

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3RD AUGUST AT 7:00PM
ON THE GREEN**

9744 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Crisp
Councillor Bunning Councillor Harris
District Councillor Atterwill County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

3 members of the public

9745 Accepted apologies for absence – Councillor Reader, Councillor Melton, Councillor Saunders, District Councillor Duffield

9746 Declarations of interest – None.

9747 Minutes 6th July 2020 - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th July 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. Councillor Crisp proposed that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Councillor Harris and all councillors present agreed.

9748 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings –

- Hedges encroaching the road on the Dillington Road, Highways recommend that the parish council write to the residents in the first instance. Clerk to write to Norfolk Herbs, Mulberry Cottage and Evergreen Farm.
- SAM2 data – clerk to try and download the data so that it is easier to read.

The meeting was opened to the public for their comments at 7:05pm.

9749 A resident informed the meeting of various complaints in the northern part of the village about noise in the village such as noisy dogs and hand tools which are disturbing residents. It was agreed that a general letter be circulated to residents in that area asking for them to be respectful of other residents. The point has also been mentioned in News and Views.

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes

9750 Update on COVID-19 – Continued thanks to the volunteers who are fulfilling a vital role. The Reading Room are sending out a questionnaire and risk assessment to users. Councillor Harris raised the subject of mental health and asked if there was anything the parish council could do. Councillor Kiddle-Morris will forward Public Health information for circulation. Councillor Harris hopes that the ‘buddies’ created during lockdown keep in touch post COVID by way of a Good Neighbour group or similar.

9751 Reporting of Highway Matters – The layby opposite Bunnings still has not been resurfaced. Councillor Kiddle-Morris will chase this. He was also asked to report the subsidence of the road near Whitbatch. The pot holes still have not been repaired on the Gressenhall to Litcham Road, nor has the junction near the museum been resurfaced. Councillor Kiddle-Morris to chase these items too.

9752 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Hastoe are working hard on making the scheme viable.

9753 Community Car Scheme Update – 505 miles were completed this month. Chairman thanked Ann for providing her annual report and also thanked the drivers.

9754 Update on The Swan Community Group – Three signs have been put up in the village and 15-20 volunteers distributed 750 leaflets in Gressenhall and the surrounding villages. A positive response has been received so far. Completed share prospectus’ can be received from Thursday 20th August and are available on-line and in the shop. A low-key event will take place on The Green on Friday 21st August. An architect has been appointed to prepare a planning application. A discussion took place regarding Social Investment Tax Relief (the reclaiming of 30% tax on investments). An example was that if a £100 investment was made, £30 could be reclaimed after 4 months of trading provided the donor / investor was a tax payer. NB Individuals to take advice if this is pursued. Councillors congratulated Mr Begg on his achievement so far. Councillor Atterwill enquired whether funding had been secured. A £50,000 grant with the option of a £50,000 loan has been

conditionally approved if the rest of the funding is raised. Councillor Atterwill suggested The Public Works Loan Board and that the parish could consider making a S.137 contribution, clerk to find out more information on both. Clerk also to contact NALC, as the parish council has the General Power of Competence, and it would be useful to understand what options are available.

- 9755 Update on Registry of parish land – Nothing to report.
- 9756 Update of the Parish Partnership Funding – A subgroup had met at the western end of the Litcham Road and agreed the design of sign to be install at that location. The parish council's share of the cost has been sent to NCC and a detailed design is awaited. It is hoped the work can be completed in this calendar year although that may prove optimistic.
- 9757 To discuss any Parish Partnership Funding requirements for 2021/22 – Any application needs to be made in December. Keep on agenda.
- 9758 Update on request for a memorial bench in the playing field – Nothing to report.
- 9759 To provide an update on Internet banking – Nothing to report.
- 9760 To discuss two neglected allotments – No response was received from the letters. Clerk to look at the allotment to see if they have been tidied.
- 9761 To feedback on meeting with pig farmer – Following previous concerns with mud on the road,4 councillors met with the pig farmer and had a positive meeting . Everything is under control and the farmer now has a road brush and was completely aware of his public duty of keeping the road clear. He was encouraged to offer up an article for News and Views.
- 9762 To discuss the Horse Fair – Many concerns were reported following the recent Horse Fair at Bushey Common. An estimate 3000 people attended which is far in excess of what is appropriate for the site and certainly failing to comply with current COVID-19 guidance. Signage from the A47 to the Horse Fair caused the surrounding roads to gridlock with the volume of traffic. It was agreed to write strong letters to Norfolk County Council as highway authority, Breckland Council and Norfolk Police.
- Questions were raised as to whether food and drink were served and whether the appropriate licences were in place. Councillor Harris offered to speak with the Police. Concerns were also raised about the planning status of a mobile home in Bushey Common. Clerk to check with Planning Enforcement.
- 9763 Report from District Councillor Atterwill - Breckland Council continue to meet via Zoom and will continue to into the New Year. All meetings are accessible to the public on YouTube. As widely reported in the press planning reform is being proposed which will enable more “permitted development” to take place . Beckland have readjusted their budget with a £.75m overspend. There are talks of a Local Government reorganisation, Unity for Norfolk, with an elected Mayor for each region.
- 9763 Report from County Councillor Kiddle-Morris – A Norfolk County Council update was circulated to all councillors. NCC also has an overspend of £14m. It is being considered to have a combined authority with Norfolk and Suffolk. The Government are keen to have unity and combined councils at the same time. It is also proposed to move county council elections forward a year and move district elections back a year, both to 2022.
- 9764 Approve July's payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £302.20, HMR&C - £70.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme PC - £70.02, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme BC - £63.63.
- 9765 Councillor Harris proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Crisp and all councillors present agreed.
- 9766 Reports from councillors – Dog bins with bag dispenser – add to next agenda. A Woods Charity meeting needs to be set to review the rent. This will take place after September meeting.
- 9767 Correspondence to be circulated to councillors (for information only)

- Two emails were received from residents regarding noise complaints.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:20pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th September 2020. Venue and timing to be confirmed as the open-air meeting on The Green had been deemed to be a success.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 7th September 2020