

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1ST JUNE 2020 AT
8:00PM HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

9691 Present: Councillor Beazley (v) Councillor Reader (v)
Councillor Harris (v) Councillor Crisp (v)
Councillor Bunning (v) Councillor Saunders (v)
District Councillor Duffield (a) District Councillor Atterwill (v)
County Councillor Kiddle-Morris (v)

4 members of the public (v)

(v) = video attendance

(a) = audio attendance

9692 Accepted apologies for absence – Councillor Melton

9693 Declarations of interest – None.

9694 Minutes 5th May 2020 - The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. Councillor Harris proposed that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Councillor Crisp and all councillors present agreed.

9695 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – The matter of Litcham Road was discussed. Councillor Reader spoke with the pig farmer and it was agreed for councillors to meet with him around August time. Councillor Kiddle-Morris also spoke with the farmer who explained that he was now able to devote all his time to the unit which had not been the case last winter. He is due to purchase a road sweeper to keep the road clear at all times.

The meeting was opened to the public for their comments at 8:07pm.

9696 A resident asked if there was an update on the affordable housing scheme. This is due to be discussed during the meeting where the resident would be invited to speak.

That being all the parish council meeting resumed at 8:10pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

9697 Update on COVID-19 – Mr Begg informed councillors that the Response Group was running smoothly, assisting approximately 12 to 13 households. New enquiries have slowed down lately. There have been some ad-hoc visits, collecting emergency medication etc. and people seem reassured that the service is there should they require it. Councillors have been ‘buddied up’ with residents and so far, no issues have arisen. There are an army of volunteers to call on which is a godsend. Councillors thanked Mr and Mrs Begg and the volunteers for supporting local residents.

9698 Reporting of Highway Matters – The pot hole on Bilney Road has been repaired. More pot holes need to be reported at Bridge Street and Longham Lane. A councillor asked when verge cutting was due to start as it is difficult to litter pick. Councillor Kiddle-Morris informed the meeting that they had started last week and should be in the area shortly.

9699 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Councillor Beazley continues to talk to Hastoe on a regular basis and they are making slow progress. Hastoe do not feel that they can present to the public until they reach a certain stage. Hopefully it will not be long until they can present what they have in mind which can then form the basis of a public consultation. A resident expressed their irritation that this has gone on a long time and only drip-fed information. The resident felt that Hastoe/Parish Council should be able to say what point they are at.

9700 Community Car Scheme Update – Only 15 journeys took place in April and May totalling 260 miles. The annual report has been received. Thanks were given to Ann and her drivers for the continued commitment.

9701 Update on The Swan Community Group – Mr Begg informed the meeting that more momentum had picked up and that he was in negotiations with the owner. It is hoped for a conclusion in 2020. The parish council thanked Alex and Rosie and wished them luck.

9702 Update on Registry of parish land – All councillors have confirmed their ID with the solicitor. Councillor Beazley is in contact with the lawyers with regard to the boundaries.

- 9703 Update of the Parish Partnership Funding – Councillor Crisp obtained four quotes for resurfacing The Green which were circulated to councillors. Councillor Crisp proposed to accept the quote from J S Asphalt which included a 3-year guarantee and free maintenance. This was seconded by Councillor Reader and all councillors present agreed.
- 9704 To discuss request for a memorial bench in playing field – Councillor Saunders met with the family and a site to the left of the allotments adjacent to the oak trees was agreed. The family will forward details of a composite bench for the parish council before purchasing. The family will cover the cost of installation and Councillor Saunders offered help with preparing the base.
- 9705 To provide an update on Internet banking – The banks are currently busy. It was agreed a signatory will contact the bank if they get time.
- 9706 Update on the SAM2 sign – Clerk installed the sign earlier in the week.
- 9707 To discuss clerk's salary – Details of pay scales were circulated to councillors. These will be reviewed. It was agreed that any increase would be backdated to 1st May 2020.
- 9708 Report from District Councillor Atterwill – Councillor Atterwill confirmed that the Reading Room had successfully been awarded the COVID19 funding. There is going to be a complete review of the Local Plan which was adopted in November 2019. The plan will be in place until 2024. The council may be approached to see if landowners have land for possible development. Breckland Council's budget has been severely effected due to the COVID-19 outbreak. There will be a complete review of spending and priorities together with a review of the budget, unless Government provides further funding. Councillor Atterwill agreed to chase the Enforcement Officer regarding the pub.
- 9709 Report from County Councillor Kiddle-Morris – All councils are in a financial hole due to the current situation. 95% of council staff are working away from County Hall. People are also being redeployed to completely different roles. It is hoped the council's burden is not passed on to the tax payers. Councillor Kiddle-Morris sends a regular report to parish councils. Councillor Kiddle-Morris informed the meeting that a list of shielding residents in their ward was going to be given to Councillors, but due to GDPR this has not happened. Councillor Crisp thanked Councillor Kiddle-Morris for his intervention as he would not have received BT's fibre optic connection without him.
- 9710 Report from District Councillor Duffield – Under the current situation, Breckland and Norfolk County Councils are doing a good job in a difficult situation with limited resources. Councillor Duffield raised two questions for Councillor Kiddle-Morris 1) Is there a new way of filling pot holes as Litcham Road has been resurfaced without the pot holes being filled? Councillor Kiddle-Morris will look into as this should not be the case. 2) Is there a planning application for the test holes at Rawhall Lane? The planning application is for the scoping of the environment impact assessment. Planning permission is not required to dig test pits on those fields if a certain size and depth.
- 9711 To approve the financial statements for 2019/20 – All councillors reviewed the AGAR and income and expenditure accounts for the financial year 2019/20. All councillors confirmed them as a true record and that the chairman to sign.
- 9712 Approve May's payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £267.08, 9HMR&C - £56.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme PC - £32.40, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme BC - £32.50, TTSR Limited - £952.88, Norfolk Woods and Hedges - £840.00, Norfolk County Council £1,375.00 and £5,220.00. The funding procedures were confirmed to Councillor Beazley. Councillor Kiddle-Morris would discuss the procedures with the finance department and if there was a small shortfall, he may be able to assist financially. It was agreed to send an accompanying letter to NCC requesting prompt payment on receipt of the contractor's invoice. Councillor Crisp to contact JS Asphalt and obtain a start date.
- 9713 Councillor Crisp proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Reader and all councillors present agreed.
- 9714 To confirm income received – Recycling credit - £221.70, Social Club rent - £5.00.
- 9715 Reports from councillors – Councillor Reader reported that Litcham Road had been dressed without the pot holes being filled which is very dangerous. Councillor Kiddle-Morris will look into.

9716 Correspondence to be circulated to councillors (for information only)
An email was received from a resident who was disappointed that deer were still accessing the allotment even with the new fence. Following a discussion, it appears that the gate has either dropped or is being left open which is how the deer are entering. Councillor Saunders will take a look.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 9:20pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th July 2020 at 8:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 6th July 2020