



# Minutes

<b>Meeting name</b>	AGM 10 April 2024
<b>Date</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
<b>Time</b>	19.00 to 20.20
<b>Venue</b>	Gordon League Rugby Football Club
<b>Attendees,</b>	<p>Grant Bowden – Chair            DiBs Bucknell – Treasurer            Ian Pickup – Secretary            Jen Caple            Wayne Subryan            Kate Subryan            Matt Selwyn            Chris Royce            Jasmine Munford            Susan Steggles-Cole            Kiran Emery</p> <p><b>Guests</b>            Canon Nikki Arthy            Pam Tracey – County and Ward Councillor for Westgate and Hempsted            Rebecca Trimnell - Ward Councillor for Westgate and Hempsted</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Mickey Thomas - committee member            Richard Graham – MP for Gloucester            Suzanne Sexton - PCSO</p> <p>A record of attendees was taken (68 names recorded).</p>

Presentation:

- 1) Grant Bowden opened the meeting by welcoming all the villagers who had come to Gordon League Rugby Football Club (GLRFC). He said it was gratifying to see such a good turnout at this AGM. He explained the agenda of the meeting and the hope that we would finish by 20.30
  - 2) Grant then gave his opening remarks – it is with great pleasure and anticipation that I welcome you to our Annual General Meeting. As we gather here today, we come together not just as neighbours, but as a community united by our shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our beloved Hempsted.  
Over the past year, our community has faced unprecedented challenges, yet through resilience and unity, we have persevered. Tonight, we reflect on our achievements, address our concerns, and chart the course for the future of our neighbourhood.  
Throughout this meeting, we will have the opportunity to celebrate our successes, acknowledge the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, and engage in constructive dialogue about the issues that matter most to us. From enhancing safety and security to fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity, our collective voice has the power to shape the future of Hempsted for generations to come.  
As we embark on this journey together, let us remember the importance of collaboration, empathy, and mutual respect. Let us embrace diversity as our greatest strength and strive to build a community where every voice is heard, and every member is valued. I am confident that by working together, we can overcome any obstacle and realize our shared vision of a vibrant, thriving Hempsted. Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your unwavering commitment to our community. Let us make this Annual General Meeting a resounding success and let us continue to make Hempsted a place we are proud to call home. Thank you.
  - 3) Election of Committee Members:
    - a) No nominations for the committee had been received before the meeting.
    - b) Ian Pickup advised that the existing committee (including those co-opted during the year as advised in previous committee meeting minutes) had all agreed to remain in post for this year. Therefore, no election was required.
    - c) The members of the Executive committee had also agreed to stay in post for 2024 so no election was required.
  - 4) Dibs presented the Treasurers report. £407.04 (Bank) £20.00 (cash). Balbinder Bhandal, Chartered accountant and fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants had examined the accounts.
  - 5) Matt presented a slide on Open Spaces and Waterways:
    - a) Permal issues had dominated last year - it had first come to our attention in 2020/21, when Diamorph decided to consolidate all their
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operations to their newly acquired Gloucester site. In May 2023, the smell and noise issues had become so bad that a working group of affected residents was created and at its peak this included 30 members. In November 2023 Diamorph was granted an A2 licence to operate but with several conditions, some of which were attributable to the representations made by the Working Group. The most obvious of these is the erection of a 5-metre-high fence along the canal to protect the residents from noise. Whilst the Working Group has been disbanded, there is on-going engagement with Permali, the Community Wellbeing Team at Gloucester City Council and Worcestershire Regulatory Services who are the independent monitoring/technical body overseeing operations. Matt asked that we give a big thanks to Steve Drew who had been instrumental in getting action on all the issues.

- b) Canal and River Trust: Matt advised he had established a good working relationship with the Southwest Coordinator of the Canal and River Trust who are responsible for the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, its towpath and bridges. Issues regarding safety and welfare of the towpath have been raised along with the problems associated with homeless people camping within woodlands. Whilst some individuals have been successfully 'rehoused' there is an ongoing problem and this is being investigated by our PCSO Suzanne Sexton.
  - c) With regard to open spaces, Matt has established useful contacts at Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire County Council with regard to Waters Reach corner. Whatever is done there will require some maintenance from residents.
  - d) Matt thanked Malcolm Judge and Tim Finch for their work in putting wood chip down on the footpath in the churchyard and with the help of others along the permissive path from Hempsted farmhouse to the corner of the Ladywell field.
  - e) Wayne gave a brief update on the Neighbourhood plan. He will be revitalising efforts on this for 2024.
  - 6) Chris Royce gave an update on Safety and Welfare:
    - a) He presented a map showing coverage of Neighbourhood Watch areas and asked for support for those parts not covered, notably Netheridge and Strawberry Fields. He had had circulated Leaflets to every resident in those areas without an active Neighbourhood Watch, but no one had stepped up to run the schemes.
    - b) Chris advised that over 2500 drivers had been fined for speeding on Secunda Way. Despite plenty of publicity drivers continue to ignore the speed limits. The same is also true for Hempsted Lane. Chris is looking at the options for this road – education for the most likely offenders who are mainly local people. See the Q&A section for more on this.
  - 7) Chris presented a slide on Investments, Portal and Internet.
    - a) Chris advised there had been a survey done about the PO and Village shop. The 112 responses are being considered.
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- b) Jen is surveying all the 'dog poo' bins. The aim is to make sure they are in the right place, get ideas for new locations and ensure all the 'poo only' bins are replaced by the bigger multipurpose receptacles.
  - c) All the information on this and indeed everything else about Hempsted Residents Association can be found on the portal. On here can be found village updates, committee meeting minutes – including the AGM, useful information- who to contact and self-help details, and finally a contact address for the HRA.
- 8) Kate presented a slide on Entertainments and Events in the village about 2023 events and planned 2024 events. Kate asked for help in organising event for 2024. Our PCSO had asked about hosting a carol singing event on Quayside as she had successfully done in Earls Park in Podsmead for the last 3 years. There was universal approval for the suggestion – **Action Kate to follow up with Suzanne.**
  - 9) DiBs talked about the Highway issues: very busy with events in 2023 and still the same in 2024: the most recent being St Ann's bridge closures and the ensuing traffic chaos. DiBs is working with CRT and Highways officers to try to minimize disruption for any future closures. Richard Graham and Pam Tracey are also involved in these efforts.
  - 10) Legislation and Developments: Grant advised that the population of Hempsted had grown by 40% since 2010. The current developments have mostly completed but Hawthorn Park – the Hillside Farm development - is still waiting for final approval. The development will be built over a period of 4 years. A working party has been set up to review the detailed plans and any conditions associated with them.
  - 11) Grant opened the meeting to questions from the floor.
    - a) Right turn off Secunda Way into Hempsted Lane: Pam Tracey, Rob Mills and a Highways representative met to discuss this issue and it was agreed that Highways will redesign the junction.
    - b) Access to Pharmacy – provision of prescriptions: Under the heading of Safety and Welfare Chris Royce will provide guidance on delivery options for prescriptions either from Badhams or other postal services e.g., Pharmacy 2 U
    - c) Possibility of the Hempsted Lane bus route to run in both directions and complete the return loop to enhance accessibility for bus users. **Action: Grant will investigate this issue.**
    - d) Primary School provision – Kate answered this referencing a 1.5 intake: At the planning meeting regarding Hill Farm development the Local Authority said there was a possible need for an additional 15 places at Hempsted School. Currently we have one class for each year and there are 30 pupils in each class. So each September 30 children start in the Reception Class. The 1.5 intake means 45 children would start in the Reception class which is basically 1 and a half classes (1.5). In order for us to have enough space they would need to expand the school which they have looked at but numbers currently don't indicate the need, so it is all on hold for now.
    - e) Speeding and parking near school – education of drivers and enforcement of existing traffic movement/parking regulations.
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- f) Football field footpath shrinking: Matt Selwyn is looking into this issue.
  - g) Sewage and connections issues in Court Gardens, raised by Brian Barber. Grant has spoken to him about this and advised him to write to HempstedRA email address with the details so it can be investigated.
- 12) Grant thanked everyone for their attendance and promised that the minutes of this meeting would be available on the portal as soon as the committee had ratified them.
- 13) Meeting closed at 20:20
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