

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
3RD OCTOBER 2023 AT 7:00PM IN THE READING ROOM**

10852 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Crisp
Councillor Keidan District Councillor Atterwill

10 members of the public

10853 To receive and accept apologies of absence: Councillor Day, Councillor Melton, Councillor Radford, Councillor Reader and County Councillor Kiddle-Morris.

10854 Declarations of interest – All councillors declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 5th September – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

10856 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – An email was received from East Anglia Stone regarding trucks driving through Bittering Street.

The charity trustees agreed to siting a flagpole on The Green. Clerk to order.

A response, not admitting liability, was received from TTSR Limited regarding the smashed door glass and kitchen window.

The meeting was opened to the public at 7:07pm.

10857 A resident thought the pond looked bleak and unnatural following the dredging. The chairman replied that it would soon green up.

A resident asked for clarification regarding the UKPN work discussed last month and which piece of land was going to be registered. The chairman clarified the UKPN discussion and agreed to meet with the resident regarding the registration of The Drift.

That being all the meeting resumed at 7:15pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

10858 Reporting of Highway Matters – Pot holes have been filled towards the Bittering Street end of Longham Lane, although not very well. Pot holes at the other end of the lane have been circled with white paint but not filled. Clerk to forward recent photos to Highways.

10859 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Hastoe are engaging with Breckland and Highways although progress is slow. Hastoe have confirmed that Geosphere and address issue raised last month has been sorted out.

10860 Community Scheme Update – It has been a busier month with 821 miles covered. Bookings are getting busier with COVID and flu jab appointments. The chairman thanked Anne and her drivers.

10861 To provide an update on bank account change – Further ID has been sent to the bank. Awaiting further update.

10862 Update on the playing field funding project – Grant applications have been sent to the National Lottery Community Fund, Sport England, Geoffrey Watling and Tesco. Unfortunately the Grantscape application was unsuccessful as Gressenhall is not within 10 miles of a landfill and the scheme did not meet the poverty or climate change criteria with Aviva. On a positive note there is £4,100 in the bank account and fundraising plans are well underway. A Halloween party will be held at the social club on 22nd October and a silent auction on 2nd November. So far, 50 services/products have been received to auction. The following questions were asked:

- i) Would the parish council consider donating the final £1,000 which had been agreed in order to boost the fund? All councillors present will agree this in the finance section of the meeting.

- ii) How do people feel about using an app to access the silent auction? It was agreed that this would be good for people not able to attend although there should be provision for residents unable to access the app.
- iii) If anyone has a service or produce they would like to donate please contact either the parish council or a member of the playing field fund committee.
- iv) Whether District or County Councillors were willing and able to access funding for the scheme - Councillor Atterwill advised that unfortunately, Breckland had not launched any funding at this time but suggested other funds that the committee could contact.

The chairman thanked the committee for their efforts to date.

- 10863 Update on Elmham Surgery – Councillor Keidan met with the practice manager on 28th September. The COVID vaccine uptake has been good. The telephone system is to undergo a further upgrade. Online access, by email, for non-clinical matters is available but not for clinical matters. A more robust system is being sought. The surgery will be putting an update article in the News and Views. Any concerns can be discussed with the practice manager. A new care coordinator is in place and weekly rounds to care homes are being put in place.
- 10864 To discuss and consider payment of work to trees on playing field new Swan Drive – The resident is happy to contribute 50% to the work after meeting with the tree officer to confirm what work is taking place. The clerk has contacted the tree officer to arrange this.
- 10868 To confirm receipt of the Breckland Council Local Play consultation document – Document circulated to all councillors. There will be public consultation in Dereham Market place, Tuesday 17th October 10am-1pm.
- 10869 To discuss and consider applying for NCC EV charge point funding – It was agreed not to apply for funding at this time due to most EV owners having their own charging points at home. This will be reviewed, should the need arise.

10870 To agree and adopt revised policies:

- Code of Conduct
- Financial Regulations
- Standing Orders
- Publication Scheme

All councillors present agreed the revised policies.

10871 To discuss and consider planning applications:

New Applications

3PL/2023/0904/F – White House Bushey Common – Erection of double garage to serve plot 2 – All councillors present had no objections to this application. Clerk to monitor any representations before submitting a response.

10872 Report from County Councillor – No report received.

10873 Report from District Councillor – Councillor Atterwill asked the meeting whether there were any issues in the village with receiving post from Royal Mail. There were no issues raised. Councillor Atterwill looked through the responses to the Affordable Housing Scheme planning application and found that most comments seem to be from people outside of Norfolk. He found approximately 47 representations from Gressenhall, 41 against and 6 for. Of the 847 people on the electoral roll, this leaves 800 Gressenhall residents who have not registered a view. Breckland's planning committee will look at the application and the final decision will be published for public scrutiny. Councillor Atterwill will be attending an opposition briefing tomorrow regarding an update on the sale of Barnham Broom Golf & Country Club. He also has concerns with the low rate of work carried out by committees at Breckland Council since the May elections. In an effort to highlight his concerns he has written to the Council's independent remuneration panel asking them to review the high level of so called 'special responsibility allowances' paid to committee chairman compared to all other district level councils in Norfolk. Many of these chairman are receiving over £1000 per month on top of their basic councillor allowance.

10874 To confirm payments for September: Clerk salary and expenses - £343.13, HMR&C - £81.80, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £97.62, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £102.63, Voluntary Norfolk £28.80, Gressenhall Community Enterprise - £1,000.
To confirm receipt of GCCS second funding instalment - £750.00, second precept payment - £7,000.

10875 Councillor Keidan proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Crisp and all councillors present agreed.

Reports from councillors –

10876 Councillor Keidan reported that the village gateway is obscured.

10877 Clerk has received information from Woodland Trust re free trees. This is to be circulated and added to November agenda.

Correspondence

10878 An email was received from a resident today regarding the Affordable Housing scheme. This will be added to the next agenda when there will be more councillors in attendance.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:07pm. The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Tuesday 7th November @ 7:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 7th November 2023