landowners)
- Removal of soil/detritus dropped or washed onto road
- Cutting of vegetation overhanging the road or pavement (or liaising with landowners as appropriate)
- Removing growth from parapets or fences and minor repairs
- Reporting safety defects e.g., Potholes etc
- Maintenance of landscaping features

Signs (including reflector posts):

- Cleaning (with cold soapy water and a brush)
- Painting of heritage cast iron direction signs
- Minor repairs such as retightening the bracket where signs have slipped

Drainage:

- Grips; (cleaning existing with a spade) - a grip is a hand dug drainage channel from the edge of the road to a ditch, used where water collects.
- Outfalls; keeping the end of a drainage pipe or culvert clear of obstruction
- Localised ditching, digging out existing ditches where silted up, or digging short stretches of new ditch in the highway verge if needed.
- Cleaning leaves from on top of gully grates
- Rodding of pipes (often leading from a gully into a nearby ditch)

Rights of Way Maintenance

- Extra grass cuts on gritty paths (where landownership is not usually an issue and paths are similar to adopted footpaths already maintained by the County Council)
- Clearing around overgrown public footpath signs, stiles or gates
- Minor repairs to gates, stiles and bridges (e.g., replacing broken rails)

Referral of work to Countryside Access Team including:

- Bridge, stile or gate replacement or installation
- Obstructions where the landowner is not contactable or amenable
- Queries about path location
- Request for new signs and way marks

Winter Weather: (same responsibilities as the existing snow wardens)

- Minor snow clearing
- Gritting on footpaths and minor residential roads
- Reporting major problems

It is worth noting that the above works are only items which 'may' be done rather than 'must' be done, the £960 won't go very far per year without additional funds from the precept.

The potential way forward could be:

- A combined Village Warden Litter Picking Role with the Lengthsman incorporated within it
- A separate Village Warden Litter Picker and a separate Lengthsman.
- Turn down the Lengthsman Agreement and don't claim the money.

Currently, the Village Warden Litter Picking activities is funded for 3hours per week, £925 via the Precept and £562 via the Bassetlaw Council Street Cleaning Grant.

The Council **noted** that the Village Warden had not submitted a monthly report of where litter picking had been undertaken and when, for several years. The Council asked the Clerk to contact the Warden to ask if there is a reason. The Clerk is to report back at the next meeting and add the Warden and Lengthsman Role discussion to the November agenda.

107/22 To consider items for a future agenda raised by residents in the parishes

- Pride in the Parishes to be added to the November agenda so that Council can consider the idea that would then potentially be held each year at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9:45pm.