

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

Minutes of **Gamston with West Drayton & Eaton Parish Council Meeting** held on the 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 at Gamston School, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

<b>Council Members &amp; Officer Present:</b>	Cllr Simon Chandler	Chairman
	Cllr Donna Ramsden	Cllr Gregg Davies
	Cllr Richard Harding	Cllr Vincent Mee
	Cllr Richard Vernon	Cllr Jane Worthington
	Cllr Michael Howard	
	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
<b>Also, Present</b>	0 Members of the Public	

➤ Adjournment – 10 Minute Public Forum

No Comments.

124/22 To Approve Apologies for Absence

After discussion, Cllr Vernon **Proposed**, Cllr Harding **Seconded** the Council resolved to **accept** the apologies of Cllrs Argent-Cook, Moakes & Adam.

125/22 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

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

126/22 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

127/22 To Progress the Five Villages (Gamston) Trust lease transfer request from the Southwell Diocesan Board of Finance to Multi Academy Trust (SNMAT)

The Clerk chased the solicitors twice more in the past month, asking for them to provide confirmation of their fees, which would be then covered by the Southwell Diocesan Board of Finance. Jones & Co have responded with more recent Heads of Terms, and correspondence from the SNMAT (Southwell Diocese Nottingham Multi Academy Trust) and supporting documentation. After discussion, Cllr Chandler called for a vote and the FVT Trustees unanimously **resolved** to proceed with the changes to the lease via the Deed of Novation and Licence to Assign and Variation, the solicitor to aim to complete by the desired Feb 2023 deadline, invoice the Southwell Diocese Nottingham Multi Academy Trust directly for the £500+VAT fee, amend mentions of 'directors' to 'trustees' in the documents, ensure the 5 year rent review is included and amend the correspondence address of the FVT charity to that of the Clerk.

128/22 To discuss the Five Villages (Gamston) Trust regards it's remit and the difference between the Managing Trustees and the committee of management.

After the last meeting, the Clerk emailed all parish cllrs, who are the corporate body of the managing trustees of the charity, which forms the 'Sole Trustee' of the charity, to explain this, the remit of the Charity which is:

*"To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Gamston & the surrounding area without distinction of political, religious or other opinions by associating with the said inhabitants in a common effort to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation & leisure time with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants."*

The bank balance of the Five Villages Trust is currently £1,137.28 after the closure of the old original Barclays account, the NatWest account and the banking of this year's ground rent.

The Clerk explained that under agenda items relating to the charity, Cllrs need to always mentally swap hats as no longer talking and acting as parish Cllrs but as the trustees, which includes acting in the best interest for the charity itself.

The Managing Trustees of the Charity and the Management Committee which was set up by the Dual Use agreement, which are two separate entities. The Management Committee has no say currently, over how the income of the charity is spent, the lease or rent. The Management Committee was a committee set up by a decision made by the Managing Trustees of the Charity on one side and the School Governing Body on the other, and its function is shown and limited to the items quoted on page 4 of the Dual Use Agreement, items 6.1 to 6.3. It may be prudent for the school and charity trustees to amend points 6.2 and 6.3 to say that the school Office Manager processes all bookings and processes all hire agreements for the 'after hours' hire of the community hall because this is in effect, what has happened since the school was built. The Dual Use is valid as long as the original lease is, therefore now is a time when it needs amending concurrently with the lease.

After discussion, the FVT Trustees unanimously **resolved** to amend 6.1,6.2 and 6.3 as follows:

6.1 The Management Committee will be responsible for liaising with Community Groups and the Southwell Diocese Nottingham Multi Academy Trust Governing Body of Gamston Primary Academy to promote the dual use of the facilities.

6.2 The Management Committee will determine policies in respect of community use.

6.3 The Management Committee authorises the school office to arrange and ensure that appropriate letting agreements are in place for each event or series of events to clarify issues such as costs, payment responsibilities for breakages, cleaning, locking up and any other such issues which the Management Committee deems necessary in the circumstances.


Additionally, all references to the previous name of the school/governing body to be amended to the Southwell Diocese Nottingham Multi Academy Trust. The Clerk to contact the School Headmaster and FVT Solicitor.

129/22 To receive Reports from the County Councillor, any updates on Highways Matters Raised with Notts County Council and to escalate outstanding items with the Local Authority via the County Cllr, where necessary

The following outstanding Notts County Council items have been chased by the Clerk in between meetings, and Cllr Ogle copied in to escalate issues where necessary:

**Holme Lane Dykes @ Rockley – Item Closed – Cllr Ramsden confirmed that as there’s been no significant change, the matter will remain with the Drainage Manager at Highways and will be monitored locally by Cllrs and readded to future meetings if flooding reoccurs.**

**West Drayton Road Verge Grips – Item Closed – Cllr Davies confirmed Notts CC completed the grips on 09.12.2022.**

County Council Item	Issue/Detail	Potential Solution	Progress Made
<b>Eaton</b> Speeding Feasibility Study	A request to the County Council Highways Manager for potential solutions for Eaton, including, but not limited to Dragons Teeth, Village Gateways, an Interactive Speed Sign.	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.	14/10/2022 - 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.
<b>Gamston</b> Muttonshire Hill High Friction	The red & cream-coloured surfaces on the bend and entrance to Gamston have worn away.	The Highways Manager has advised that 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.	16/09/2022 - <b>A onetime exceptional circumstance</b> has been made for this bend and will not be repeated at this site or any other. The surface renewal work is scheduled to be carried out the week commencing 16/01/2023.  
<b>West Drayton</b> Road Resurfacing	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.	At the July 2022 meeting the Council asked County Cllr Ogle to look to include this section of road for resurfacing and the team.	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. 18/11/2022 no further updates, the Clerk will chase the Highways Manager and Cc in Cllr Ogle. 14/12/2022 no further updates, the Clerk will chase the Highways Manager and Cc in Cllr Ogle.

<b>Gamston</b> Rectory Lane Overgrown Hedges & Trees Ref CSC 430607863	Cllr Worthington advised she initially reported these to the County Council on 18/06/2022	Cutting back of the vegetation for safety reasons adjacent the highway, by Notts County Council.	31/07/2022 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." 17/08/2022 – Work still outstanding the clerk chased the matter with the Highways Coordinator. 05/09/2022 - Highways Liaison Coordinator advised the matter will be dealt with within 6 months (by end of December 2022) 18/11/2022 - no further updates, the Clerk will chase the Highways Liaison Coordinator and Cc in Cllr Ogle. 14/12/2022 - no further updates, the Clerk will chase the Highways Liaison Coordinator and Cc in Cllr Ogle.
<b>Rockley</b> Street light on A638 opposite Holme Lane FS-Case- 460339618	Street light leaning in a potentially dangerous manner adjacent A638	Notts CC to reinstate the lamppost	18/11/2022 The Highways Liaison Coordinator advised, "This enquiry is showing as works ordered under Hams reference 6264583, the Inspector is going out today to check the column again, he has assured me the column is safe and in no danger, even though leaning, once we have a date confirming repair, I will let you know." 14/12/2022 Clerk to chase and ask an estimated timescale for the works to be undertaken and Cc in County Cllr Ogle.

**New Items to escalate:**

Please note in the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

130/22 To receive Reports from the District Councillor, any updates on District Council Matters Raised with Bassetlaw and to escalate outstanding items with the Local Authority via the District Cllr, where necessary

The following outstanding Bassetlaw District Council items have been chased by the Clerk in between meetings, and Cllr Ogle copied in to escalate issues where necessary:

District Council Item	Issue/Detail	Potential Solution	Progress Made
None			

**New Items to escalate:**

Please note in the 1<sup>st</sup> instance, cllrs and members of the public should report all new district council matters (Fly-Tipping, Broken/Missing Street Nameplates, Dog Fouling etc) on-line via the District Council website, themselves, then, should no action have been taken by BDC, bring it to the Parish Council meeting for escalation.

- None.

131/22 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>
Clerk	Postage & Stationery	£26.75
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£26.75</b>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
None##	Potential Sale of Old Laptop	£0.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<u>Bank Balance</u>		
The Current Account Balance		<b>£13,081.44#</b>

Direct Debits, and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE, already **approved** unanimously.  
**#£10,000 ringfenced as the Council's reserve fund.**

**Precept Preparation** - The Clerk provided facts around the national average precept across England & Wales which is approximately £74 at band D, guidance from NALC regards this year's precept and budget settings, which included the following advice *"In recent national and regional County Officer meetings there has been discussion about setting precepts; several County Officers have been alarmed to hear comments from Members such as 'we can't increase the precept because of the 'cost of living crisis'. If your council has an "average" council tax rate (the average parish element of a Band D council tax bill being £74.81 currently) then a 10% inflationary increase in your council's precept would only cost a Band D household 50p a month more. This is regardless of the size of your parish, i.e., such an increase doesn't impact smaller parishes more, contrary to popular opinion. The same applies if your council chooses NOT to apply an inflationary increase to your precept, i.e., reducing your council's spending power to "save parishioners money" will not have a meaningful effect on the costs facing households but will limit your abilities as a local council.*

*It is worth remembering that the average total Band D bill only accounts for just under 4% of that overall bill, compared to the County Council for example, which accounts for 74% of the same bill. we hope these few words will help councils to justify any increases and to remove any guilt councillors may feel about those increases."* The Clerk also provided a detailed breakdown of the precept, reduction of the concurrent grant and inflation over the past 20 years, there has been an almost zero rise on the parish precept (remaining around £25 at Band D) to the tax payer over the 20 years which is not sustainable. Dunham, Darlton, Ragnall & Fledborough Parish Council has increased it's precept by inflation over the years and is similar in size and electorate to the Gamston area, and is currently £65.75 a year at Band D, meaning there are funds to pay for various assets and projects.

The Councillors agreed that the precept will need to increase in 2023/24 and will digest the supporting information in preparation for making a decision. The Clerk advised he will work on the draft budget with the Chairman in readiness for the January meeting.

**## Laptop Sale** - A request from the previous clerk to purchase the parish council laptop was considered. The device is 4 years old, after discussion, Cllr Davies Proposed, Cllr Harding Seconded, and the Council **Resolved** to sell the laptop to the previous clerk for £50.

3. To discuss a grant request from the Idle Times Newsletter

Cllr Worthington has received a grant request of £400 from the newsletter, historically the parish council used to pay £330 a year to support the newsletter. The Idle Times have advised that the printing costs per year, are currently £2,500. After discussion, the matter was agreed to be deferred to the next meeting for a final decision, however, the Clerk is to add £400 to the draft budget and attempt to find out from Elkesley Parish Council and Bothamsall Parish Council how much they have each paid the Idle Times historically and what they have been asked to pay going forward. The Idle Times Editor is also to be asked to try and increase the content to include additional non-parish council matters, light-hearted general community themes etc.

4. To discuss future provision of Christmas Trees in the parishes

Cllr Ramsden explained the idea around supporting Christmas Trees in the parishes. After contacting the County Council, a licence is required and insurance cover for the any Christmas trees/lights erected on County Council land. To be covered under the Parish Council's insurance, the Council would need to purchase the tree(s), this can be supported by donations from the public, which a Cllr can then pay into the Parish Council bank account. After discussion, Cllr Ramsden **Proposed**, Cllr Vernon **Seconded** and the Council **Resolved** to liaise with local Rockley residents in 2023 for the funding of the tree/lights, pay said funding into the PC bank account, arrange for the licence with highways as necessary and the PC then pay for the tree and lights. Other Villages within the parishes may do similar if they wish to.

5. To discuss the funding of Pride in the Parishes

Cllr Ramsden emailed the following costing around the Council since the last meeting:

**Potential Financial Cost:**

Please note these are ideas/suggestions/estimates only:

- Hire of venue - £50 (subject to venue) - We could look at the town hall rather than the school to make the event 'grandier'
- Refreshments - £150 - £200 (subject to numbers)

- Awards - 7 trophy's approx. £40 each max
  - Marketing - £100 - £200 - this would include printing of flyers and any design work.
  - Banners - £150 - £200 - these would be displayed outside and inside of the events to make it more official
- Total: £1000 - £1500

**Required Resources**

- Printing of promotional materials
- Staffing at the event
- Purchase of Awards”

After discussion, Cllr Davies **Proposed**, Cllr Vernon **Seconded** and the Council **Resolved** to hold a Pride in the Parishes event in 2023, that it would be held at and in conjunction with the school summer fayre. The clerk to factor £500 into the draft budget for 2023/24 for the event.

132/22 To progress organising the Parishes in Bloom

Cllr Ramsden advised that the Rockley bulbs have now been planted. Cllr Vernon is planting Eaton & Gamston, Cllr Davies has planted West Drayton. After discussion, the Council **Resolved** to include £100 in the budget for future bulb planting.

133/22 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 and also discussed the following at today's meeting:

- **22/01602/LBA - Works to the Interior East Wall of the Chancel, Including Removal of the 1930s Oak and Veneered Plywood Panelling. St Peters Church Gamston** - After discussion, the Council **resolved** to support the application.

134/22 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 of £954 including VAT, from Toparia Summits Ltd who are used by several other parish councils in Bassetlaw. Since the October meeting Cllr Chandler spoke with the Forestry Advisor Tree Inspector at Notts County Council to clarify exactly what/how much vegetation is required to be removed.

Cllr Mee has met another contractor who has quoted £650. After discussion, Cllr Harding **Proposed**, Cllr Worthington **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** that Cllr Mee accept the £650 quote and arrange for the tree surgery as soon as practically possible. Cllr Mee advised he has the tags ready and will arrange the tagging of the trees in due course. Once the works are completed and the ivy cut back, a full assessment by the Forestry Advisor Tree Inspector at Notts County Council will take place next summer.

135/22 To review and readopt the Emergency Plan

The Clerk emailed the latest version of the plan on file, around the Council for updating prior to the meeting. discussion, Cllr Mee **Proposed**, Cllr Ramsden **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** to amend the contact details and contents as necessary.

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.

136/22 To discuss the Lengthsman Scheme

After discussion, the Council **resolved** to accept the contents of the private & confidential appendix report detailing the Lengthsman Scheme which will be operated in 2023/24. The Council will advertise the self-employed Lengthsman role in due course.

137/22 To consider items for a future agenda raised by residents in the parishes

- A total of 10 replacement poppies (RBLI charge £5ea so £50) to be factored into the 2023/24 S.137 budget at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8:45pm. The next meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023.