

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7TH
FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7:00PM IN THE READING ROOM**

10600 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Bunning
Councillor Reader Councillor Kiedan
Councillor Crisp Councillor Melton
Councillor Harris District Councillor Atterwill
District Councillor Duffield County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

Chairman of Breckland Council, Mike Nairn

17 members of the public

Before the meeting started, there was a presentation by the Chairman of Breckland Council to Ann Haverson. Ann was nominated as an Unsung Hero by District Councillor Atterwill for A Pride in Breckland Award. Ann has been a community car driver and latterly the coordinator for over 20 years. Praise was given for her dedication and for the time and patience offered to users of the scheme. Ann was presented with her certificate and a lapel badge by the Chairman. The parish council thanked Ann for her service and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Many of the regular drivers were present at the meeting and were also thanked for their time and effort to the scheme. Thanks were also given to Anne Maskell who will be taking over the coordination of the scheme.

10601 Accepted Apologies: None.

10602 Declarations of interest – All councillors (except Councillor Bunning) declared an interest in The Swan Public House, Councillor Reader declared an interest in matters relating to the play area, Councillor Bunning and Councillor Melton in relation to the Affordable Housing Scheme.

10603 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 6th December 2022 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 were confirmed as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

10604 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – None

The meeting was opening to the public at 7:10pm.

10605 A resident reported their objection to the application at Sparrow Green Farm. They felt the dwellings accommodating 10 people, hot tubs, smoke from BBQ's, noise and additional vehicles will have a negative impact. These concerns were also reported in the Environmental Health report.

10606 A resident introduced themselves as the owner of Sparrow Green Farm and was available should any questions arise. The resident informed the meeting that the maximum number of visitors at one time would be 8 (2 visitors in two of the properties and 4 visitors in one property).

That being all the meeting resumed at 7:12pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

10607 Reporting of Highway Matters – The pot hole in the layby along Dereham Road has been filled. The gullies and soak away near Panhard Drive have been installed. Pot holes were reported on most roads of the village but specifically along Longham Lane and at the junction of the museum. Clerk to report.

10608 To discuss NCC Grass Cutting Agreement – The agreement was circulated to all councillors. A map for Appendix B is needed to clarify areas for the urban cut. The agreement will need to be agreed and signed at the next meeting.

10609 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Andrew and his brother met with Hastoe to discuss the proposed footpath and to discuss any concerns. Although there is a portion of hedgerow being removed, there is additional hedging and trees being planted. Land has been made available to the village by the Meltons for the provision of a footpath to ensure road safety and a safe foot access to the village. Residents will cross onto the field where a TROD will be installed leading to Common Drift. The concrete on the corner will be removed making the corner wider and safer. These actions should alleviate concerns of walking on the road. It was agreed there is sufficient parking for the tenants of the properties. The Chairman thanked the Meltons

for making the land for the footpath available.

The process of selecting tenants will be via a local connection criteria. The first will be residents currently living in the village for more than 2 year, followed by working in the village for more than 2 years, close family link in 5 years, lived for 2 of the last 5 years in the village for example. If none of these criteria are met, the properties will be offered to residents by expanding the geographical area around Gressenhall. A question was asked whether the properties will be rented or shared equity. The vast majority will be for rent. A question was raised whether the rent would be a fair rent. It is our understanding that this will be the case. A question was raised when the properties would be ready for occupation. It is hoped the properties would be ready by summer 2025. The Chairman reminded the meeting that ONLY people who are on Breckland's Housing Register would be offered a property so any interested parties should register as soon as possible.

- 10610 Community Car Scheme Update – There were 619 miles travelled this month. The scheme is in desperate need of new drivers. Anyone interested can either contact Anne Maskell or the clerk for more details.
- 10611 To provide an update on internet banking – Nothing to report.
- 10612 Update on the work list for Norfolk Woods and Hedges – Clerk to contact Norfolk Woods and Hedges re the Oak Trees at Swan Drive.
- 10613 Update on the playing field funding project – For transparency purposes, it was agreed for the clerk to obtain tenders via an online tender website. This will then enable funding to be sought.
- 10614 Update on Elmham Surgery – Councillor Kiedan is meeting with the practice manager on 17th February. Positive feedback has been received which will be passed on.
- 10615 To discuss the pub and car parking – Leaflets were printed to be placed on vehicles politely pointing out safer parking options. Concerning photos have been forwarded to the parish council with cars parking in dangerous positions along the road and in front of the ‘no parking’ signs. Hopefully, a polite note on the windscreen will persuade people to use Bittering Street rather than parking dangerously or on The Green.
- 10616 To discuss offering a hot spot for residents this winter – The Swan has been very busy with their coffee mornings with around 27 attending today.
- 10617 To discuss cars parking on the green space at the junction of Bittering Street and Park Road – This seems to resolved itself. Remove from agenda.
- 10618 To discuss the grant application from St Mary's PCC – A grant application was received from Gressenhall PCC. Following a discussion and taking into account the current climate, all councillors present agreed to offer a £700 donation.
- 10619 To discuss the SAM2 data – The SAM2 data was encouraging with 85% of cars driving under the speed limit. One car was reported at 50mph on one occasion. Clerk to contact the Highways officer to see if the sign can be used in a different location in the village.
- 10620 To discuss a parish council vacancy – Councillor Harris will be moving from the village in the coming months so a councillor vacancy will arise. Clerk to inform Breckland and place a note in the News and View for anyone interested. Elections will take place in May but if any resident is interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the clerk for a nomination form. Forms will need to be submitted to Breckland by April 4th.
- 10621 To discuss planning applications –
- **Dove Farm, 107 Bittering Street - Change of use-** Proposal to convert an existing brick built stable/barn behind main dwelling within curtilage into a cattery – No objection submitted by deadline of 12th January.
 - **The Shrublands, Gressenhall Road, Beetley - Residential Development of 12no. dwellings including affordable homes and over 55's specialist housing** – Objection to site being outside of village envelope submitted by deadline of 13th January.
 - **3PL/2022/1409/HOU Sparrow Green Farm, Longham Road - Replacement of existing single-storey rear extension with a new single-storey rear extension** – all councillors present had no objection to this application.

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- **3PL/2022/1408/F Sparrow Green Farm, Longham - Creation of 3 no. holiday lets to include the conversion of 3 existing buildings and associated works** - Whilst all 7 councillors encourage enterprise within the village, 6 out of the 7 councillors objected to this particular application due to the negative social impact on neighbouring properties and the single-track roads around the property. One councillor was in favour of this application as long as suitable restrictions were in place to negate any anti-social impact on the neighbouring properties.
- **3PL/2022/1407/LB Sparrow Green Farm, Longham - Conversion of buildings to 3 no. holiday lets – Listed building consent** - Whilst all 7 councillors encourage enterprise within the village, 6 out of the 7 councillors objected to this particular application due to the negative social impact on neighbouring properties and the single-track roads around the property. One councillor was in favour of this application as long as suitable restrictions were in place to negate any anti-social impact on the neighbouring properties.
- **Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse – Erection of Pole Barn** – all councillors present had no objection to this application.

10622 Report from District Councillor Atterwill – Councillor Atterwill referred councillors to the Environmental Health Officer report on the Sparrow Green Farm application proposing conditions including fencing, lighting etc. Council Tax Band D payment will increase by £4.95. Councillor Atterwill offered to write a letter of support for any play area funding bids. Breckland Council response to the Levelling Up Bill.

10623 Report from District Councillor Duffield – The Affordable Housing scheme planning application should be submitted by the end of January. They are working to overcome the nutrient neutrality issues. Councillor Duffield has requested the Shrublands and Sparrow Green Farm planning applications go to panel. Parishes with Neighbourhood plans may have more say in the Levelling Up/Local Plan. Grants are available for the plans.

10624 County Councillor Kiddle–Morris – The soak away and 2 gullies were installed on 16th January on Bittering Street/ Panhard Drive. There is a possibility flooding could still occur in exceptional rainfall. The Devolution Deal was explained meaning that Norfolk will receive £20m a year for 30 years. A directly elected leader will be voted in in 2024. Councillor Crisp requested 50 oak, ash, fruit or native woodland trees.

10625 To confirm payments for January: Clerk salary and expenses - £327.40, HMR&C - £77.20, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £79.40, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £84.00, Norfolk Woods and Hedges - £825.00.

To approve payments for February: Clerk salary and expenses - £330.10, HMR&C - £77.20, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £, Reading Room - £32.00, Voluntary Norfolk - £14.40, St Mary's - £700, Poor Land Charity - £1.00.

10626 Councillor Melton proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Crisp and all councillors present agreed.

10627 Reports from councillors – The church lane hedge has not been cut and will need to be before the end of the month. Councillor Bunning to ask. A large pot hole was reported on The Green. Clerk to contact J S Asphalt. A resident sent photos showing damage to the edge of The Green. This will be monitored. Residents who would like copies of the letter requesting cars to park along Bittering Street can contact the clerk.

10628 Correspondence – Details were received from the Fete Committee with dates of the Fete and Christmas Light Switch on.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:20pm. The next Ordinary Parish meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th March 2022 @ 7:00pm.