

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH AUGUST 2019 AT
8:00PM AT THE READING ROOM, GRESSENHALL**

9442 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Saunders
Councillor Reader Councillor Bunning
Councillor Crisp Councillor Harris
District Councillor Duffield District Councillor Atterwill
County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

7 members of the public

9443 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Harris to his first meeting.

9444 Accepted apologies for absence – Councillor Melton

9445 Declarations of interest – Councillors Beazley and Reader informed the meeting that they were neighbours of one of the High House Farm planning application.

9446 Minutes 1st July 2019 - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record. Councillor Bunning proposed that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Councillor Reader and all councillors present agreed.

9447 Progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting – None.

The meeting was opened to the public for their comments at 8:05pm.

9448 A resident enquired whether bees can be kept on the allotments. Clerk to find out and inform the resident.

9449 A resident brought to the parish council's attention that the fence at the allotment, which was discussed last year, still had not been erected. Deer are entering the allotments and damaging crops which is very disheartening for the allotment holders. It was agreed to add the item to the next agenda and, in the meantime, councillors will visit the site and arrange for prices of suitable fencing.

9450 A resident enquired whether there was any update on the gateways. This is an agenda item and will be discussed during the full meeting.

9451 A resident reported that the footpath along the charity pit needs cutting back as stinging nettles and branches are obstructing the path. Councillor Saunders offered to go and cut back.

That being all the parish council meeting resumed at 8:10pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

9452 Reporting of Highway Matters – It was reported that Highways are very behind and are now undertaking work which was reported in June. The chairman emailed NCC regarding health and safety concerns of the lack of hedge and verge cutting in the village. A response was received stating that NCC are using a different sub-contractor this year who was unfamiliar with the cutting areas. The problem has now been resolved. The email also stated that there would be no reimbursement for the parish council who paid for the worst areas to be cut. Another water leak was reported on Bittering Street. Clerk to report. Councillor Kiddle-Morris informed the meeting that The Green is a restricted byway. This means that NCC should repair to footpath standards. Some pot holes may be repaired and can be reported online at My Norfolk. Clerk to report pot holes on The Green.

9453 Update on Gateways – Councillor Beazley contacted Highways following up from the site meeting in May. Confirmation was received that gateways could be installed at both ends of Litcham Road. This would cost £5,500 in total although 50% funding may be available through the Parish Partnership Scheme. A discussion took place and although the signs look good, it was questioned whether they have any effect in slowing traffic. It was agreed to complete a funding application which the clerk will do before December. It was reminded that there is £1,200 from an anonymous donator within the accounts. A councillor could ask the donator whether they are happy to fund this project when a funding decision has been made.

9454 Consider Parish Partnership Funding – The clerk had asked NCC whether two applications could be made. It

was agreed by all councillors to complete two applications; one to resurface the road around The Green and the second for the gateways. Clerk to complete and submit before December.

- 9455 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – No further information to report.
- 9456 Community Car Scheme Update – It has been a reasonable month with 670 miles covered. Drivers are in short supply at the moment due to holidays and illness. The Chairman thanked Ann and her drivers.
- 9457 Update on WWI Memorial – Councillor Melton is away so no update on the bench. Councillor Saunders will contact the metalworker to see if the bench is complete. It was suggested to hold a brief service of commemoration prior to the Remembrance Sunday service and final details, once confirmed, will be put in the News and Views.
- 9458 Update on The Swan Community Group – There is a meeting tomorrow. The group are holding a ‘Swan Soiree’ on The Green on 23rd August, 5pm-10pm. There will be a BBQ, Churros, live music, cocktails and beer, just bring a picnic blanket and family/friends.
- 9459 Update on Clerk’s CiLCA Training – Module two and three are complete and passed. Module four is awaiting assessment and module five is awaiting tutor comments.
- 9460 Update on Registry of parish land – An email from County Hall has confirmed the Highway. The land can now be registered. Councillor Beazley will liaise with the Charity trustees.
- 9461 Update on Community Litter Pick – There seems to be a good response to the pick on Saturday 10th August. Residents will meet at the Reading Room at 9am. Refreshments will be served after the event. Thank you to those residents who are not able to make the event but are helping to clear up before the event. The correct email address is litterpickingressenhall@outlook.com.
- 9462 Parish Council Vacancy – Remove from agenda.
- 9463 Update on Non-Native Species – Eight volunteers attended the playing field on Friday to pull the Himalayan Balsam. Clerk to send thanks to NCC and the volunteers for their work. Thanks were given to Councillor Saunders for strimming the balsam. It was agreed to ask NCC if they were able to return next year and, if so, see if village volunteers can be recruited. It was suggested to start in June next year before seeding takes place. Clerk also to contact the social club and thank them for opening their services for the volunteers to use.
- 9464 To discuss the Drift pathway – An email was received regarding the Drift pathway stating it was dangerous especially for the older generation. Councillor Crisp visited and cleared the site. A discussion took place as to the ownership of the path and the need for it to be kept cleared as is a well-used path. It is believed to be a right of way. Councillors Saunders and Crisp offered to help maintain the path. Thanks were given to Councillor Crisp for his work.
- 9465 To discuss the fence around the play area – Two councillors reported that the small personnel gate at the play area is not closing as the post has moved. Also, the large gate needs a padlock as children are opening the gates and swinging on them. G&G fencing have been asked to come and look at the post.
- 9466 Report from District Councillor Atterwill – has been in contact with the shop owners confirming the legal situation re selling the property. They will also be attending a meeting at Breckland Council on 12th August. Councillor Beazley asked if Councillor Atterwill could send the information to him prior to the meeting. The Abel Homes application to remove the ecological buffer has been approved. Breckland Council have introduced a new Chairman’s Panel for planning applications. Where certain larger applications would normally go straight to committee or a Ward Member would call an application into committee, this has now changed. A District Councillor will now have to complete a form and submit to the Panel requesting that it is called in to the full Planning Committee. The Panel will consist of the Chairman and two members of the Planning Committee (on a rotating basis) and they will decide which applications will go to committee and which will be decided as a Planning Officer’s delegated decision. Mr Atterwill advised that because Breckland Council’s constitution has been changed it will be up to Ward members to now request that larger applications as well as any contentious smaller applications are called in for consideration by the full Planning Committee. There is no guarantee now that an application of any size will be heard at the full Planning Committee going forward.
- 9467 Report from District Councillor Duffield – Councillor Duffield informed the meeting that the Church Farm

appeal had been refused by the Secretary of State. An email has been received confirming that no planning application for the pub has been received but one is anticipated within the next four weeks. Highways have concerns with the Hill Farm application which has not been decided yet. There is still no date for the Local Development Framework.

- 9468 Report from County Councillor – Councillor Kiddle-Morris reported that 93% of Norfolk can now access fast Broadband. The Government are funding £8m to provide 375 NCC buildings with ultrafast broadband. Residents may be able to piggy back this broadband. NCC's received an unqualified statement in relation to the annual audit. This means the council are receiving good value for money. The County Farms has grown letting starter units through to larger units. £2m gross income was received in the last year. Tenancies are now between 5 and 10 years.
- 9469 Councillor Kiddle-Morris commented regarding the gateways that, in his opinion, a set is not required at the museum end of Litcham Road. The set at the bottom of Dunfer Hill would close the road down and hopefully reduce speeding.
- 9470 To formally appoint Parish Council Policies – The Equality and Diversity Policy was formally agreed and signed by all councillors present.
- 9471 To consider Parish Council Policies – The Community Car Risk Assessment was circulated to all councillors.
- 9472 To discuss planning matters – Norfolk Boreas Offshore Windfarm Order – Notice of accepted application. Information circulated to councillors.
- 9473 High House Farm – Change of use from machinery repair and workshop to gym – All councillors agreed that they have no fundamental objection to the business, but concerns were raised regarding the opening hours, potential noise, and possible increase in traffic. Councillors also agreed that the applicant should make a retrospective application for planning on the recycling / storage site at the end of the farm yard at High House farm. The clerk was asked to contact planning to seek clarity regarding these concerns. Clerk to also draft planning comments and circulate councillors for agreement. Councillor Crisp proposed to ask DC Atterwill to request the application goes to committee. All councillors present agreed. Clerk to forward details to DC Atterwill.
- 9474 Bramble Farm – Construction of a porch to the front elevation and conversion of farm shop to a domestic garage. Parts of this application are retrospective as the front porch and rear extension have already been built. All councillors present had no objection to this application.
- 9475 Approve July's payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £242.20, HMR&C - £56.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme - £80.80, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £87.70, Breckland Council - £75.00, Reading Room - £40.00.
- 9476 Councillor Saunders proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Reader and all councillors present agreed.
- 9477 Reports from Councillors – The circulation list needs to be updated with the addition of Councillor Harris.
- 9478 Correspondence to be circulated to councillors (for information only):
- Breckland email re Review of Polling Stations
 - Email re upcoming works on A47
 - Bank statement June
 - Bank statement July
 - Lincoln Newsletter – July
 - Budget monitoring schedule
 - Quarterly bank reconciliation – April-June

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 9:20pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd September 2019 at 8:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 2nd September 2019