

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st MARCH 2021 AT
7:00PM VIA ZOOM**

9907 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Reader
Councillor Crisp Councillor Bunning
Councillor Harris District Councillor Duffield
District Councillor Atterwill County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris

7 members of the public

9907 Accepted Apologies of Absence – Councillor Melton.

9908 Declarations of interest – None

9909 Minutes 1st February 2021 - The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021 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.

9910 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – None.

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

9911 District Councillor Duffield congratulated Norfolk County Council with how they dealt with the recent snow, managing to keep the roads clear. Anglian Water closed Litcham Road for around 2 weeks although work was not seen throughout the whole of this time. This has caused cars to use the back roads which has caused damage to roads and verges. Councillor Kiddle-Morris will drive around the area next week with the new highways engineer. Clerk to email Anglian Water and inform them of the damage caused.

9912 Reverend Julia informed the meeting that they are working towards holding an Easter Service. Details will be advertised.

That being all the parish council meeting resumed at 7:10pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

9913 Update on COVID-19 – The volunteer group are still operating. Thanks were given to everyone involved.

9914 Reporting of Highway Matters – Pot holes have been reported on Longham Lane. Clerk received an email from a resident regarding a section of Dereham Road where the road seems to be subsiding. Clerk took photos and reported online at NCC. The resident said the road feels ‘spongy’. The road surface between Hall Farm to Sparrow Green also needs attention. The sign post previously reported at Church Lane has still not been repaired. Another damaged sign post was reported at Hoe Road. Councillor Kiddle-Morris requested a list of all items which need attention.

9915 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme – The scheme is moving slowly forward. Hastoe are to set out a timescale for next steps.

9916 Community Car Scheme Update – 107 miles were travelled this month. Chairman thanked Ann and her drivers.

9917 Update on The Swan Community Group – The planning application was approved and a review of the tender responses for the building work is taking place. A good number of volunteers have come forward.

9918 Update of the Parish Partnership Funding for 2020/21 – The gateways have been delivered to NCC and are programmed to be fitted during March.

9919 To provide an update on Internet banking – Councillor Reader needs to visit Barclays with proof of address, Councillor Bunning need to complete a personal details form.

9920 To discuss the SAM2 data – Still to circulate.

- 9921 To discuss parish councillor vacancy – Councillor Beazley wrote to Councillor Saunders and thanked him for his service. A vacancy notice has been put on the website, noticeboard and in the News and Views. A vacancy notice from Breckland Council will be displayed. It is hoped co-option will take place at the April meeting.
- 9922 To discuss the Play Inspection Annual Report – The report was circulated to councillors. It was highlighted that the slide and its flooring are non-compliant, although still a low risk. Councillor Reader said that is something to consider in the future. The report also stated that the overhanging tree needs to be checked. It was proposed to ask Nick Saunders if he is qualified to check the trees, as the playing field and The Green could do with a routine inspection.
- 9923 To confirm the date of the Annual Parish meeting – It was proposed and agreed to hold the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 4th May at 7pm. Clerk to request two years reports from the local groups.
- 9924 To discuss TTSR's quote – Councillor Crisp proposed to accept the quote due to years of good service. Councillor Beazley agreed and all councillors present agreed.
- 9925 To provide an update on The Blackwater – Clerk to report find appropriate body and report the fallen trees.
- 9926 To discuss planning matters – There were no planning matter this month.
- 9927 Report from County Councillor Kiddle-Morris – The budget was set on 22nd February. A new Highways Engineer, Matthew Lynes, has been appointed. Councillor Kiddle-Morris will visit the area with him next week and look at the hotspots. The Parish Partnership bids should be decided this month. Councillor Kiddle-Morris reminded councillors that he has a part of his personal budget left, should the bid be successful. Councillor Crisp questioned whether there would be just one verge cut this year. Councillor Kiddle-Morris replied that the first verge cut would be the only cut but visibility splays would receive a second cut.
- 9928 Report from District Councillor Atterwill – A sustainable budget has been set with Band D council tax increasing by £4.95 (75% of properties are band A-C). A £65,000 hardship fund is available for help with council tax payments. Breckland proposed to be carbon neutral by 2035. A Community Green Fund is being introduced. Environmental projects will be able to apply for funding. The shared management with South Holland District Council has now ended. There is now a period of review. Hastoe seem to have a renewed interest in the area after recently contacting Lisa Oakley of Breckland, keen on a scheme in the area.
- 9929 Approve March payments - Clerk salary and expenses - £309.59, HMR&C - £70.00, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme PC - £13.57, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme BC - £13.38, David Bracey - £102.00.
- 9930 Councillor Reader proposed payment of the above. This was seconded by Councillor Harris and all councillors present agreed.
- 9931 Reports from councillors – Councillor Reader questioned who trimmed the trees on The Green and cleaned up. Councillor Bunning said that he did and would carry this out during the week.
- 9905 Correspondence to be circulated to councillors (for information only) – Correspondence is being scanned and circulated as and when received.
- Bank statement

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 7:50pm. The next meeting of Gressenhall Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 8th April 2021 @ 7:00pm on Zoom.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 7th April 2021