

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM**

9884 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Reader  
Councillor Crisp Councillor Melton  
Councillor Harris District Councillor Duffield  
District Councillor Atterwill County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris

4 members of the public

9885 Accepted Apologies of Absence – Councillor Bunning. Councillor Beazley informed the meeting of Councillor Saunders’ resignation from the parish council. Councillor Beazley will write to Councillor Saunders to thank him for his service. A notice will be put in the News and Views, parish noticeboard and website advertising the vacancy. Councillor Duffield informed the meeting that anyone wishing to stand will need to be on the electoral register.

9886 Declarations of interest – None

9887 Minutes 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. Councillor Melton proposed that the minutes be signed. This was seconded by Councillor Crisp and all councillors present agreed.

9888 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – None.

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

9889 Mr Begg updated the meeting on The Swan purchase. The Gressenhall Community Enterprise collected the keys with vacant possession on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Safe volunteer work has been completed and are currently mid-tender to identify the main building work. Notification of the planning application should be received mid-February. A successful AGM was held with over 100 attendees. Congratulations were offered to GEC and it was good to hear the positive chatter around the village and further afield.

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

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

9890 Update on COVID-19 – It was with sadness the meeting heard of the impact of the effect on Woodstock. The Parish Council wished all a speedy return to normality. Councillor Atterwill informed the meeting that Swanton Morley was one of the main vaccination centres who are also offering home visits. If anyone can think of any improvements to let Councillor Atterwill know and he will pass on.

9891 Reporting of Highway Matters – Most of the roads in the village and the layby opposite Bunnings have potholes. Clerk to report two on Longham Lane. As the road is narrow, it is hard to avoid them. The signpost which had fallen near Old Brigg has still not been repaired. Clerk to chase. Anglian Water are due to repair a leak outside Manor Cottage tomorrow. Hoe Road was reported as being flooded with nearby houses being in danger of flooding. The hedges along Church Lane were reported back in July but still not been cut. Along Rectory Road the groups have been cleared but not all the ditches. Councillor Kiddle-Morris agreed to look at the flooding at Hoe Road. He also confirmed that if hedges were causing a hazard, they could be cut back at any time.

9892 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – Although nothing to report, an email has been received from Hastoe which is positive.

9893 Community Car Scheme Update – 300 miles were travelled this month with 27 passengers. Chairman thanked Ann and her drivers.

9894 Update on The Swan Community Group – Councillor Reader raised an issue with councillor’s interests as they and the parish council itself are all shareholders. Clerk was advised to email Breckland Democratic Services as DPI forms may need to be updated. Councillors and the parish council may also need to apply for dispensation. There is a new Code of Conduct due to be released soon. As the new committee which has been voted in does not include a parish council representative, it was suggested that the link between the pub committee and parish council is maintained.

- 9895 Update of the Parish Partnership Funding for 2020/21 – Now awaiting a date for installation. The result of the bid for 2021/22 should be known soon and is thought to be approved. If approved, Councillor Kiddle-Morris would like to make a donation towards the parish council's share. The Chairman thanked Councillor Kiddle-Morris for his generous offer.
- 9896 To provide an update on Internet banking – Councillor Beazley to deliver mandate to Barclays.
- 9897 To discuss the SAM2 data – Clerk to circulate later in the week.
- 9898 Report from District Councillor Atterwill~ There was a cabinet meeting today where a balanced budget for this year was announced. £65,000 hardship fund is available to help residents with council tax bills. The shared service agreement with South Holland is coming to an end. Building Control are undergoing a recruitment drive.
- 9899 Report from District Councillor Duffield~ Expressed concerns that if building control do not attend within the 24hour notice period, builders can carry on work without the inspection. Some work may not be up to standard. A councillor questioned who would be responsible, insurance wise, if problems arise later down the line. It was thought that Capital will be held responsible.
- 9900 County Councillor Kiddle-Morris –.Report was circulated to councillors. Elections for Local Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Councillors are concerned and are asking for them to moved to September.
- 9901 Approve January payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £309.59, HMR&C - £70.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme PC - £69.47, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme BC - £70.28, Poor Lands Charity - £1.00
- 9902 Approve February payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £309.59, HMR&C - £70.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme PC - £32.60, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme BC - £37.50.
- 9903 Councillor Reader proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Melton and all councillors present agreed.
- 9904 Reports from councillors – Councillor Crisp reported flooding caused by fallen trees at Old Brigg and out by the Museum (known as Black Water). It was agreed for the clerk to contact the Environment Agency to inform them of the trees and also obtain clarification of who looks after what waters in the area.
- The car which was thought to have been abandoned at the social club has still not been moved. Clerk to send owner a gentle reminder.
- Councillor Harris brought to the attention of the meeting the amount of rubbish at the side of the roads. Unfortunately, it is not possible to organise a communal litter pick at this time although residents are encouraged to litter pick while getting their daily exercise.
- 9882 Correspondence to be circulated to councillors (for information only) – Correspondence is being scanned and circulated as and when received.
- A letter was received from a resident regarding bonfires and log burners. Clerk responded sending information from Breckland.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:05pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 @ 7:00pm on Zoom. It was agreed to hold the April meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.