

Gressenhall Parish Council AGM – Tuesday 4th May 2021

Report from Gressenhall Parish Council

Despite the COVID restrictions, the Parish Council managed to meet 10 times , mostly virtually, during the year and continued with the month to month duties including maintenance, grass cutting, highways matters, planning and supporting the community car scheme.

COVID funding was secured during the early part of the pandemic which helped towards the set up of the invaluable COVID response group. Thank you to all residents who helped make this scheme such a success. It is good to hear of the friendships that have been formed during this awful time.

Congratulations to the clerk has passed her Certificate in Local Council Administration since the last AGM. This now means the parish council holds the General Power of Competence.

The road around The Green was repaired and resurfaced and the gateway has been installed at Litcham Road. This was 50% funded by a successful bid to the Parish Partnership fund. Additional funding for new posts around The Green has also been secured with the work to be carried out during the summer.

Councillor Saunders resigned from the parish council during the year due to other commitments. We welcomed Jane Keidan who was co-opted last month. Thank you to the other applicants for their interest in joining the parish council.

The affordable housing scheme is underway. Although progress has been slow, things are now progressing and a public consultation should be held this summer.

Contributions were made to the church to assist with maintaining the churchyard and shares were purchased in The Swan Community Pub.

Recycling of glass and clothing income has totalled £361.65 for the year. Residents are encouraged to use the glass and clothing bank at the social club as this raise funds for the village.

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Report from Gressenhall Allotments

The allotment rent increased in October 2019 to £10. During the year, fencing around the allotments was strengthened due to concerns of deer entering and spoiling the crops.

There have been changes of tenants over the last year. All allotments are taken with one under offer. There are currently two people on the waiting list.

Anyone interested in becoming an allotment holder can contact the clerk and be put on the waiting list.



GRESSENHALL COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME - ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

During the pandemic we have remained on call to all parishioners, but looking at the analysis chart it is clear to see the drop in hospital journeys (nearly two thirds down) and visits to surgeries just boosted by vaccination trips since December.

Anne Maskell, Barbara and Frank were my 'go to' drivers, because some of our team were shielding. Some preferred not to take the risk. Nick and Simon have been helping out in the last few months. To all of you thank you so much. I didn't have to say no to anyone's request.

For the past five weeks Anne has had the 'book' and run the scheme, fortunately not very busy. Thank you Anne and your secretary Barry!

I'm pleased to say I have had my corneal transplant and cataract operation. I feel very fortunate and grateful to Mr Spokes and the NHS who have done wonders for my eyesight. Also to all who have sent best wishes. Thank you all.

I do hope surgeries will soon return to operate 'face to face' appointments, just as the Norfolk and Norwich hospital now is doing so well.

My grateful thanks to all who support us. Keep safe.

Ann Haverson

30.4.2021

BRECKLAND COMMUNITY CAR SCHEMES

SCHEME: GRESSENHALL

CLAIM FOR THE YEAR: 2020-2021

NUMBER OF JOURNEYS															MONTHLY TOTALS												
															JOURNEYS		PASSENGERS		A	B	C	D	E				
															DOCTORS/ DENTIST/ OPTICIAN	VISITS SICK & ELDERLY	MEET TRAINS & LONG DISTANCE COACHES	OTHER JOURNEYS			TOTAL MILEAGE	PAID TO DRIVERS (A x current mileage rate 45p per mile)	ADMINIS- TRATION COSTS	GROSS COSTS (B+C)	PASSENGER CONTRIBU- TION	BALANCE DUE FROM BRECKLAND COUNCIL	BALANCE DUE FROM BRECKLAND PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL
APR2020	0	2								2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						
MAY2020	2	9								11	11	260	117.00	-	117.00	52.10	32.50	32.40									
JUN2020	4	12								16	16	268	120.60	-	120.60	54.80	33.50	32.30									
JUL2020	8	10								18	18	509	229.05	-	229.05	95.40	63.63	70.02									
AUG2020	4	4								8	8	225	101.25	-	101.25	46.00	28.13	26.52									
SEP2020	7	5								12	12	410	184.50	-	184.50	88.60	51.25	49.65									
OCT2020	5	9								14	14	295	132.75	-	132.75	62.00	36.88	33.87									
NOV2020	7	6								13	13	344	154.80	-	154.80	70.90	43.00	40.90									
DEC2020	8	8								16	16	391	175.95	42.80	218.75	79.00	70.28	69.47									
JAN2021	1	26								25	27	300	135.00	-	135.00	64.90	37.50	32.60									
FEB2021	0	11								11	11	107	48.15	-	48.15	21.20	13.38	13.57									
MAR2021	12	14								26	26	689	310.05	2.10	312.15	141.80	87.17	83.18									
TOTALS	58	116								172	174	3798	1709.10	44.90	1754.00	772.30	497.22	484.48									

SIGNED *Ann Haverson* 19.04.2021



<u>DONATIONS PAID IN</u>	Amount £	<u>DONATIONS PAID OUT</u>	Amount £
2020 April	0.00	2020 April	0.00
May	3.40	May	13.00
June	11.60	June	13.40
July	29.80	July	25.45
August	8.00	August	11.25
September	20.00	September	20.50
October	10.70	October	14.75
November	13.40	November	17.20
December	25.50	December	19.55
Anonymous Donation	50.00		
2021 January	26.30	2021 January	15.00
February	10.20	February	5.35
March	<u>37.00</u>	March	<u>34.45</u>
	245.90		<u>£ 189.90</u>
	<u>1934.13</u>		
Bank Balance at 21.4.20	2180.03		
Less Donations Paid Out	189.90	+ £300.00 in Community Car Account	
Balance at Bank 6.4.21	<u>£ 1990.13</u>		

Ann Haverson 21.04.21

REPORT FOR THE GRESSENHALL POOR LANDS CHARITY – MAY 2021

The Trustees met once during the year.

A number of people have been identified to receive £60.00, this will be distributed within the next few weeks.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, a number of individuals approached the Trustees for a donation.

Michael Crisp and Molly Crisp were both re-elected as Trustees.

The accounts for year ending March 31st 2021 are not yet available.

Report from St Mary's Community Primary School, for
Gressenhall Parish Council Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 4th May 2021

Apologies for not being able to attend this year. I hope this written report gives a flavour of how our year has been.

Despite the pandemic of the past year, the community at St Mary's has continued to thrive. We have had to make many changes to the way in which we work and the pupils and staff at school have been amazing in the way that they have adapted to all the restrictions and limitations on the normal running of the school day.

The move to blended and home learning had a huge impact on all of us. Not only were teachers teaching the children in school (around 10 attending in each class each day) but they were also teaching those at home on line in parallel. As you can appreciate, this almost doubled their workload and necessitated them working 50+ hour weeks in the main. Staff including classroom assistants, admin staff and teachers, worked through ½ terms and holidays in order to ensure the children from key worker families were cared for, and their parents could do their vital jobs within the NHS and other services that have kept us going throughout. This has all been done with no complaint and without being paid for the additional hours worked. I could not be more proud of my team.

We were extremely fortunate to be affected by only one positive case within school, but obviously many of our families and their relatives have been significantly impacted by the virus. We ran for many weeks with a number of staff shielding and working from home, delivering lessons in to school via TEAMS. Thankfully we have been back to full strength since the Easter break.

The success of our being able to stay open and only closing one bubble is also thanks to the efforts of our site staff: Glynis Smith our cleaner, Steve Marsden, our caretaker and Lorna Buck who has taken on additional sanitising duties throughout the school day. The children are used to washing their hands and being aware of sanitising and the staff are vigilant about ensuring all mitigations are in place. I thank them all for their dedication, hard work and commitment to our school.

In terms of other news:

We continue to attract families from out of catchment as well as families local to Beetley and Gressenhall. We are still being recognised across Norfolk for our work with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). I am currently advising Norfolk as part of the team working on the SEND transformation and am also Chair of Educate Norfolk, the association for school leaders and head teachers for Norfolk. You will regularly hear our members being interviewed on Radio Norfolk, BBC Radio 4 and Look East.

School headline data 2020

- Data sets for the past year have been suspended
- Primary school assessments are not taking place this year (2021) either

School Development priorities

Because of the pandemic, over the past year, we have completely adapted our curriculum to ensure all pupils were able to learn from home and had the appropriate technology to access a very different style of learning.

We continue to focus on our curriculum, ensuring our pupils access a full and varied learning programme that meets all aspects of the National Curriculum.

Basic outline:

Objective 1	To ensure all pupils have access to high quality remote/ blended learning – as required for lockdown learning
Objective 2	To ensure the curriculum is engaging and appropriate so that pupils can develop independence, an enthusiasm for learning and the skills needed for a successful future
Objective 3	To ensure vulnerable pupils are appropriately supported and make good progress
Objective 4	To identify and address gaps in learning due to the impact of Covid and support pupils to make good progress in key areas, ensuring they are ready for their next stage of education
Objective 5	To effectively support the emotional well-being of pupils and staff, developing resilience, personal awareness and an understanding of how to regulate feelings and behaviours
Objective 6	To ensure senior leaders, curriculum leaders and key governors have the knowledge, confidence and skill to articulate the impact of their leadership roles in continuous school improvement

St Mary's is a wonderful and happy place to work.

This is thanks to the families who work so well with us, supporting us as a staff in order that we can do the best for their children; it is thanks to the dedicated staff who work so hard to ensure we do the best for our children; and it is down to everyone who is a part of the team supporting our school within the local community and more widely.

We are lucky to have a very supportive governing body. At this point I would like to express my sincere thanks to Andy Tovell, our new Chair of Governors, Tim Handley, Linda Talbot, Jean Johnson, Ben Niven and Helen Watts for all their support over the past year. We do have vacancies on the board so if you feel that you may be interested in supporting us, please contact the school office and we will give you information about what the role entails.

Another invaluable part of our school team is the dedicated and hard-working Friends of St Mary's (PTA). The team has pulled together some fabulous ideas to run events and raise money remotely which has been an interesting challenge. We thank them all for this, as the funds they raise help to enhance our learning experiences through trips, visits and additional resources.

You will no doubt aware that schools across the country are finding finances are being stretched beyond capacity, and we are no different. Thanks to the Friends and to the dedication of our Outside Learning specialist Ms Zammit-Haber, we are in the process of installing a new square frame for the children to play on. We have been so lucky with the outside space we have access to including the woods and we thank the local landowners for allowing us to use this resource.

We are very proud of our school and of the progress we continue to make. If you are interested in getting involved in the school, perhaps to hear readers or to support in one of our classes, or if you would just like to come and visit, you are always very welcome!

Jessica Balado
Headteacher

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

Due to the Covid 19 situation and the lack of experience with and of modern technology to have media meetings, no meetings have taken place during the period 2020 to 2021.

Over this time there has continued to be a very low crime rate in our area. There has however, over the latter half of the year been several minor instances of suspicious vehicles and a possibility of some mischievous anti social behaviour reported to me by residents directly. Additionally, recently an attempted burglary was reported in Bittering Street but the resident had already contacted the police who attended the scene. All of these instances were published with attendant warnings both on the Gressenhall Website and in the News & Views magazine.

Articles will continue to be placed in the News and Views. Any important or relevant Police information that is received will be sent to the Parish clerk for publication on the Parish Website and published where practicable in the News & Views magazine.

SAM2 TRAFFIC MONITOR

Whilst the SAM2 traffic monitor is not the remit of the Neighbourhood Watch Team, it has been members of the team who have assisted and managed its mounting and dismounting with the Parish Clerk picking up and dropping off as required. Over this year the mounting and dismounting of the SAM2 traffic monitor has fallen largely to the Parish Clerk and Partner. This is due to the Covid regulations preventing close proximity of people from other households.

Regarding the SAM2 I raised some concerns in my last Report regarding the way in which the machine is transported especially the mounting brackets: there are currently 4. These brackets are transported every time yet only 1 is used for the SAM. My last annual report suggested to the Parish Council that in order to reduce the amount of non essential parts being passed around, that an additional mounting bracket be purchased and to that I would now like to add sufficient drill bits to cover all 5 parishes (2 of the original 3 bits have been lost, misplaced or retained elsewhere). Following the purchase, if approved, each Partner (Parish) will have and be responsible for its own mounting bracket and bit thus leaving only the basic parts of the SAM 2 to be transported. Hopefully this would make transportation more manageable as there would only be 2 batteries the charger and 2 locks plus the machine to transport.

I submit this report to the Parish Council for their consideration and comment. Any comments should be addressed to me in the first instance and where necessary will be discussed with the team.

D J Curd Chairman Neighbourhood Watch Team Gressenhall

GRESSENHALL READING ROOM & VILLAGE HALL
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 272666

REPORT FOR GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL AGM May 4th 2021

During the pandemic, the Reading Room committee has succeeded in having bi-monthly meetings over Zoom. Garth Russell did a risk assessment and we promptly put appropriate covid safety measures in the hall. The thriving 125 club is still in place with our treasurer's wife drawing out the winning numbers during our meetings, which are then relayed via our *News and Views* fundraising page.

The committee has started making plans to redesign the small front garden -the idea being to make good use of the money gifted by Jane Johnstone in 2019. We hope to install a bench and have a plaque dedicated to Jane.

An upright piano, in good condition and gifted by the Jolly/Duncan-Rees family, is currently being stored in the hall with a view to rehousing it in the White Swan in the Autumn.

Many thanks to Doreen Aitken, for the permanent display of her artwork which really brightens up the hall.

We will continue to advertise in *News and Views* in order to encourage both previous hirers and new customers within the current restrictions. All being well, we will open our doors again soon after May 17.
 This concludes my report.

Jane Roberson
 (Chair) 1/5/21

Treasurer's Report May 2021

The Reading Room, like many activities, suffered financially from the enforced closure due to the pandemic. However, due to a very strong fundraising start to the year and a £10,000 grant from Breckland Council, we were able to offset a trading loss of nearly £2000 in the latter months to record an overall gain of £10,572 in the year. Still closed for most hirings, the trading losses have continued into the current year and it is crucial that we take advantage, when rules are

relaxed, to promote the Reading Room to new hirers and to encourage previous hirers to return.

Nick Hird (Treasurer)

GRESSENHALL NEWS AND VIEWS

Annual Report for Gressenhall Parish Council – May 2021

We are pleased that during 2020/21 there have been no changes to the Committee membership. It is very encouraging that there has been a significant increase in the number of articles submitted to the magazine by various individuals, particularly following the full Covid-19 lockdown in April 2020.

Listed below is more detailed information on the various functions undertaken by the Committee:

1. Advertising

- The number of pages allocated to the adverts is fixed in order to keep an even balance between information and the adverts. However, if content of articles supplied is limited then the balance can be perceived to be biased in favour of advertising space.
- There are currently 94 businesses advertising in the magazine.
- We have a steady flow of adverts coming in and going out and we operate a waiting list from time to time. As of May 2020 we have no prospective advertisers waiting for space.

2. Subscriptions and distribution

- Due to increased costs in producing the magazine, in January 2020 the Committee took the decision to increase the cost of the magazine to 50p per issue or £5 per year.
- 580 approx magazines are printed each month. Distribution across the three parishes is Gressenhall 420, Longham 76, Wendling 78.
- The Gressenhall shop continues to be an important source for readers wishing to buy a copy and who are not on a distribution list, including residents in Beetley.
- We are very grateful to our network of 15 distributors who deliver them to various households every month.
- Thanks to Molly Crisp for delivering to the distributors and to Pam Chatley for managing subscriptions.

3. Layout

- Every month we produce the front and back pages in colour.
- From time to time the centre pages are in colour in order to give emphasis to main village events, such as the summer fete and Christmas celebrations on the Green. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions Gressenhall was unable to hold the usual large gathering on the Green for the Annual Grand Switch on of Lights in December 2020. However, a four-page colour spread was able to be included covering Santa visiting streets and gardens in the January 2021 edition. Also, there was no summer fete in 2020 but a four-page colour spread in the June 2020 edition covered the VE Day celebrations.
- Thanks to Pamela Neile for her creative work in laying out the magazine.

4. Production

- 12 issues have been produced in the last twelve months, ranging in size from 44 to 64 pages.
- Many people and clubs contribute regularly every month but particular thanks go to Barbara Sanderson for Gressenhall news, Malcom Wood and Sue Douglas for Longham news.
- A special thanks should go to Molly Gooch who decided to put down her pen and stop providing the editorial for Wendling at the end of December 2020. Molly has been a mainstay for over 30 year for writing interesting articles as well as co-ordinating the delivery of the magazine.
- We welcome and thank Jennie and Julie Lock for stepping into Molly's shoes.
- Thanks must also go to Harlequin Print for producing the magazine in time each month.

5. Finance

- We maintained a constant healthy bank balance during 2020 and to date.
- Revenue is split approximately 60/40 advertising to subscription.
- The income from the adverts enables us to produce the magazine and improve it from time to time with coloured pages.
- The purpose of the magazine is to help improve the community spirit and not to solely make a profit.

6. Committee Members

Simon & Jane Cooper	Advertising
Molly Crisp	Distribution
Barbara Sanderson	Gressenhall Village People News
Pamela Neile	Layout & Production
Pam Chatley	Subscriptions

*Pamela Neile
30 April 2021*

GRESSENHALL FETE COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM – MAY 2021

Sadly, the 2020 Gressenhall Fete scheduled to be held in June and the Grand Switch on of the Christmas Lights were, like many other events, victims of the Covid 19 restrictions.

We did however have a large Christmas tree lit on The Green for the month of December and a small number of the Fete Committee and Father Christmas drove around the village on a decorated trailer on handing out mince pies and reindeer dust for the children.

The Fete Committee are currently organising a Fete for this year which will be held a month later than usual – Saturday 3rd July 2021 – it is likely to be smaller than the usual event but will include all the usual stalls, competitions, It's a Knockout, tea tent, beer and barbecue. There will be evening entertainment but likely to finish earlier.

The Committee continues to support local causes and made a donation towards the purchase of computer equipment for Beetley School and bought some shares in the White Swan.

Vicar's Report for Parish Council APCM 4th May 2021

St Mary's Church Gressenhall

2019 was a busy and vibrant year for the church. We enjoyed welcoming the village to our fundraising events which included a Quiz and Chips, Bluebell Walk, Racing Pigs at the Fete, and Christmas lights switch on an annual summer concert and a lovely harvest supper on The Green. Our congregation didn't see as much growth as I would have liked but all our festivals saw an increased attendance. The relationship with Beetley School grew and we were delighted that the school came to the church for their carol service.

2020 started positively with the church looking forward to a year of the usual festivals, occasional offices, regular worship and fund-raising events. We also hoped to progress the planned building works. However, Covid-19 took us all by surprise and overnight worship was suspended and other activities became provisional as the initial lockdown was extended into the summer. With worship not permitted in our churches the ministry team moved to online services via Zoom.

In between lockdowns we cautiously reinstated some worship in church but many in our congregation were understandably reluctant to participate and so Zoom services continued in parallel. Pastoral care was offered by phone and email as visiting was not permitted. Virtually no fundraising occurred during 2020 and church finances already at a low ebb suffered as a result. However, St Mary's had been active in encouraging giving by standing order and so fared better than those that relied on physical collections.

December was particularly challenging as all our traditional Christmas services and events couldn't take place. We were thankful to be able to provide an alternative Christmas Day service and the church was beautifully decorated. It was a joy to be back in church on Easter Day albeit in a limited way.

We are fortunate in having two outstanding churchwardens and the interior of the church and the churchyard are very well maintained.

2021 will undoubtedly have new challenges. The Benefice is seeking a new Rector to take us forward and there will be much work to be done to encourage our congregation back into church and attract new worshippers.

Undoubtedly my retirement at the end of May will result in some changes as I won't be replaced. During my time here I have worked hard to bring the church and village together and if the village can embrace their parish church as being as important to the life of the community as the pub then the church will survive and flourish.

Reverend Julia Hemp