

MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7TH
FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7:00PM IN THE READING ROOM

10246 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Keidan
Councillor Crisp Councillor Bunning
Councillor Reader Councillor Harris
County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

10 members of the public.

10247 Accepted Apologies: Councillor Melton, District Councillor Atterwill

10248 Declarations of interest – All councillors (except Councillor Bunning) declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

10249 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 6th December 2021 – The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021 were confirmed as a correct record. The picnic bench has been installed on the playing field.

10250 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – Defibrillator missed from agenda, add to March.

The meeting was opened to the public for their comments at 7:05pm.

10251 A resident expressed their objection to the Threeways Bungalow planning application due to its vast size, prominent, area prone to flooding and visually not in keeping. This item will be discussed later in the meeting.

10252 A resident informed the meeting regarding his correspondence with UK Power Network. An engineer carried out a survey of high voltage units and cut trees near cables. This is a positive result.

10253 A resident enquired if there were any developments with the reported flooding of Bittering Street near Panhard Drive. The Clerk had reported this before Christmas but no updates have been received. Councillor Kiddle-Morris offered to look into this.

10254 A resident asked if there was a draining plan for the Old Bridge area. Councillor Crisp thought that water drained to the river (Wendling Beck).

That being all the parish council meeting resumed at 7:05pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

10255 Update on COVID-19 – Nothing to report.

10256 Reporting of Highway Matters – A highway engineer installed a 30mph sign where the second gateway should be as he said there was not enough room. Councillor Kiddle-Morris will visit the site with the Highways manager. The Chairman asked if councillors could meet when the visit takes place. Councillor Kiddle-Morris to forward time and date of meeting. All pots holes have been filled in the village. This is very good news. Councillor Keidan enquired who repairs pot holes on the edge of the road near the entrance to a farm gate past Rectory Farm. Councillor Kiddle-Morris advised to send a photo of the pot hole to him. A discussion took place around Breckland's Grounds Maintenance Plan. It was considered whether the parish council takes on the responsibility of grass and verge cutting. Councillor Kiddle-Morris to speak with Highways to see if funding would be available. Quotes could be sought from local contractors. To be discussed at the next meeting.

10257 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Continuing to work on a scheme. A consultation will take

place in due course.

- 10258 Community Car Scheme Update – It has been a busy month with 746 miles covered. A new driver has been carrying out journeys. The clerk has completed the 2022/23 grant application and given to the co-ordinator to check before submitting.
- 10259 Update on The Swan Community Group – It is a hive of activity with 20 volunteers attending Saturday. They are aiming for an Easter opening and manager interviews will take place in two weeks' time.
- 10260 Update of the Parish Partnership Funding for 2020/21 – Covered in the Highways Matters section.
- 10261 Update of the Parish Partnership Funding for 2021/22 – Work to be completed by end March 2022.
- 10262 To provide an update on internet banking – Clerk to visit branch on Friday.
- 10263 To update on obtaining views of younger residents – No response has been received from the article in the News and Views. It was agreed to keep the article in for the next month.
- 10264 Update on doctors' consultation – Contact has been made with the new Practice Manager. The new telephone system is in place and has made improvements. Councillor Keidan expressed the importance of people understanding the different consultations on offer, especially the non-computer users. She again requested an article for the News and Views. Any issues should be raised with the practice manager. There is still no date for the Patient Participation Group meetings.
- 10265 To discuss the Norfolk Pond Project – Andy Hinds visited the pond and as the willow is pruned and the overflow was ok, he did not have anything to offer. Remove from the agenda.
- 10266 To discuss Breckland's Mental Health and Wellbeing Training – The Clerk and Councillor Harris are booked on to the training on 2nd March.
- 10267 To discuss the County Councillors Free Tree Scheme – Councillors would like to order a variety of trees to plant in the playing field. Councillor Kiddle-Morris will try to obtain them.
- 10268 To arrange Himalayan Balsam control work – It was agreed to add to the May agenda to plan work in June/July.
- 10269 Grant application from St Mary's PCC – An application was received to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard/grass cutting. All councillors present agreed to the sum of £500. A discussion took place regarding other areas the parish council could help. Councillor Crisp to talk to the Social Club re upgrading the car park. A discussion took place regarding a football goal/rebound area at the playing field. Councillor Reader will bring quotes to the next meeting and the clerk will see if any funding is available. The pub is discussing improvements to external front of house. Ideas will be forwarded for discussion. Councillor Harris questioned whether full costings of any potential verge/grass cutting should be sought before granting further funds. This was agreed and costs for the above projects will be sought.
- 10270 To discuss the work list for Norfolk Woods and Hedges – Councillor Crisp added that the hedges on the playing field near Soken Drive and the allotments need cutting by the end of this month. Councillor Crisp to contact Norfolk Woods and Hedges to discuss the possibility of this.
- 10271 To discuss maintenance required at the Surveyor's Pit – The clerk was asked to write to the tenants and ask that the hedge be cut along the main road by the end of the month and that the scrap metal is disposed of.

To discuss planning applications –.

- 10272 Threeways Bungalow – Erection of steel framed building for storage
All councillors present agreed that they had concerns regarding the position, height, direction, usage, access and the possible loss of hedging. It was agreed to contact District Councillor Atterwill and ask for the application to go to committee. Clerk to respond.
- 10273 Union House, Rural Life Museum – Accessibility work to provide external accessibility ramps and footpaths, widening of internal doorways to allow wider doors and provision of gender-neutral accessible toilet facilities – All councillors present had no objections to this application.
- 10274 Report from District Councillors – No reports. Councillor Atterwill sent an update regarding a resident who contacted him with concerns of leaf debris at Rougholme Close. Breckland street cleaning department visited this week and the resident was very pleased.
- 10275 Report from County Councillor Kiddle-Morris – The budget has been set with a 2.99% increase in council tax. 1% is due to the high demand on children and adult social services. A joint assessment between Breckland and NHS is proving valuable.
- 10276 To approve January payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £295.70, HMR&C - £72.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme PC - £86.45, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme BC - £93.25, Gressenhall Relief Charity - £1.00, Reading Room - £12.00.
- 10277 Councillor Crisp proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Harris and all councillors present agreed.
- 10278 Reports from councillors – Councillor Reader informed the meeting the junior climber on the play area is in need of repair. The annual safety check should be completed this month so discuss when report is received.
- 10279 Plans are in place for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The beacon is to be lit at 9:15pm on Thursday 2nd June and the choir will sing a special jubilee song. The annual fete will take place on Saturday 4th June. Clerk to inform insurance company. Councillor Crisp proposed looking into purchasing a commemorative mug for each child of the village. Add to the next agenda.
- 10280 Correspondence – None.
- 10281 Dates of forthcoming meetings: Monday 7th March, Monday 4th April, Tuesday 3rd May (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting), Monday 6th June.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:25pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th March 2022@ 7:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 7th March 2022