

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at the Papplewick and Linby Village Hall on
8th March 2023, 7:15pm**

Present

Cllrs: S Roberts (Chairman), C Hesketh (Vice-Chairman), S Walker, N Penlington, R Pettitt, R Smart and L Gretton (Clerk)

Parishioners & Visitors: 5 parishioners

Minute No.	
23/23	<p><u>Apologies</u> PC Steven Dennis</p>
24/23	<p><u>Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2022 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Hesketh and signed by Cllr Roberts</p>
25/23	<p><u>Chairman's Report</u> Cllr Roberts presented the following report:</p> <p>Firstly, a thank you to all the Councillors and the Clerk for their continued work for the Parish and to our regular meeting attending parishioners who contribute to the open forum. Also a thank you to our local Gedling and Notts Councillors for their continued support of the Parish. I would also like to welcome Cllr Rowan Smart to his first (and I hope not last) Annual Parish Assembly.</p> <p>As always a busy year for the Parish Council. In no particular order... The HR Committee has met to confirm the Clerk's current pay and employment requirements. The Finance Committee met in October to review the Council's finances and to suggest the Precept for 2023/2024. The Precept for 2022/2023 had been increased by a sizable amount and the increase for 2023/2024 is one of 2.28%. The Council consider this increase to be necessary. We have had significant expense in the last few years, the updated website which was necessary to meet new rules and regulations being just one example. We continue to hold ear-marked reserves for a number of aspects of Council work such as the Playing Field and equipment replacement.</p> <p>Planning – a number of planning applications and appeals for us to consider and comment on. I'm not always sure that the views of the Parish Council are taken into account but we can only try. The Neighbourhood Plan was accepted and continues to provide a focus for our comments on planning and development.</p> <p>Highways – we continue to have regular contact with Notts CC and VIA on a number of matters. As I write this work is in progress to sort out and replace damaged drains on Main Street which have been causing major problems for a number of years. The mini –roundabout at the junction of Moor Road and Papplewick Lane is complete and has made turning at this junction much easier. There is new fencing on the edge of Grange Cottage woods and at the access to the Moors footpath. Recently there has</p>

been bulb planting done on the verges around this junction ready for the spring of 2024. We report any fly-tipping seen in the Parish either as individuals or through the Clerk. The Council has received a number of complaints about parking on the footpath on Main Street making using the footpath almost impossible for those with pushchairs, mobility scooters etc. Advice was sought from the Police but unless a report is made at the time of an obstruction there is little that can be done about this. We appreciate the road is not very wide and so ask people to park considerately whenever possible. The decorative road sign from Forest Lane which had been damaged is now with the Parish Council and we will be looking to repair and reinstall this as soon as possible.

Playing field – the playing field is kept in good condition by the endeavours of Malfords on grass cutting and volunteers and the lengthsman. Work has also been done round the parish by the lengthsman and we are always on the lookout for suitable work. The Council will continue to keep this very special part of the parish in good order and have many ideas to develop woodland play. The former skate park had been taken out of use and we were able to sell the old ramps for scrap. The money from this has been added to the earmarked funds for a proposed replacement concrete wheeled activity facility on the site. Further planning on this will be undertaken once the new Council is in place after the Elections. It is expected funding for this will come from grants and other sources, not from the day-to-day Council money. The container is now in place on the playing field to allow for storage and also as a base for volunteers when working on the playing field. Funding for this came from the Miner 2 Major project within the County and from local District councillors as part of improving security on the playing field, we are very grateful for this support. Hedging is to be put along the ‘open side’ of the playing field to improve appearance and to create further habitat in years to come.

Best Kept Village Competition once again did not take place. We continue to ensure the village looks good and we try and stay on top of litter.

The Environment and Community Fund which is supported by the payments for the turbine at Barracks Farm have once again been used to restock planters in the village and also to provide our own Christmas tree and other festive decorations. A thank you to the Marshall family for allowing the tree to be placed on their land. The tree once again looked lovely. The Environment and Community Fund has provided a new seat alongside the footpath on Stanker Hill. Another thank you to the Marshall family for installing this. There has been a replacement barrel on Linby Lane after one was damaged having been moved by contractors and replaced too close to the road. The contractors accepted responsibility for this so there was no cost to the Council. We will be taking part once again in the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 18th March – all volunteers are welcome. Details of this have been included in the latest Parish Council newsletter.

The bonfire event was a great success with the profit from the event being shared between Papplewick Parish Council, Linby Parish Council and Papplewick & Linby Village Hall. It is intended a similar event will take place in November 2023.

The Neighbourhood Plan and action plan – The Councillors continue to look at this to put in place changes as agreed in the plan, the action plan being reviewed regularly as things happen in the Parish.

Poppies and Remembrance – the Parish was decorated with poppies and Silent Soldiers in November and a short service of Remembrance attended by the Royal British Legion and Rev Trevor Raaff was held on 11th November. The Parish Council was also represented at the Remembrance Service at St James Church.

The Councillors have been kept up to date on the plans for East Midlands Devolution. During the year we were concerned to hear the 141 bus service could be discontinued. This bus route is currently operated by Stagecoach with funding from the County Council but this may be reviewed in September. It really is a case of ‘use it or lose it’ I suspect.

Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in the Parish and I’m sure there will be more celebrations for King Charles’ Coronation on Saturday 6th May. It is expected there will be a permanent site of commemoration of the Coronation in the Parish. Please keep an eye on Parish Notice Boards and the website for more information on what is being planned across the villages of Papplewick & Linby.

Finally: This May will see local elections for both Parish and Borough Councillors. Papplewick Parish Council should have 7 Councillors and for a couple of years has had 6 or even only 5. This makes the voluntary role much more difficult. As I said at the start of this report, we have a new Councillor Rowan Smart and I thank him for taking up the baton. Those who are interested in becoming /or continuing to be Parish Councillors have to submit nomination paperwork within the next month. Should there be more than 7 people interested there would need to be an election. I understand a number of current Councillors may not be standing for re-election and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and commitment to the Parish Council and the Parish for a number of years. We will miss their expertise in many areas. The Role of a Parish Councillor has been discussed on the recent newsletter and will be on the agenda for the meeting following this one so I would ask people to consider whether this is something they may be interested in doing. The next Parish Council Meeting which will also be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be in May within 2 weeks of the Elections on 4th May.

26/23

Financial Controller’s Report
Budget / Precept

The budget was reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting in October and ratified at the November meeting.

The precept for 2023/2024 has been agreed at £20,359.00 a rise of 2.28%.

Donations

The Parish Council has received the following receipts for 2022/2023:

Briggs Metal Ltd	Payment for scrapping part of the skatepark	£2,706.00
Village Hall	Contribution towards shelving in Container	£150.00
Notts County Council	Payment towards Container (Miner 2 Major)	£3,700.00
Friends of Moor Pond Woods	Contribution towards shelving in Container	£150.00
Gedling Borough Council	Donation from the Cllr Barnfather & Cllr Smith for Christmas lights/tree	£450.00
Papplewick Environment & Community Fund	Annual payment for wind turbine	£2,319.39
Papplewick & Linby Village Hall	Bonfire Event 2022 (Reimburse & Profit)	£2,755.35
	TOTAL	£12,230.74

Other Income

HMRC	Vat Reclaims	£1,821.28
SAUK Utilities	Settlement for damaged barrel, Linby Lane	£378.00
	TOTAL	£2,199.28

Banking

The Parish Council continue to bank with Virgin Money. Payments continue to be made by bank transfer. The Parish Council should consider adding at least one more authorised user on the account (to be discussed at the Full Council Meeting to follow).

Audit

The Accounts for 2022/2023 will be prepared after 31st March 2023. An interim audit has been carried out by Sue Stack with no accounting issues to report. The internal audit will take place in April.

The Parish Council continue to comply with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. All accounts notices, minutes and policies are available to view on the website.

27/23

Representatives Reports

a) Moor Pond Woods

Cllr Walker reported work has been carried out to the paths and edges and erosion work at Papplewick dam. They have cleared undergrowth from the area around dam bank bridges. They have installed 1000 hedge plants to act as a windbreak from farmland. They continue to monitor the bird and bat boxes which have a healthy population of around 60%; there are 30 bat boxes and half are occupied at any time.

b) Papplewick & Linby Village Hall

The village hall has been fully open during 2022 for the first year since COVID restrictions can in during 2020 and has remained busy. The committee agreed increases in one-off hiring rates during 2022, for parties, weddings, etc. This allowed us to maintain the same rates for our regular hirers. As ongoing costs continue to rise, all rates will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

The Hall has been hit by large increases in gas and electricity prices during 2022. In addition to this, a problem with the safety of our fire doors was identified, and over half have already been replaced, at a cost close to £12,000. The remainder will be completed as soon as possible in 2023.

The Hall had a successful, busy three days of activity over the Platinum Jubilee weekend, including a live band (with pie and peas), and afternoon tea with the Daisy Belles, and an indoor "street party" on a very wet Sunday afternoon. Overall the sales of tickets for the events, and a National Lottery Grant generated a surplus of £1,760 towards Hall funds.

The annual Bonfire and Fireworks event was a great success this year. A joint event with Papplewick and Linby Parish Councils, this generated funds of £2,255 for the Village Hall

The bar at the Hall, now operated by Darren Wright has had a successful year, with a full year profit share for the Village Hall of £7,710 (excluding Bonfire Night).

	<p>This year our Hall manager Sarah has taken a short period of maternity leave, following the birth of her son Aaron in December. Sarah is already back at work. Our cleaner, Maria recently resigned, as she needed work that fitted around school hours. We have already found a replacement.</p> <p>The Hall continues to look for a Health and Safety representative and a Secretary, both of which are voluntary positions.</p>
28/23	<p><u>Papplewick Environment & Community Fund</u> Cllr Walker reported the main projects supported this year are bulb planting around the new roundabout on Moor Road, installation of a seat on Stanker Hill and hedge plants purchased for the playing field.</p>
29/23	<p><u>Parish Action Plan – Update on Projects and Objectives</u> Cllr Walker gave an overview of the projects completed this year and future objectives. Proposed action points for the coming year include continued development of the website, continue to enhance the QEII Playground which includes refurbishing and planting flower beds and new hedging, improvement of informal play, replace unserviceable barrels and continued support for community events e.g. Bonfire and the Papplewick Village Fayre.</p>
30/23	<p><u>Upcoming Elections – the role of a Parish Councillor</u> Cllr Smart commented his motivation to join the PC last year came from helping at the Papplewick Village Fayre and Bonfire event which was a great contribution to the village. He wanted to continue to support the parish by joining the PC.</p> <p>If anyone is interested in finding out more, contact clerk@papplewick.org</p>
31/23	<p><u>PC Steven Dennis to update on policing in the borough</u> PC Dennis sent his apologies and advised he will attend the meeting in May.</p>
32/23	<p><u>Parish business – members of the public are invited to address the Council on any matters within its jurisdiction</u> Mrs Kerr thanked the PC for all their hard work over the years.</p>
33/23	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> The next Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 13th March 2024</p>

The meeting ended at 19:45

Signed Chairman:

Date: