

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER AT
7:00PM VIA ZOOM**

9854 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Reader
Councillor Crisp Councillor Bunning
Councillor Melton District Councillor Duffield
District Councillor Atterwill

6 members of the public

9855 Absence (apologies not received) – Councillor Saunders, Councillor Harris and County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

9856 Declarations of interest – Councillor Crisp declared an interest in the Woodstock planning application. Councillor Melton declared that he was on the Save the Swan committee. As the pub is a community asset, councillors have a dispensation to discuss even if personally they own shares.

9857 Minutes 2nd November 2020 - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. Councillor Crisp proposed that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Councillor Bunning and all councillors present agreed.

9858 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – None.

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

9859 A resident enquired whether the Gateway sign was on the agenda. Chairman confirmed it was and would be discussed later in the meeting.

9860 A resident expressed their concern about the proposed parking in the layby on the edge of The Green, especially at night. The resident felt the parish council were addressing an issue which hadn't arisen yet. The Chairman informed the meeting that around 9 emails have been received regarding the layby. The Chairman clarified that consideration was being given to widening the layby by about 1m rather than extending it. This would enable more cars to use the layby. No decision has yet been made. The two steps which have been taken to date are: 1) The parish council wrote to the Charity Trustees to seek their approval, and 2) an application has been submitted to purchase wooden posts to replace around The Green. No decisions will be made in a hurry.

9861 A resident stated that someone was seen looking at the layby and others have now jumped to incorrect assumptions as to what is planned. The whole situation has been blown out of all proportion with incorrect facts. The resident found it upsetting that the parish council work hard improving The Green and no thanks are received.

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes

9862 Update on COVID-19 – Nothing to report.

9863 Reporting of Highway Matters – The hedges still haven't been cut along Church Lane. Potholes in the layby on The Green still have not been filled. A pot hole was reported on the Eels Foot corner of Litcham Road.

9864 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Nothing to report. Hastoe are still working on a viable scheme.

9865 Community Car Scheme Update – There were 13 journeys this month, 7 hospital and 6 surgery visits. The Chairman thanked Ann and her drivers for carrying on offering the valuable service during this tough time.

9866 Update on The Swan Community Group – Contracts have now been exchanged. The Chairman offered congratulations to the group for the remarkable two steps reached: 1) Reaching the funding requirement and 2) exchanging contracts. There is an AGM in January where members will elect a committee. Clerk to forward date to councillors.

9867 Update of the Parish Partnership Funding for 2020/21 – Now awaiting a date for installation. Clerk to write to

NCC to see when gateway is to be installed.

- 9868 To confirm Parish Partnership Funding application for 2021/22 – An application was made to supply and install 60 wooden posts for around The Green.
- 9869 To provide an update on Internet banking – Councillor Reader to print and complete the bank mandate.
- 9870 To discuss the SAM2 data – Westcotec provide virtual training on analysis of data. Clerk to arrange meeting and circulate details to councillors.
- 9871 To confirm 2020/21 Parish Precept Requirements – Clerk circulated proposed precept estimates to councillors and recommended to keep the precept at £12,000. All councillors agreed. Clerk to complete paperwork and send off.
- 9872 To consider grant request from St Mary's PCC – A grant request for £500 was received from St Mary's PCC to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard. Councillor Reader proposed to pay the grant as it was a fair amount and benefits the village. Councillor Melton seconded this and all councillors present agreed.
- 9873 To discuss letters received regarding The Green – As discussed above, the Chairman acknowledged the concerns raised. There is sometime before a decision is made. Councillor Melton added that all points will be taken on board and added that the proposed parking was not solely for the benefit of the pub. The shop and Reading Room will also benefit. Other options herringbone parking, facing towards the reading room and shop – several options are available.
- 9874 To discuss car abandoned at the social club – Councillor Crisp reported that a car had been parked at the social club since last summer. If anyone knows who owns the vehicle, please contact the clerk.
- 9875 To discuss planning application for Woodstock, erection of biomass boiler building – Councillor Melton stated that the parish council should be encouraging sustainable applications this like. All councillors present had no objections to the application. Councillor Duffield raised a possible concern for residents could be the number of deliveries of wood pellets which may be needed.
- 9876 Report from District Councillor Duffield – Breckland are working hard with grants for businesses and trying to get people back in to town centres. There is a grant available to help community and parish councils. There are no planning issues. Councillor Duffield wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a better 2021.
- 9877 Report from District Councillor Atterwill – There is additional support for social clubs and village halls, a smaller amount than what was available earlier in the year. There is confirmed cases of avian bird flu in the district which is a virulent strain. Breckland Council have received Government money for homelessness. There is a night shelter in Thetford and travel funds are available. Apparently early dog walkers are likely to see tents of homeless people. Any sightings can be reported can be made to Breckland's homeless team or by contacting Councillor Atterwill. A housing provider summit is being organised for Breckland to work closer with agencies.
- 9878 County Councillor Kiddle-Morris – No report received.
- 9879 Approve November's payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £309.39, HMR&C - £70.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme PC - £40.90, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme BC - £43.00, TTSR Limited - £952.88, St Mary's PCC - £500.00.
- 9880 Councillor Crisp proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Bunning and all councillors present agreed. Councillor Crisp suggested obtaining a quote for the next year's maintenance.
- 9881 Reports from councillors – Councillor Melton informed the meeting of large pot holes in the social club car park. They are too wet at the moment to fill but will look to fill in the spring. The parish council would like to thank the Fete Committee for all their hard work with the Christmas tree and lights. The Green looks beautiful. Clerk to write to the committee to pass on thanks.
- 9882 Correspondence to be circulated to councillors (for information only) – Correspondence is being scanned and circulated as and when received.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 7:50pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Monday 1st February 2021 @ 7:00pm on Zoom

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 1.2.21