

MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2020 AT 8:00PM AT THE READING ROOM, GRESSENHALL

9615 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Saunders
Councillor Reader Councillor Crisp
Councillor Bunning Councillor Melton
District Councillor Atterwill
County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

5 members of the public

9616 Accepted apologies for absence –. Councillors Harris and District Councillor Duffield

9617 Declarations of interest – None

9618 Minutes 2nd December 2019 - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record. Councillor Beazley proposed that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Councillor Reader and all councillors present agreed.

9619 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – None.

The meeting was opened to the public for their comments at 8:01pm.

9620 A resident requested permission from the parish council for the Fete Committee to hold a barn dance on The Green on 25th April. The parish council agreed - clerk to check with insurance company to see if public liability insurance will cover event.

9621 A resident enquired whether there was an update on the affordable housing scheme. This will be covered in the meeting.

9622 A resident asked whether there were any Victory in Europe celebrations planned. The Save the Swan group are planning a combined celebration and 1940's pub crawl. Details will be circulated soon.

9623 A resident enquired whether the Reading Room committee could tidy the grassed area outside (where the green bin used to be) with the possibility of erecting a bench in memory of Julie Johnston. All councillors agreed to this.

That being all the parish council meeting resumed at 8:05pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

9624 Reporting of Highway Matters – The clerk received a call from a resident before Christmas about flooding opposite Manor Farm. This was reported to Highways and confirmation has been received that defects have been identified and will be scheduled for repair within 6 weeks (by end of February). The pot holes which were filled before Christmas in Longham Lane are now in need of repair again. Clerk to report. Councillor Melton reported again the surface near the museum is still dangerous. Clerk to report concerns again. The give way sign at Longham Lane has rusted off. This has been reported but clerk to report again.

9625 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Councillor Beazley has been in regular contact with Hastoe. The scheme is progressing at a slow pace. The parish council will report when meaningful progress has been made, hopefully within the next couple of months. A resident informed the meeting that he raised a question about the scheme on 14.8.2017 and still not a spade in the ground. The resident questioned whether to go ahead or consider another housing association. The chairman replied that, due to staffing changes and excessive workloads the scheme has not developed quickly, but felt confident that Hastoe are the right association to take the scheme forward. The Breckland Advisor did state at the first meeting that the scheme takes time to find land and communicate with landowners.

9626 Community Car Scheme Update – It has been a busy month with 987 miles covered. Clerk met with Ann in January and completed the funding application for the next financial year. It was agreed to keep the funding at £1,500 per annum. Clerk to submit the application.

9627 Update on The Swan Community Group – Fundraising events have been planned including a pop-up pub in

August. The prospectus is complete together with the fundraising application and share issue documents.

- 9628 Update on Registry of parish land – Good progress has been made by Spire. A £300 invoice will be raised for the parish council to pay. Before an application is made, Clerk to update the Charity Commission with the current councillors.
- 9629 To discuss Allotment Beekeeping / Chickens – There were no chickens seen on the allotment during a recent visit. A bee questionnaire is ready for any allotment holder wishing to keep bees. This can be requested from the clerk.
- 9630 Report from District Councillor Atterwill – Breckland's Enforcement Team are working with the Swan owners as the pub is being lived in. An application for change of use may be required. Cabinet met to agree the budget. Council tax band D will increase by approximately £5. Breckland's WWII funding received 70 applications from across the district and it is hoped that all applicants will receive the funding. Successful applicants should hear soon. Funding is available from Breckland to help homeless people in rural areas, travel to Thetford to seek further support. Breckland will be holding a Town and Parish Council Forum on 12th February. County Lines are moving into rural areas which has led to Breckland investing £60,000 in auto plate recognition to help track drug dealers. Details of Breckland's new waste contract will be shared in due course.
- 9631 Report from County Councillor – Norfolk County Council has made a submission to the Boundary Commission. The submission allocated Division boundaries based on a roughly equal number of electors in each area, population growth to 2025 is also considered. There has been an objection at the 11th hour to the housing growth projections from a district council and the whole process will have to be revisited using revised methodology. The consultation period has been extended to the 24th March.

NCC has worked hard over the last 18 months to ensure that the Norfolk Library Service is fit for purpose and offers more than just lending books. All libraries now offer computer access, free Wi-Fi, self-service, out of hours access through the Open Library scheme as well as lending books. There is an application called Libby which enables registered users of NCC libraries to download books, and an application called PressReader which allows access to thousands of newspapers and magazines online. All these services are available with an NCC library card and an associated pin.

NCC are planning to build 4 new special schools in Norfolk, one planned for Fakenham. The new school will be built on the former College site and will take up to 100 autistic pupils aged between 5 and 16. A planning application will be submitted this month and the school could accept the first pupils in early 2022.

The Councils budget will be set on 17th February. The government has agreed a one off grant towards adult social care and the proposal is to increase Council Tax (2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept and 1.99% increase in the general rate), this is insufficient to cover the inflationary and demand cost increases projected in 20/21 and certainly not enough to reverse any of the reductions in service applied in previous years. We are still waiting for government to make a firm decision on business rate retention as a funding stream for local government and to implement the Fairer Funding formula which would see rural counties such as Norfolk receive a larger slice of national funding. The central government budget that could address these issues has been delayed from February until March and is therefore beyond the date which NCC must set its budget.

- 9632 To discuss planning matters – An email was received from Susan Falch-Lovesey regarding the Vattenfall Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas Offshore Windfarm projects, offering to attend the April parish meeting to provide an update and answer any questions. Councillors agreed to invite Susan to the April meeting.
- 9633 Approve January's payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £228.60, HMR&C - £56.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme - £116.01, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £127.62, Reading Room - £30.00, Norfolk Playing Field Association - £20.00, C3 Engineering Limited - £838.32, Poor Lands Charity - £1.00.
- 9634 Councillor Reader proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Crisp and all councillors present agreed.
- 9635 Reports from Councillors: Councillor Crisp informed the meeting there would be another litter pick in April. Further details will be made available next month. Residents of Bushey Common thanked the parish council

for the road signs which have now been erected. It was agreed to add the email regarding tree doubling on to the next agenda.

9636 Councillor Melton informed the meeting that pot holes on the social club car park need filling. A Saturday morning will be arranged for councillors to attend and fill.

9637 Correspondence to be circulated to councillors (for information only):

- **December 2019**
- Bank statement x 2
- SAM2 Data 30.10.19-3.12.19
- Letter N&NUH requesting volunteers (poster on noticeboard)
- Clerk and Council Direct newsletter

- **January 2020**
- Letter from Rev. Julia
- Email Mr Bennett – Enquiry re painting outside of property – District Councillor Atterwill advised resident to contact Breckland Council planning department.
- Breckland Town and Parish Forum invite
- Electoral register request – Clerk to complete.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 9:05pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 8:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 2nd March