

## Minutes

<b>Meeting name</b>	AGM 9 April 2025
<b>Date</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<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  Wayne Subryan  Chris Royce  Susan Steggles-Cole  Kiran Emery  Gemma Bate  Alex Kirby</p> <p><b>Key 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>  Jen Caple - Committee (On Holiday)  Alex McIntyre - MP for Gloucester  Suzanne Sexton - PCSO</p> <p>A record of attendees was taken (37 member's names recorded).</p>

### Presentation:

1. Grant Bowden opened the meeting by welcoming all the members who had come to Gordon League Rugby Football Club (GLRFC) for the Hempsted Residents Association (HRA Annual General Meeting (AGM)). 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:

Good evening, everyone, and thank you all for joining us at this year's AGM. It was a busy start to the AGM year here in Hempsted, with a flurry of activity across the village and plenty of hard work behind the scenes from our fantastic volunteer committee. I want to begin by thanking each one of you for your continued support – whether that's lending a hand at an event as an active member, turning up to

meetings, or simply being an engaged and caring member of our community. It's your involvement that keeps the spirit of this village alive.

As we moved into the second part of this reporting year, we shifted our focus toward our Community Champions events – a new initiative designed to highlight and celebrate the brilliant contributions made by individuals across Hempsted as well as engaging with more residents. It's also a way for us to create a little breathing space – a light relief, if you will – for some of our long-standing volunteers who have given so much of their time and energy.

We're incredibly lucky to live in such a special place – one where neighbours look out for one another, where families grow up together, and where the sense of community truly shines and supported by some amazing organisations such as the Church, School, Sports and Social Clubs! Let's continue to build on that, together. Over the next hour, we'll take some time to reflect on the areas where the HRA has contributed and delivered throughout the year. As we go through each topic, please feel free to raise any relevant questions. If you have more general queries, we kindly ask that you save those for the final section of the meeting.

Thank you again for being here this evening, and for playing your part in what makes Hempsted the lovely village we're all proud to call home.

### 3. Election of Committee Members:

- a) Two nominations for the committee had been received before the meeting – Alex Kirby and Gemma Bate who had both been previously co-opted on to the committee. For them to be elected to the committee, members were asked to vote. Ian Pickup asked for a show of hands and the vote was unanimous in favour.
- b) No additional nominations had been received for the committee, thus the current committee members, who had all agreed to stay on, were deemed elected
- c) The members of the Executive committee had also agreed to stay in post for 2025, so no election was required.

### 4. DiBs presented the ratified Treasurer's report as well as noting the change of Bank – See attached slide 7.

### 5. Grant gave an overview of the past 12 months: see slide 8.

### 6. DiBs then presented his Highways report – slides 9 and 10 of the attached slide pack.

- a) One of the statements – we can't do anything about parked cars on Hempsted Lane was challenged by a member who had been involved in a serious collision of which he believes is partly because of parked cars on the lane. It was agreed to take this discussion offline because of the very serious nature of the incident and a follow-on review to be considered. **Action 1-** DiBs
- b) DiBs took the opportunity to ask those members of the audience who lived on Hempsted Lane if they had any objections to speed bumps outside their properties:

8 out of 9 said no. **Action 2-** Consult professional authorities to advise on speed calming - DiBs

- c) At this stage another member raised the issue of cars parking, sometime long term, in Hilton Close. When this development was built it was designated as a turning space for emergency vehicles. In an instance recently an ambulance could not even get into the close because of parked cars. **Action 3** - raise with highways and see what is possible - DiBs

7. Gemma then gave an interesting overview of green incentives on the topic of 'Environment and Open spaces' and setting out the objectives for next year, Wayne covered the Neighbourhood plans aspirations and how there will be a working group setup in the upcoming months. There was a request for volunteers in both areas
8. Kiran presented on the Website, providing an interesting summary on IT compliance and accessibility, he then highlighted future capabilities such as payment system for events and forums for discussions. Grant then emphasised how key the website is for documentation management as well as informing the members.
9. Grant then presented about Planning and Legislation, where we discuss the 5G mast, discharges of conditions, Hawthorne development conditions and Hempsted Car boot site – see slide 13. **Action 4** – To consult with new car boot operator to ensure Highways are not blocked by queuing sellers – Grant.
10. Grant presented on behalf of Chris about Safety and Welfare – primarily the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme on slide 14; the issue of speeding in Hempsted Lane and on Secunda Way slide 15 and finally on crime in Hempsted using figures provided by our local PCSO Suzanne Sexton, Slide 16. Although the police were not present at the meeting the belief is that our village compares favourably with other comparable villages. Question was raised about rough sleepers of which was asked to be answered in Q&A session see point 16 b).
11. Sue then presented on Technologies, specifically very high-speed broadband provision in the village – slide 17 giving to position of the main technology providers. One question arose with regards to the coverage down to the end of Rea Lane which always seemed unlikely. Given this when will the 5g signal be sufficient to obviate the need to fibre to the property? **Action 5** - to investigate 5G roll out strategy - Sue.
12. Sue also talked about the success of a programme first started during lockdown to give them a laptop to enable multiple children in the village to maximise education and achieve their full potential. We also asked the community if they had any spare laptops to donate.
13. Ian then presented a slide on Easements – the new single word covering unadopted public land, footpaths access, rights of way, including the canal tow path – slide 18.

14. Sue presented on behalf of Jen (apologies received) on the Development project, noting the success of the volunteering, assistance with shop and Scouts and the distribution of bins – slide 19.
15. Alex presented a slide on the Community Champions and the work they had done. He gave a special thanks to Kate Subryan for the quiz night at GLRFC which had raised £500.00 towards the Children's Easter Party scheduled for, Easter Sunday, 20 April 2025.
16. Grant then gave a brief look forward and future projects, as well as advising on the goals for the HRA in 2025/26 "Increase digital capability and Enhancement of local Environment"- slide 21.
17. In slide 22, Grant illustrated the amount of work done by the committee in the past year and gave thanks to the many people who had supported and helped us, including our MPs and Councillors (past and present), the Policing team, GLRFC, the Parish Magazine and Church. Also, thanks to the Salvation Army who provided music for the Carols on the Quays event - Slide 22.
  - a) Debbie Hotchkins was then offered to present on an upcoming event to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day which is on the 8th May this year, which there will be a special church service at 19.00. On the 5<sup>th</sup> May there is free exhibition at the Village Hall to show village life and people from that time; including two videos showing how the village fared with stories of individuals who took their part in the lead up to VE day – she called out to members if they were aware of any relatives from the village who had been involved at that time to get in touch with her.
18. Grant opened the meeting to questions from the floor:
  - a) A question on the evergreen fir tree and planting of it was raised by Mrs Lomax of which Grant confirm there is a agreed position in Sandlewood Green open space and will be planted in the upcoming year. **Action 6** – Agreed a date with Jen – Grant.
  - b) The issue of the homeless people camping in the woods by the canal was raised by Malcolm Judge and what can be done about them, given many visits by the police and local authority reps.
    - i) Rebecca Trimnell one of our ward councillors says she understood that if the people were genuinely homeless, then the council had no powers to move them on because they had nowhere to go. The council had changed its homeless persons accommodation provider from P3 to Julian House, and they were expected to outreach assertively to provide housing solutions for these people. This has yet to happen. In the meantime, Gloucester City Council are developing a policy on how they deal with homeless people. This is expected to be ready by September 2025.



- ii) Pam Tracey said she had been trying to deal with issue for a long time in conjunction with UBICO who regularly clear up around the campsites
  - c) Ian Giles raised the point that the car boot site had been let to a new operator – question is what will they do to manage queuing traffic on Secunda Way when the car boot site opens in the morning and how will this be enforced? Grant advised he would be talking to the new operator (see action 4) about this and related matters, emphasizing the need to do something positive to manage traffic flow at peak times.
  - d) Pam Tracey thanks all the committee and community for their hard work over the last year to help keep Hempsted special, a round of applause was offered to the team.
19. Grant thanked everyone for their attendance, promising that the minutes of this meeting would be available on the portal immediately after the committee had ratified them on 24<sup>th</sup> April 25.
20. Meeting closed at 20:20
- Slide Pack to be version controlled and attached with minutes **Action 7** - Ian

Dist.

Exec Board - Electronic

Committee – Hard Copy

Members - Website (link form [HempstedRA.co.uk](http://HempstedRA.co.uk) to be shared on Facebook HVNb)