

MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
5TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM IN THE READING ROOM

10822 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Day
Councillor Reader Councillor Melton
Councillor Crisp Councillor Kiedan
District Councillor Atterwill

12 members of the public

10823 To receive and accept apologies of absence: Councillor Radford, Councillor Kiddle-Morris, District Councillor Duffield.

10824 Declarations of interest – All councillors declared an interest in The Swan Public House, Councillor Reader declared an interest in matters relating to the play area, Councillor Melton in relation to the Affordable Housing Scheme.

10825 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 8th August – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th August 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

10826 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – The clerk thanked District Councillor Atterwill for requesting update of councillor details on the Breckland’s website. This has now been updated.

A discussion took place regarding a recent electricity fault in part of the village. Residents were advised that if they had loss of power for more than 12 hours, they are entitled to claim £75 from UK Power Network. UKPN contacted councillors by phone requesting permission to cut trees on The Drift although these trees actually belong to a resident. Some poles have been replaced with the old poles being left on the playing field. It was agreed that Councillor Day would arrange to remove the poles. UKPN will contact Councillor Crisp when they return to cut the trees. A resident reported that there are some unsafe trees along The Drift from Park Road. This is unregistered land although Councillor Beazley will check this.

The meeting was opened to the public at 7:12pm.

10827 The Treasurer of the Reading Room reported that a second smashed window has just been replaced at the Reading Room. It is highly probable that a stone was thrown up by a strimmer as the grass cutters were around the day of the incident. Clerk to contact the contractor and ask them to address this issue fully in view of the risk of injury .

10828 A resident reported that logs had been placed around The Green near the pub and the shop which could cause an accident. The Chairman replied that “No parking signs” could be erected on the corners and also reminded the meeting that leaflets were available to **all residents** to place on windscreens by contacting the clerk.

10829 A resident asked if the parish council would reconsider the affordable housing scheme due to the number of local complaints. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

That being all the meeting resumed at 7:22pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

10830 Reporting of Highway Matters – Pot holes were reported near Hall Farm. These have been marked with white paint so Highways are aware. Longham Lane potholes still have not been repaired and are now quite dangerous. Clerk to contact Highways.

A quote was received as a guide to repair and resurface the road around The Green. Councillors agreed to apply for Parish Partnership funding next year to complete this. Clerk to obtain two further quotes. It was also agreed to paint the speed bump in readiness for the Christmas event.

10831 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – A meeting took place with a few councillors and Hastoe to discuss the s.106 local connection criteria. Hastoe provided a copy of Great Hockham’s agreement as an example. There has been some progress with Nutrient Neutrality and the planning application is likely to go

to committee in the autumn. Councillors to reconvene to finalise response to Hastoe.

In relation to the resident's question of whether the parish council are going to reconsider the application, a discussion took place regarding the number of people currently on Breckland's housing register. Councillor Atterwill informed the meeting that currently 1,600 people are on the register with 400 in emergency accommodation. The concerns highlighted in the consultation included highways, growth of the village in that area and the loss of hedgerow. The highways concerns are being progressed with the planners by Hastoe, the site is the only suitable site available out of those submitted and with regard to hedges, there is an overall gain in the quantum of trees and hedges arising out of this scheme. Councillors unanimously agreed to continue with the application as the need for affordable housing is now greater than ever.

A resident contacted the parish council to inform them that their home address is used as a 'site location' in a report by Geosphere Environmental. Councillor Beazley agreed to contact Hastoe the next day to rectify this.

- 10832 Community Scheme Update – It has been a quieter month with 767 miles covered. Flu jabs are now being booked so likely to be busier next month. The Chairman thanked Anne and her drivers.
- 10833 To provide an update on internet banking and consider changing bank account – Further ID is required for the Clerk and Councillor Reader.
- 10834 Update on the playing field funding project – Three major grant applications have been submitted to National Lottery, Grantscape and Geoffrey Watling. The bank currently holds £3,011 being donations from the parish council, pop-up café, fete committee and Bunnings. The survey is still ongoing.
- 10835 To discuss Common Drift – Nothing to report.
- 10836 Update on Elmham Surgery – Sickness and holidays were the cause of the issues reported last month. Electronic contact with the surgery is available via AccurX but patients must be aware that this service is not for urgent clinical problems. Councillor Keidan has a meeting with the practice manager on 28th September.
- 10837 To discuss and consider the government funding for electric charging units – Clerk has registered interest with Norfolk ALC. They will contact the parish council when further information is available.
- 10838 To discuss and consider disabled access to the Social Club - Clerk to contact resident to see if proposed work of removing and rolling the gravel would be suitable.
- 10839 To discuss and consider locating a bike rack on The Green – It is possible that a bike rack may be available free of charge from another town council.
- 10840 To discuss and consider erecting a flagpole on the Green – It was agreed, with the Charity trustees permission, to erect a flagpole on The Green. Clerk to order for delivery only, not installation.
- 10841 To discuss the SAM2 data – The recent data was discussed. The data was considered not too bad.
- 10842 To discuss and consider the allotment rent – It was unanimously agreed not to increase the rent this year due to the current climate.
- 10843 To discuss planning applications –

New Applications

3PL/2023/0756/F – Land west of Church Lane – Change of use of land to provide 2 tourist cabins and visitor car park – All councillors present had no objections to this application.

Refusals

- 3PL/2023/0636/F – Well Cottage, Bushey Common – Erection of double garage

- 10844 Report from County Councillor – The report from County Councillor Kiddle-Morris was circulated to all councillors.

10845 Report from District Councillor – Councillor Atterwill expressed his frustration at the lack of information to report. Very few Breckland meetings have taken place since around June/July. Breckland have won an award for their Animal Warden Service.

10846 To confirm additional payment for July: Gressenhall Community Enterprise - £2,000.

To confirm payments for August: Clerk salary and expenses - £344.78, HMR&C - £81.80, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £73.57, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £95.88, Reading Room - £12.00, Voluntary Norfolk - £14.40.

10847 Councillor Crisp proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Melton and all councillors present agreed.

Reports from councillors –

10848 Councillor Day reported that a resident had informed her of rubbish being left after the Maui Wauai festival. It will be checked and if the rubbish is still there, the clerk will contact the organisers. The next horse fair will take place in two weeks. Clerk to email Helen regarding a village litter pick.

10849 Councillor Beazley will try to attend the Breckland Local Plan meeting on 13th September.

Correspondence

10850 An email was read from a resident who endorsed the opinion expressed in the email from the previous meeting with regard to the protests against the affordable housing scheme. They described the protests as offensive and inaccurate.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:05pm. The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Tuesday 3rd October @ 7:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 3rd October 2023