

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
2ND APRIL 2024 AT 7:05PM IN THE READING ROOM**

10989 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Crisp
Councillor Keidan Councillor Radford
Councillor Melton Councillor Reader
Councillor Day District Councillor Atterwill
County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

7 members of the public

10990 To receive and accept apologies of absence: No apologies received. District Councillor Duffield absent.

10991 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.

10992 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 5th March 2024 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 were confirmed as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

10993 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – No objections have been received from the Green Trustees. The bike rack will be relocated to behind the ‘no parking’ sign on The Green. Councillor Reader to prepare a concrete base.

The fete committee reported that a low-key event will be held for the D-Day 80th anniversary. The event will be held on the evening of Thursday 6th June where the choir will perform and a beacon will be lit. Full details will be in the News and Views.

The meeting was opened to the public at 7:08pm.

10994 A resident reported that concerns had been raised regarding parking on The Green. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

10995 A resident enquired why the parish element of the council tax had increased by 15.5%. It was explained that the parish council raised the precept this year to cover expenditure increases and to assist with resurfacing the road around The Green. The Green is a major asset of the village and the parish council have an obligation to keep it in good order. Anyone with concerns about payment of council tax can call Breckland Council (number on Council Tax bill) to see if they are entitled to a reduction.

10996 A resident reported that they had recently called Elmham Surgery. They were number 36 in the queue and had to wait 63 minutes. When they were finally spoken to, the resident had not needed to call early for an appointment with the nurse. The resident asked if the surgery information could be made more widely available.

That being all the meeting resumed at 7:10pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

10997 Reporting of any Highways Matters – Two pot holes were reported on Bilney Road and two on Bittering Street. Clerk to report.

10998 Update on Affordable Housing scheme – Hastoe are still in communications with Highways. The nutrient neutrality issues are delaying the scheme for another 6 months.

10999 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – It has been a more normal month with 1,148 miles covered. The monthly figures are not quite accurate but will be amended and recirculated.

11000 Update on the play field funding project – Good progress is being made with confirmation that the All Awards Lottery grant of £19,250 has been successful, making the total received to date £55,000. It is hoped that we may have been successful with a grant application to Breckland A full update will be given at the May meeting.

- 11001 Update on the Elmham GP Surgery – Councillor Keidan met with the practice manager on 18th March. The refurbishment should soon be finished. The new telephone system, part funded by the NHS, is now in place. It is hoped that through Modern GP Funding, a project manager is recruited to take forward the online triage and email appointment service. Work will also be undertaken on the website. The question was raised as to why prescriptions due on a bank holiday Friday were not available on the Thursday. Also patients were not aware that the pharmacy would be closed during the refurbishment. Councillor Keidan has requested a comprehensive article of types of appointments and how to access them to be published in the News and Views.
- 11002 To provide update relating to power outages and consider next step for The Drift/Playing Field Working Group – The Drift is now drying. Councillors will meet next week with Norfolk Woods and Hedges to assess the work which is required and where best to channel expenditure. A volunteer meeting will then be convened to agree what can be achieved.
- 11003 To discuss quote for tree works adjacent play area hedge – Most of the work has been completed with one ash tree near the social club outstanding. Remove from the agenda.
- 11004 To discuss and consider the annual play area inspection report – The report is similar to last year with minor items which NGF Play will carry out. The surfacing highlighted in the report as requiring action will be taken into account when the play area project is completed. New surfacing has not been quoted for under the large slide. This will continue to be monitor.
- 11005 To receive and approve 2024-25 Parish Partnership confirmation letter – Four quotes have been received. On review, all councillors agreed the quote from Michael Pope. Councillor Crisp to respond to all quotes. Clerk to contact NCC to see how the funding is claimed as the contactor requires payment within 7 days of invoice. It was agreed that the yellow paint on the speed bumps needs to be maintained. Councillors were requested, where possible, to visit The Green when the work is being done to meet the contractor.
- 11006 To receive complaint from resident re parking on The Green near Woodstock Care Home – It was agreed to install a further ‘no parking’ sign on The Green.
- 11007 To discuss planning matters:
Prior Approval Not Required
- **3BT/2024/0004/BT** - GRESSENHALL: Land at Gressenhall Sewage Treatment Works Litcham Road, Prior approval for Arqiva Smart Metering 1No. Omni at 13.83m mean mounted on proposed 12m streetworks pole. Proposed Arqiva Smart Metering 1No. GPS Antenna at 12.4m mean mounted on proposed streetworks pole. Proposed Arqiva Smart Metering 1No. 3G Omni Antenna at 3.8m mean mounted on proposed streetworks pole and proposed Arqiva Smart Metering Equipment enclosure to be installed on a root foundation (The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A)
- Approval**
- **3PL/2024/0133/HOU** - GRESSENHALL: Dale Farm Barn Bushy Common, Conversion of existing roof space to additional residential accommodation, roof-lights and feature opening to gable. Replacement of roof tiles.
- New Application**
- **3PL/2024/0280/HOU** = GRESSENHALL: Orchard House, The Green - Proposed demolition of rear conservatory & utility & proposed single storey rear extension & installation of front porch. Proposed change of use of existing garage to ancillary space study, utility & WC with all internal alterations. Renewal of existing garage roof & rotation of pitch by 180 degrees to allow uniformity with main dwelling – Comments are due by 20th April. Councillors to email comments to the clerk before this date.
- 11008 Report from County Councillor – A complaint has been received regarding Restricted Byway 6. Cars and delivery drivers are using the restricted byway. The Countryside Team are looking into this as it is an offence to use the byway if not entitled to use it.

11009 Report from District Councillors – District Councillor Atterwill reported that UKPN attended the Overview and Scrutiny meeting and had acknowledged their failings. More money and systems are being put in place. Funding has been secured to replace ring main for Gressenhall and Beetley. Councillor Beazley is to contact UKPN to discuss tidying up The Drift. The nutrient neutrality issue is still no further forward after 2 years which is crippling developers.

11010 **Financial Matters**

- To confirm payments for February: To confirm payments for February: Clerk salary and expenses - £337.13, HMR&C - £81.80, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £143.50, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £136.70, Mrs L Jarrett (Newton Flags) - £28.80, Norfolk ALC - £70.00, Norfolk ALC - £228.98.

The payments were agreed by all councillors present.

11011 Reports from councillors (for information only) – None.

11012 Correspondence (for information only)

- None.

11013 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish (Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings) – Tuesday 7th May April 2024

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Signed:

Date: