

11014
MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
7TH MAY 2024 AT 7:40PM IN THE READING ROOM

11015 Present: Councillor Beazley Councillor Crisp
 Councillor Radford Councillor Melton (arrive 7:55pm)
 Councillor Reader Councillor Day
 District Councillor Atterwill District Councillor Duffield

14 members of the public

- 11016 To Elect the Chairman – The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chairman. Councillor Crisp nominated Councillor Beazley and this was seconded by Councillor Reader. With no further nominations, all agreed to elect Councillor Beazley to serve as Chairman for the coming twelve months.
- 11017 The newly elected Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Councillor Beazley signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book.
- 11018 To Elect the Vice-Chairman – The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Councillor Reader nominated Councillor Melton and this was seconded by Councillor Crisp. With no further nominations, all agreed to elect Councillor Melton to serve as Vice-Chairman for the coming twelve months.
- 11019 The newly elected Vice-Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Councillor Melton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book.
- 11020 To confirm eligibility to operate under General Power of Competence – This was confirmed.
- 11021 Declarations of interest – All councillors declared an interest in The Swan Public House (excluding Councillor Radford). Councillor Reader declared an interest in the play area.
- 11022 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 2nd April 2024 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 were confirmed as a correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 11023 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – A resident asked who to contact from the Neighbourhood Watch group in the absence of the co-ordinator. Clerk to speak to the co-ordinator and also informed the resident of police contact details in the parish noticeboard. District Councillor Atterwill also advised of Amy Foster who is a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Breckland Council. Clerk to add these details in the News and Views box.

A resident enquired to the process of filling pot holes, as one large pot hole was not filled while a nearby hole was filled. County Councillor Kiddle-Morris did explain this at the last meeting in that pot holes have to match a certain criteria before they are filled. If a hole is not reported then the contractor will not fill it. It was agreed for the clerk to contact the Director of Highways and express concerns of the current process. Clerk was also asked to contact Highways to ensure the pot holes are filled prior to the road resurfacing as this did not happen last time.

The meeting was opened to the public at 8:00pm.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 11024 Reporting of any Highways Matters – One pot hole has been filled at Bilney Road but one remains. Clerk to report.
- 11025 Update on Affordable Housing scheme – Nothing to report. Revised plans taking into account passing places were submitted in February. Clerk to update website.
- 11026 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – 56 miles from March were added to the April return.
- 11027 Update on the play field funding project – £77,250 has been raised to date. £17,000 from the silent auction,, pop up café, Halloween party, fete and local donations, £19,250 National Lottery, £15,000 Norwich

Freemasons, £20,000 Breckland's Rural Prosperity Fund, £5,000 Geoffrey Watling and £1,000 Tesco. A meeting will take place tomorrow to discuss a modular start to the project while the remaining £23,000 is raised. A plan will be shared before commencement. Thanks were given to the whole team for their efforts.

- 11028 Update on the Elmham GP Surgery – No update this month.
- 11029 To provide update relating to power outages and consider next step for The Drift/Playing Field Working Group – Volunteers met at The Drift to discuss the tidy up of the area. UKPN will return to tidy up fallen trees along the edge of the ditch. Concerns of making the area accessible to residents were raised due to the wetness of the area. It was agreed to leave the felled trees but to start a cosmetic tidy up along the stream. The ditch will be cleared when the area has dried out. It was noted that there are residents from Swan Drive who are disposing of garden waste on The Drift which they should not be doing. It was also noted that Himalayan Balsam had returned in the area. Clerk to contact the Invasive Species contact from NCC to see about arranging a Balsam Bash.
- 11030 To confirm insurance premium renewal – The insurance was agreed and noted that this is the last year at the fixed rate. Quotes will be required for next year's renewal.
- 11031 To confirm date of clerk's annual appraisal – A date to be agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- 11032 To consider back up for defibrillator check if clerk is away – Councillor Radford offer to complete checks. Clerk to forward cabinet code and give demonstration.
- 11033 To discuss planning matters - There were no applications this month.
- 11034 Report from County Councillor – No report.
- 11035 Report from District Councillors – District Councillor Atterwill gave information regarding a new community grant available from Breckland for health and wellbeing.

Financial Matters

- 11036 To approve the 2023-24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return – The AGAR was approved by all councillors and signed by the Chairman
- 11037 To approve the 2023-24 Payments and Receipts accounts and bank reconciliation - The payments and receipts and bank reconciliation were approved by all councillors and signed by the Chairman
11038. To receive the internal audit report – The report was received and comments noted. Clerk to carry out actions.
- 11039 To approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption from external audit – The certificate was signed by the Chairman.
- 11040 To confirm payments for April: Clerk salary and expenses - £353.78, HMR&C - £81.80, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £109.50, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £105.60, Reading Room - £8.00, Robin Gorham - £50.00, Zurich Municipal – £511.26, TTSR Limited - £897.43, NGF Play Limited - £444.00.
- 11041 To receive income for April: Breckland Recycling Credit - £222.77, Breckland Council (GCCS) - £1,500.
- 11042 Reports from councillors (for information only) – None.
- 11043 Correspondence (for information only)
Gressenhall Community Enterprise provided details of a community energy scheme. This could be way of a small-scale heat generating facility or solar panels, fallow field of solar panels or wind turbine to help reduce costs. If any resident is interested in this scheme or has any questions, please contact the parish council.
- 11044 To confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 4th June 2024

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Signed:

Date: