

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

10880 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Crisp
Councillor Melton Councillor Reader
Councillor Keidan Councillor Day
Councillor Radford District Councillor Atterwill
District Councillor Duffield

16 members of the public

10881 To receive and accept apologies of absence: County Councillor Kiddle-Morris.

10882 Declarations of interest – All councillors declared an interest in The Swan Public House (excluding Councillor Radford), Councillor Reader declared an interest in the play area.

10883 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 3rd October – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

10884 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – The chairman reminded residents that leaflets were available to place on cars who are parking around The Green outside of the designated parking areas. He urged residents to use these letters whenever appropriate.

The meeting was opened to the public at 7:02pm.

10885 A resident enquired about the mobile phone mast which should have a generator in the event of a power cut. The resident enquired whether there was anything which could be done about this. Councillor Melton advised that there was not a generator adjacent to the mast although one is delivered by EE 24 hours after the start of a power cut. Actions will be discussed later in the meeting.

A resident had a visit from a contractor and trees were identified as priority to cut back as 700 people were affected during the outage.

A resident stated that it was important that UKPN programmed works to be completed before winter.

A resident asked about the trees on The Drift to see if the parish council were aware of the health of the trees. The Chairman responded that the ownership of The Drift was a grey area and that Councillors had met in that area recently. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

A resident reported on the state of the ditch running beside the footpath in the Drift during recent storms rain backed up in their garden ditch. There seems to be a blockage.

A resident enquired who is responsible for clearing the fallen trees. This could block the ditch and the pathway is not clear. This needs clearing.

A resident reported a potential health and safety hazard near to the benches.

A resident enquired if a group could be set up to look after the area. The chairman replied that this could be looked in to.

A resident enquired about notification details of accessing roads when there is a road closure. Normally the clerk would receive an emailed notice which is displayed on the website and parish noticeboard. No notices have been received recently.

That being all the meeting resumed at 7:18m.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

10886 Reporting of Highway Matters – Pot holes on Longham Lane still need filling. Clerk to report.

10887 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – No further update from Hastoe at this stage. Correspondence from a

resident was received but the issues had already been addressed in previous correspondence.

- 10888 Community Scheme Update – It has been a busy month with 1477 miles covered with up to 6 visits in one day. One new driver has started this month and had a very positive experience.
- 10889 To provide an update on bank account change – The new bank account is finally open and the funds will be transferred over later in the month. There is a 36-month redirection on income. Clerk to circulate instructions to make online payments and update policies to reflect new method of payments.
- 10890 Update on the playing field funding project – The bank account currently stands at just over £6,000. The Halloween event was well attended and raised over £1,000. A silent auction is being organised with around 49 lots available. Currently waiting to hear the result of applications to National Lottery Funding, Geoffrey Watling charity and Tesco. Following a successful meeting at Breckland Council, a new Shared Prosperity fund is open for November only. An application is being prepared for this fund. Depending on the amount of funding secured it was agreed that a modular approach could be taken, adding to the play area as funding is received. A discussion took place as to whether planning permission is required for the equipment. Councillor Atterwill spoke to the Principle Planner at Breckland who has agreed to advise on receipt of detailed location and equipment plans. A meeting was arranged to organise this.
- 10891 Update on Elmham Surgery – Nothing to report. Councillor Keidan is keen to obtain a timeline update for the online communication system.
- 10892 To receive Breckland Council's Local plan, Issues and Options stage consultation – This was circulated to all councillors.
- 10893 To discuss and consider action required relating to recent power outages – A number of emails have been received from residents regarding the recent power outages in August and October. The Chairman thanked the resident for meeting at the playing field for a site visit. The Chairman had talked with UKPN and they were aware of the issues in the village and agreed that UKPN needed to get on the front foot. Residents have received advanced notice that there will be disruption from 14th-16th November as maintenance is carried out. A resident informed the meeting that he had an email from UKPN stating that there was no planned maintenance plan in place. It was agreed that there should be a remedial plan in place and that a collective response is required. District Councillor Atterwill informed the meeting that he has asked the Overview and Scrutiny committee to invite UKPN to a meeting in the new year. Concerns were raised when all phones move to digital in 2024. It was agreed for the clerk to contact EE to report concerns for the lack of generators during power cuts and to obtain their plans for when phones move digital in 2025. It was also agreed for the clerk to liaise with Beetley PC and to keep this item on future agendas. Following a discussion it was agreed to ask residents to contact the clerk if they were willing to form a group to help clear the playing field beyond the social club to it make more accessible. It was also discussed to bridge the ditch to form a circular walk.
- 10894 To consider items of expenditure for the next financial year – Items included half share of resurfacing The Green and a fund for ditch clearing and drainage. Councillors to forward further ideas to the clerk who is preparing the budget and precept requirement which is to be agreed at the next meeting.
- 10895 To discuss and consider repairs to SAM2 sign – The internal battery is broken. Westcotec advised that a new PNL10 costing £325.50 plus VAT would fix the problem. A repair can be made costing £135.00 but this is not a guaranteed fix. Clerk has informed the other four parishes and asked if they were happy to pay £65.10 to purchase a new PNL10. Councillors all agreed to purchase a new PNL10. Clerk to await response from other parishes.
- 10896 To consider request of bringing forward the bike fix station donation of £325 – All councillors agreed to donate £325 towards the bike repair station.
- 10897 To discuss and consider purchasing bike stands – All councillors agreed to purchase a two-hoop bike stand to be situated near the post office, outside the Reading Room.
- 10898 Request from resident to cut the hedge and trees adjoining the property at the play area – This work was agreed by all councillors. It was agreed to ask Norfolk Woods and Hedges to complete a tree survey and maintenance plan.

10899 To discuss and consider Free Trees for Schools and Communities – It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

10900 To discuss and consider planning applications:

New Applications

3PL/2023/0906/Hou – Orchard Cottage, The Drift – Replace oil fired central heating boiler with air source heat pump – **No objections - Comments due by 6th November**

10901 Report from County Councillor – Report circulated to councillors.

10902 Report from District Councillors – Councillor Atterwill reported the village shop Asset of Community Value status had now expired and removed from the Land Registry. In relation to flooding, Breckland do have sand bags available if residents require these. There is a flood line but this was not manned at weekends. An out of hours contact number has now been added.

10903 District Councillor Duffield has forwarded an email to the clerk regarding a £1m Rural Business fund. He also cautioned that machinery could not easily be used in the woodland adjacent to the Drift due to the wetness of the ground.

10903 To confirm payments for October: Clerk salary and expenses - £383.47, HMR&C - £81.80, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £151.83, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £184.62, Mrs L Jarrett (Flagpole) - £515.93, Gressenhall Reading Room - £12.00, Breckland Council - £75.00, TTSR Limited - £1,677.20, Gressenhall Community Enterprise - £325.00.

10904 Councillor Melton proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Crisp and all councillors present agreed.

10905 Reports from councillors – Councillor Radford has received positive feedback about reduced amount of vehicles parking on the junction of Litcham Road, blocking visibility. Vehicles do still park obscuring the junction. It was requested that any delivery blocking the junction should be reported to their company.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:20pm. The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Tuesday 5th December @ 7:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 5th December 2023