

Gressenhall Parish Council AGM – Wednesday 10th May 2023

Report from Gressenhall Parish Council

The Parish Council said goodbye to two Councillors this year. Councillor Harris moved out of the area in March and Councillor Bunning stood down in April after an incredible 50 years of service. Councillor Bunning was the longest standing Councillor with over 50 years of service, only missing three meetings during that time. Thanks were given to both Councillors for their dedicated service. Councillor Louise Radford is welcomed following her election in early May.

The Parish Council met 11 times during the year and continued with the month-to-month duties including administering the allotments, maintenance, grass cutting, highways matters, planning, monitoring of SAM2 speed data and supporting the community car scheme. Additional rural grass cutting has been added to the parish councils maintenance list as Councillors were concerned with the lack of service provided by NCC.

Defibrillator training was organised for residents during the year. Although attendance was low, those who did attend felt the training was very worthwhile. The new posts were completed around The Green and the Village Gateway was finally installed on Litcham Road. Funding has recently been secured to install a further set of gateways at the museum end of Litcham Road.

The affordable housing scheme is progressing with submission of a planning application being made in April 2023 following public consultation in October 2022. We hope this scheme will deliver 8 much needed houses for rental at below market levels .

The following donations were made during the year:

- A donation to purchase jubilee mugs for children of the village
- A donation to Gressenhall Community Enterprise to purchase a bike rack, baby change unit, planters, parking signs and gravel.
- A donation was made to upgrade the social club car park.
- A donation made to the church to assist with maintaining the churchyard.

Recycling of glass and clothing income totalled £406.60 for the year. Thank you to all the residents who have recycled this year.

Gressenhall Parish Council AGM – Wednesday 10th May 2023

Report from Gressenhall Allotments

The allotment rent remained at £10 this year.

There was one change of tenant over the last year and all allotments are being used. There are currently three 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 Report 2022/23

This year has continued to show an increase in the demand for our service. While the number of hospital visits has shown a slight increase, the number of surgery trips has risen substantially, partly due to the number of Covid and flu vaccinations carried out in September and November, but it is also a reflection of the easing of restrictions on face to face appointments available.

For the community car scheme, this has been a year of change, as Ann Haverson has retired as coordinator after 20 years in the job. She has been such a driving force for the scheme, that we were not surprised that Breckland awarded her as an unsung hero with a Pride in Breckland award. She has been extremely supportive in handing over her duties for which I am truly grateful.

While Ann is now back driving for us, we have sadly lost the services of several of our long-standing drivers. Many thanks go to Barbara Sanderson, Frank Haverson and Nick Hird for their amazing contributions over the years. Obviously we are thankful for the great support of the drivers who can continue, but our pleas for new drivers has been well responded to, with 3 new drivers currently getting the paperwork processed before they take passengers. We have been very fortunate in the support we have from Leanne, the parish council, Breckland council and from our supporters and passengers. We have been able to supplement the fixed mileage from the donations we receive, and should be able to do this for the foreseeable future, while the price of fuel remains high.

We will again be holding a stall at the fete, when we will repeat the successful mix of cakes and other eatables with bric a brac. All donations of items and cakes will be very gratefully received.

REPORT FOR THE GRESSENHALL POOR LANDS CHARITY – MAY 2023

The Trustees met twice during the year.

£485.00 of additional donations were distributed during the year and The Trustees agreed at their meeting in January 2023 to increase the annual distribution to £70.00. Anyone finding themselves in need may write to the chairman for financial assistance.

The Land off Taylors Lane will be due for re-tender in October 23, an advert will be posted in the News & Views inviting people to tender. The deadline for sealed bids will be 1st October 2023 at 1700.

The accounts for year ending March 31st 2023 are not yet available.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

2022/2023 has been another very uneventful year for Gressenhall in regard to incidents and general criminality eg thefts, anti- social behaviour and street crime. As the chairman of the team I took it upon myself as stated in last year's Annual Report to only call meetings as required. There being no business to discuss meetings have therefore not been called.

I have however, endeavoured to keep the residents abreast of the rural crime reports produced by the Norfolk Police. Whilst these reports have not been specific to Gressenhall they do outline the type of countryside crimes that occur and which could blight our local area. I shall continue to publish these reports until such time as it is necessary to highlight any incidences of criminality that may occur in our village but that is something I sincerely hope will not be necessary.

The above policy will continue to be in place for the foreseeable future and any changes will be reported in the next annual Report for 2023/2024.

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 29th March 2022
of the Gressenhall Playing Field and Social Club,
in the Function room, starting at 8.15pm.

Present were the outgoing committee and four members, which was very disappointing for the Chairman as there are 200 members.

It was 2 years since an AGM was held due to the pandemic.

We survived, a lot of places did not, its upwards and onwards now.

Minutes were approved and duly signed.

Kath has done 3 years accounts comparison.

Gross monies received were –

Dec. 2019 - £55,857.41

Dec. 2020 - £22,929.96 (incl. £10,000.00 Covid Grant)

Dec. 2021 - £32,151.66

Giving net profit prior to general expenses of -

Dec. 2019 - £19,290.83

Dec. 2020 - £13,973.22

Dec. 2021 - £13,702.92

PPE equipment purchased cost £1,000.

New Cooler system of just under £3,000

There was an overall loss over the three years of around £2,800.

On 10th December 2021 the Auctioneer walked out and left the club in a muddle. Nobody rang George, and he rang nobody, but out of the blue, Terry Winterbone rang and asked if he could bring his auction as he had nowhere to hold it.

Instead of taking £80 to £100 over a month we are now taking £1,000 with both inside and outside auctions, which are still growing in size.

We are doing more business than ever.

Health and safety during the day, Band practise, 5 dart teams, pool team, bingo, line dancing.

Every month we have live music shows, more than the club has ever had.

It takes Sarah and Scott a lot to put the dances on, thanks to both of them.

Money in the safe £12,000, as well as both bank accounts.

Shaun wanted to come onto committee, but this was not accepted.

Nobody can have 'tick' on Auction goods and food in the kitchen.

The front car park is going to be done by the parish council, hopefully in June 2022. There are so many potholes, when it rains all the water runs down to the club

Voting on the Committee –

Chairman – George – Proposed by Scott, everyone in favour.

Vice Chairman – Scott – Proposed by Iris, everyone in favour.

Treasurer - Iris – Proposed by George, everyone in favour.

Rest of Committee, other than Melanie, and Dave Simon voted off committee.

Others voted onto Committee en-block –

Else, Michael, Diane, Sarah (for music events)

George really needs a secretary.

Iris used to do this, but she doesn't understand new equipment used.

Fire extinguishers need doing as soon as possible, one hasn't been done since 2003.

Michael says we need to be more invalid friendly on doors. Simon suggested portable ones, but this can not be done until fire hydrants have been done.

Portable would not work as there is a drop down into the hall.

The committee would like to thank Kath for doing books, not only that but what she does over and beyond the accounts.

No more business

Meeting closed 9.20pm

£

GRESSENHALL READING ROOM & VILLAGE HALL
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 272666

Chair's AGM Report Wednesday, May 10th 2023

We continue with our bi-monthly meetings, and I thank all committee members for their on-going support and time spent on Hall issues. A special thanks to Trisha Bailey for organising our page in *News and Views* which advertises our talks and announces winners of the 125 club.

It was discussed and agreed by the committee to make several improvements to the Reading Room building this year, since we have ample funds.

A new outside sensor light has been fitted, giving a stronger beam and the main hall lighting is being updated and modernised – many thanks to Richard Hawes for all his excellent advice and work. The rotten skirting board has also been repaired by Richard Duffield and the defunct clock replaced. The next stage is to replace the curtains with new, and to chose blinds. Many thanks to Brenda Beston for leading the team with this.

Given that the folding chairs are not the most comfortable for long periods of sitting, 40 very smart and affordable green cushions were sourced by Loraine Forrest; these have been much appreciated by audiences at the recent talks...

A good home in the village has been found for the upright piano – thanks to Sally Ackroyd.

In May 2022, and coinciding with the opening of our pub, The White Swan, Bridget Yates delighted a capacity audience with her talk *The Pubs and Ale Houses in Gressenhall*. This was repeated the following month due to popular demand!

September brought us a revisit by Derek Edwards with his delightful talk *Britain from the Air* and we concluded 2022 with Susanna Wade Martins' *A Vicar in Victorian Norfolk*.

Our series of talks continued this year, courtesy of Bridget Yates, with Simon Cooper's fascinating evening of *Byzantium, A Game of Thrones* in February, followed in March by Adrian O'dell with *Stefan's Journey*.

The 125 club is almost full to capacity and provides a valuable financial start to every calendar year: huge thanks to all villagers who continue to support us in this, it is much appreciated.

Overall, finances continued to be influenced by the aftermath of the Covid pandemic with hiring levels slowly coming back to their previous levels. In total, the Reading Room spent £5631 but this included £3332 to improve the outside appearance and functionality with the addition of the new patio, benches and plants. The resulting loss of £2605 hides the fact that we were able to more than cover our operating costs £2299 by a combination of hiring income and fundraising.

A very special thanks to Nick Hird who continues to keep a tight rein on all finances.

Jane Roberson
(Chair)
April 28, 2023

GRESSENHALL NEWS AND VIEWS

Annual Report for Gressenhall Parish Council – May 2023

We are pleased that during 2022/23 there have been no changes to the Committee membership. It is disappointing that there has been a decrease in the number of articles submitted to the magazine by parishioners.

As intimated in last year's report the Committee were concerned that advertising and subscription revenues were not covering the increase in the cost of printing which has gone up by approximately 10%. Therefore, the Committee reluctantly agreed to increase the cost of the magazine and advertising rates as from 1 January 2023.

We were sorry to announce that both Christine and Malcolm Wood decided that they were unable to continue to contribute to the Longham section. Also, Margaret Dye has stepped down from the distribution of the magazine for Longham. The Committee thanked Christine, Malcolm and Margaret for their service both the Longham and the magazine over the years.

Sarah Rigby now co-ordinates the distribution and collection of subscriptions in Longham.

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

1. Advertising

- The number of pages previously allocated to adverts has been fixed to 22 pages in order to keep an even balance between information and the adverts. However, advertisers have dwindled during the past twelve months to 20 pages which has resulted in a considerable loss in revenue.
- There is almost a spare full page spread over these 20 pages and, unfortunately, we have no prospective advertisers waiting for a space.
- As of May 2023 there are currently 79 businesses advertising in the magazine.

2. Subscriptions and distribution

- On average approximately 530 magazines are printed each month. Distribution across the three parishes is Gressenhall 375, Longham 63, Wendling 70. The Gressenhall shop also receive 20 copies free of charge.
- 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 18 distributors who deliver them to various households every month – 12 covering Gressenhall, 5 Longham and 1 Wendling.
- 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.
- 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 42 to 64 pages.
- Many people and clubs contribute regularly every month but particular thanks go to Barbara Sanderson for Gressenhall news, Jennie and Julie Lock for Wendling news and Sue Douglas for Longham news.
- Thanks must also go to Harlequin Print for producing the magazine in time each month.

5. Finance

- We are concerned at the loss in revenue and the Committee will be meeting to discuss this with a view to overcoming a possible shortfall going forward.
- The purpose of the magazine is to help improve the community spirit and not to solely make a profit.

6. Committee Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Pam Chatley | Subscriptions |
| • Simon & Jane Cooper | Advertising |
| • Molly Crisp | Distribution |
| • Pamela Neile | Layout and production |

*Pamela Neile
2 May 2023*

7

L.

GRESSENHALL FETE COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM – MAY 2023

Last summer the Fete Committee organised a small event on The Green and lighted their own beacon to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Mugs were distributed to all the children aged 12 years and under, funded by the Parish Council.

The 2022 Grand Summer Fete was once again a very successful event with a huge number of people attending and lots of village organisations had stalls to raise money for their own funds.

The Switch On of the Christmas Lights took place in early December and once again a fun afternoon was had by all. Father Christmas arrived by tractor and trailer and gave out presents to many small children. There were all the usual stalls and musical entertainment and the Christmas tree then remained a wonderful sight on the Green until early into the New Year.

Father Christmas drove around the village on a tractor and trailer a few days before Christmas handing out mince pies and sweets to old and young folk alike

The Fete Committee are organising a Barn Dance at the Social club on 19th May and the Grand Fete will be held on Saturday 3rd June 2023 on The Green.

The Fete Committee have continued to support local causes this year including purchasing items for The White Swan, donation to the Bowls Club and paying for musical entertainment at Woodstock Care Home each month.

Molly Crisp

St Mary's Gressenhall: Report for Parish Council 2023

At a time when many parish churches are struggling to survive and/or becoming inactive, it is good to be able to write a positive report on the past year.

St Mary's is blessed with a strong and dedicated team of volunteers who work hard to maintain the building and grounds. Many comment positively on the well maintained churchyard and the overall appearance of the church itself.

We are fortunate to have an active team of bellringers, a regular organist and enjoy having The Gressenhall Singers with us at our major festivals.

Much of the hard work of maintain the church and grounds goes on behind the scenes but particular thanks should be given to Sally Cross, supported by her husband Rob, who do a huge amount for the church. Not only do they ensure the church is open to the public every day but they also look after the fabric of the building. Sally is also tireless in encouraging anyone connected with the village to support the church through one of donations or a regular monthly contribution.

Much work has been done over the past few years to upgrade the facilities at the church to make it more hospitable and usable. I began the process and Sally Cross as Fabric Officer has continued to work hard to cut through all the red tape and make this happen. She writes:

After 6 yrs of diligent work and patience we have the faculty to build an accessible loo with removal of pews in north west corner. Rebuild cupboards and put a sink in the vestry, and servery.

4 quotes have been received, one to be chosen and then we need to apply for grants to help pay for this very exciting venture for church.

The work should be completed in the coming year.

We have maintained our regular service pattern of Morning Worship on the 2nd Sunday of the month and Holy Communion on the 4th Sunday of the month. In addition we have services for all the major festivals.

Growth is a challenge in all the churches in the Benefice but we are pleased that we have had several new members join the congregation who have become regular attendees. Our festival services continue to be very well attended.

Encouraging members of the congregation and local supporters of the church to set up monthly standing orders, together with one off donations and active fundraising has ensured the church has managed to pay its full parish share to the Diocese and meet regular running costs. St Mary's is grateful to the Parish Council for its generous support.

F

Gressenhall Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 10th May, 7:00pm

Community Pub Gressenhall <communitypubgressenhall@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 2:59 PM

To: Gressenhall Parish Council <gressenhallpc@gmail.com>

Cc: leigh.c.howard@googlemail.com, Rosie Begg <Beatricerosebegg@gmail.com>, "maggie.willmore" <maggie.willmore@btinternet.com>

Hi Leanne

Please find report below - let me know if there is any further pertinent detail that you think would be useful to include:

k. The Swan Community Pub

The White Swan, owned by Gressenhall Community Enterprise ("GCE") - re-opened its doors on Friday 26th May 2022 after a significant refurbishment which included over 6,000 volunteer hours contributed by the village and local community and will be celebrating its 1-year anniversary of reopening in a few weeks time.

The pub is run day-to-day by The White Swan Gressenhall Ltd, a subsidiary of a small, locally-owned pub group which manages three other public houses in Norfolk. GCE meets regularly with their management to work together on improving the offering for our community and maintain alignment on shared objectives but otherwise delegate the day-to-day decisions to an experienced and professional team that are well-liked and respected by the Gressenhall community.

The White Swan is running successfully, now serving food and drink 7 days per week. This is a remarkable achievement and reflection of strong support from the local area and beyond, particularly in the context of a difficult operating environment for the sector with the cost of living crisis and high energy costs. Not only does the pub provide an invaluable function as a meeting place for the community to socialise, but it has provided at least twelve full-time equivalent jobs - including apprenticeship roles with training opportunities for young people as well as further indirect impact through its local-first supply chain.

GCE is mindful of the pressures that a busy public house brings to a village like Gressenhall, particularly in the context of limited parking capacity and will continue to support The Parish Council where possible to encourage respectful visitor parking in the appropriate areas.

A highlight from Year 1 in terms of community initiatives has been *Coffee Hub* launched in Jan'23 and has seen a vibrant and sociable gathering open to all for delicious coffee and cake - latest details continue to be published in the News & Views.

Overall, GCE is delighted with the first year of a true community-asset being up and running - and offers sincere thanks to the Parish Council, local groups, societies and individuals for their continued support. The GCE committee look forward to continued collaboration with everyone to keep strengthening and improving how The White Swan can be an enjoyable place to spend time for everyone in a variety of different ways and are receptive to further ideas of what might be considered going forwards - please speak with us in person or drop us an email communitypubgressenhall@gmail.com

ENDS

Thanks,
Alex Begg

on behalf of Gressenhall Community Enterprise Ltd
A Community Benefit Society - Registration 8157



Pub website: www.thewhiteswangressenhall.co.uk

The Gressenhall Singers

Report for May 2023

The Gressenhall Singers have continued to be busy throughout the year. Numbers are now up to the maximum of 60, so there is a waiting list to join.

I'm delighted to welcome a few new gentlemen to the ranks recently. Sadly we lost John Wisken last year who had been a founder member and one of the first to sign up. He had hoped to be singing with us on his 90th birthday, but this was not to be.

Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons and evenings at Dentford Heights Studio, and singers have a choice of either session – some even come to both!

In early 2022 we commissioned a new piece for our then Queen's Platinum Jubilee, from composer and friend Sarah Rodgers. The piece - *Sing out loud!, Ring out Loud!* - is a setting of John Betjeman text; the choir was thrilled to have a piece written especially for them. It was premiered on Thursday, June 2nd on the village green with the composer present, reprieved at the *Grand Summer Fête* two days later and finally in the annual *July Summer Concert* in St Mary's Church.

December was busy as usual, with 4 different performances. Kicking off the season was the *Switch on of Lights*, then the Carol Service at St Marys, the much-awaited Carol Singing at the *White Swan* and finally, Carols at Meeting Point. Fortunately, we managed to remain covid-free for the Carol Service (unlike last Christmas) and again were joined by Gressenhall Brass led by my husband, Howard Hawkes, making the service extra special.

2023 started well with an invitation from Meeting Point in Dereham, to entertain the members with a *Celebration for Valentine's Day*. This was well received and we were able to repeat the programme when Chris Stuart invited us to entertain *Dereham Parkinson's Support Group* at Toftwood Village Hall in early March.

For Easter Day the choir performed John Rutter's delightful piece *For the Beauty of the Earth* and the Consort of 4 singers began the service with J S Bach's final *Chorale* from the *St John Passion*.

At the time of writing, we are currently working on a variety of pieces that have a link to King Charles for our *Coronation Day* celebration on the Village Green, Saturday, May 6th.

Jane Roberson

(Director of The Gressenhall Singers)

April 25th 2023

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch

Annual Report April 2022- April 2023

Budget and Council Tax:

The Council Tax and budget for 22-23 was set at a meeting of the Council in February 2022. An increase in council tax of 1.99% in the general precept and an increase of 1% for additional adult social care. However, even before the start of the financial year in April 2022 work was begun to tackle the budget for 23-24. There was projected to be a shortfall of some £60m for the year from April 2023 which had to be addressed. A strategic review of the council, “doing things better for less”, was initiated to address the shortfall.

A balanced budget, for 23-24, was set in February which maintained all the council services at the previous level and included a net spending increase of £29.6m to meet rising costs. The government had increased the referendum limit from 2% to 3% for 23-24 so the hard decision was taken to increase the level of council tax to the maximum allowed. This will increase the County Council’s share of band D bills from £1516.95 to £1592.64.

A reminder; local government cash is divided between revenue (broadly what we receive in income) and capital (normally capital grants from government and money borrowed to fund capital projects). Any goods and services and routine maintenance are paid for out of revenue and new projects, major refurbishments, and new equipment are paid for out of capital.

The projected revenue spend for 23-24 is as follows:

- Adult Social Services £249.5m
- Children’s Services £232.6m
- Community and Environmental Services £177.1m
- Strategy and Transformation £12.8m
- Finance and Commercial Services £35.8m

The capital budget for 23-24 is £956.5m. The highlight schemes include the Yarmouth 3rd River Crossing and the building of new SEND schools in places nearer to where pupils live. Other projects include:

- County Farms (refurbishments and carbon reduction) £9.4m
- Technology improvement Programme £8.2m
- Scottow Enterprise Park £8.6m
- Highway Improvements £2.5m
- New Fire and Rescue Equipment £1.2m

County Deal for Norfolk:

The County Council has entered negotiations with government on a “County Deal” for Norfolk and signed an “in-principle” deal in December 2022. The deal would see a grant of £600m paid over 30 years to fund economic development, infrastructure projects and skills training. As a condition of the deal the government require a directly elected leader, in addition to the 84 elected members, to take control of the budget. The governance model proposed requires legislation and this will not be passed until late in 2023 after which the changes required to NCC’s constitution will be debated at a meeting of Council in December 2023.

Bus Service Improvements:

During 2022 the County Council negotiated with government for an allocation from the Bus Service Improvement Fund and received an allocation of £50m, one of the largest in the country. The first £10m phase of this funding was received in November 2022. Since then, NCC have worked closely with bus service operators to implement enhanced routes and services as well as reviewing infrastructure and fares to encourage passenger growth and improve bus service reliability and sustainability. The revised and improved bus

timetables will come into use on the 3rd July, 2023.

Social Infrastructure Fund:

The 2022 was the third year that Social Infrastructure funding has provided capital grants to improve facilities for communities and boost the level of community services. £775,000 was awarded to communities to fund individual projects and £225,000 awarded to Norfolk Community Foundation to expand their Nourishing Norfolk food hubs across the county. Look out for this year's funding to go live.

Major Infrastructure:

Norfolk county Council are working to deliver 2 major road improvement projects; the Long Stratton bypass on the A140 and the much discussed Norwich Western Link (NWL) which will join the A47 to the A1067 effectively completing an outer ring road to Norwich (The greater Norwich Local Plan envisages 49,000 homes being built during the plan period to 2038).

Improvements to the A47 being brought forward by National Highways should also help the economic development of Norfolk by allowing better connectivity and slightly shorter journey times for commuters. The NWL and the A47 improvements should divert traffic currently using the B1145 (through Brisley, Stanfield, Mileham, Litcham, Lexham and Rougham) to use the new improved routes to access Kings Lynn and the east Midlands.

Necton and Launditch Division:

I represent some 8,600+ electors in the Necton and Launditch division which covers approximately 80 square miles and has 22 parishes within its boundaries.

19 parishes have parish councils, there are 2 parish meetings, and one parish is administered by the district councillor. 5 parish councils meet monthly, the rest on a bi-monthly basis (except Rougham), the parish meetings are only obliged to meet once a year.

Your Councillor:

I have, in the past year, been a member of the following committees/working groups at County Hall, all meetings are held during the working day usually commencing at 10:00:

Full Council, the ultimate decision-making body for policy and governance which meets 6 times in a year (plus extra-ordinary meetings).

Scrutiny Committee, which meets every month to scrutinise internal policy and to hear "call ins" of executive decisions from members. Can call in external organisations that serve the residents of Norfolk.

Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub Panel: chairman of this committee which scrutinises the progress of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership in delivering the aims of the Partnership. Reports to the Scrutiny Committee.

Audit and Governance Committee; meets every 3 months or so to monitor the financial performance of the Council, now has responsibility for the members code of conduct.

People and Communities Select Committee; (until July 2022) reviews and formulates policy relating to community matters. Meets every 6 weeks.

Standards Committee as Chairman (until subsumed into the Audit and Governance Committee). Monitored the effectiveness of the Members Code of Conduct.

Adult Social Care Performance Review Panel (meetings held via Teams); monitors the progress of adult social care reforms, working towards an inspection from government.

Planning (Regulatory) Committee; substitute member (must maintain training and be available on each day a meeting is called).

Parish Councils; attended as many of the scheduled 18 meetings as possible, usually bi-monthly. These are always evening meetings as they cannot be convened before 6:00pm.

Mark Kiddle-Morris,

Member for Necton and Launditch Division,
Norfolk County Council.

Gressenhall - Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2023

Dear Resident,

The last year has once again been a busy one. Having got past the worst of the Covid19 pandemic a sense of normality returned to Council proceedings.

The review of Breckland Council's Local Plan is now well under way. When complete this will contain a number of development policies which will be used to determine planning applications for many years to come. It is important that residents engage with any public consultations which will take place during this review period to ensure that their voices are heard.

As part of its Inspiring Communities work, Breckland Council has funded training for volunteers across the district for mental health awareness. This has created a network of people who can provide initial support before signposting people suffering from mental health issues to qualified healthcare professionals. Thetford became the first Mindful town and Swanton Morley became the first Mindful village with individuals who have completed a programme of training for this. I have undertaken this training myself which includes Mental health Awareness, Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Awareness.

In the grip of the cost of living crisis Breckland Council has, with Government support, provided hardship and family support funding for those most in need. As part of my casework I have managed to help a number of families receive additional financial support and I have signposted them to other professional bodies where they can receive additional financial help and guidance. As part of my work in this area I have tried to promote the good work of Credit Unions and was interviewed on radio Norfolk about this.

I remain concerned that there is a lack of funding available to provide Disabled Facilities Grants for all those people who have been assessed as needing adaptations to their homes. I recently supported a motion at Breckland which proposed an additional £200,000 to ensure that all applicants who have been assessed and costed get the help they need in this financial year. The proposal was to use money Breckland receives from the New Homes Bonus. Unfortunately, this motion was defeated. The Cabinet say that they are lobbying Government for more money and I and others will keep pursuing this.

You will probably have seen in the press that I have strongly objected to spending £35,000 on painting murals in Dereham town centre. I am of the view that this cannot be justified when so many families are having their household budgets squeezed. I sincerely hope that the Breckland's Cabinet will scrap this idea.

Finally, I want to say a big thank you to everyone who voted for me in the recent local elections. I have been overwhelmed by the level of support I received. I will do my very best to try and serve ALL residents during the next four years.

Yours Sincerely

Roger Atterwill
Ward member – Lincoln Ward
Email: roger.atterwill@breckland.gov.uk
Tel: 07841 488860 / 01362 637383