

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
2ND JULY 2024 AT 7:00PM IN THE READING ROOM**

11060 Present: Councillor Melton Councillor Day
 Councillor Radford Councillor Keidan
 District Councillor Atterwill District Councillor Duffield

11 members of the public

11061 To receive and accept apologies for absence - Councillor Reader, Councillor Crisp, Councillor Beazley

11062 Declarations of interest – All councillors in attendance (except Councillor Radford) declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

11063 To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held 17th June 2024 – The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June were agreed and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

11064 Progress on items not on the agenda from previous meetings – None

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

11065 A resident reported that Dereham Road, near Rectory Farm, has been closed for a week and no work had taken place. The road closure near The Swan is also pointless, is causing confusion and affecting businesses. Clerk to contact Highways.

11066 A resident reported children had been seen playing on the log pile on the playing field, near the stream. Signs had been put up but the resident felt this was dangerous for the children and that an accident could happen. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

11067 A resident reported that the meeting of 4th June was inquorate and should not have continued. Although no council business took place, the Chairman of that meeting took the decision to continue with the public participation and provide updates on items. An extraordinary meeting was called for 17th June where the parish council business took place.

11068 A resident asked whether the parish council had taken into account the effect a BMX track would have on dog walkers using the playing field. The resident also asked why a concrete track was not being considered as then skateboards and scooters could also use it. Was it a cost issue? Councillor Melton responded with the history of the project where a group of children from the village requested a bike track. A consultation was held at the playing field where a good number of children and families attended and provided feedback of what they would like. A further online consultation took place which directed the final decision for the scheme. Councillor Atterwill added that Swanton Morley had a soil track which worked well and was easy to remove when no longer required.

11069 A resident enquired about the plans for the play area as they had no knowledge of the project nor of the parish council, having lived in the village for 6 years. A member of the play area working party updated the resident on how the project started and all the fundraising which had take place over the past year. The vice-chairman explained that minutes of each parish council were on the parish noticeboard on The Green, in the News and Views magazine and on the parish website. For many years, a resident welcomed all newcomers to the village and explained what is available in the village. If a resident would prefer an alternative method of communication, please let the parish council know and they will consider the request.

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes

11069 Reporting of any Highways Matters – The village gateway still has not been installed. Clerk to inform Councillor Kiddle-Morris if not installed by 15th July. The clerk has nearly completed a pot hole survey of the village.

11070 Update on Affordable Housing scheme – No further information.

- 11071 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – A fairly busy month with 1,046 miles. There have been some issues with the surgery this month. Some residents have had appointments but when arriving at the surgery, being told they had no appointment. The vice-chairman thanked Anne and her drivers.
- 11072 Update on the Elmham GP Surgery – The practice manager has left and it is hoped that the new practice manager will start liaising in August. Councillor Keidan asked that residents still inform the parish council of any comments on the surgery whether they are good or bad. These can then be addressed when meeting with the surgery.
- 11073 To provide update on The Drift/Playing Field Working Group – A member of the working group had obtained a quote to remove the pile of logs. Clerk to forward to councillors for their attention. As this work is deemed dangerous, a decision may be made before the next meeting.
- 11074 To receive update from Breckland's Preferred Options workshop – Councillor Atterwill gave an update on the workshop. Technical assessments are being carried out on sites including Robertson Barracks at Swanton Morley and sites at Larling and Scarning. 661 dwellings a year are required over the 25 year period of the Local Plan.
- 11075 To discuss and consider adopting the following policies:
- Updated Financial Regulations – deferred to August meeting
- 11076 To discuss planning matters:
3PL/2022/1414/F The Shrublands, Gressenhall Road – Residential development of 12 dwellings including affordable homes and specialist housing – All councillors agreed that the amendments for this application do not affect the original concerns highlighted for the first application. For that reason, the same objections will be forwarded again for these amendments.
- 11077 Report from County Councillor – No report.
- 11078 Report from District Councillor Atterwill – Reported that Breckland had received 16 funding bids and a meeting will be held on 30th July to decide.

Financial Matters

- 11079 To discuss and consider the deposit payment for phase one of the play area project – to be agreed at the August meeting.
- 11080 To confirm payments for June: Clerk salary and expenses - £366.51, HMR&C - £86.60, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £123.55, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £130.75, Mrs L Jarrett (Breckland planning application fee and OS map - £158.84, Reading Room - £16.00 and TTSR Limited - £897.43.
- 11081 Reports from councillors (for information only) – Councillor Keidan asked whether the contractor has completed the remedial works around The Green. Clerk to contact Councillor Crisp. Councillor Day was approached by a student completed the Duke of Edinburgh award and asked whether there were any volunteering opportunities. A local litter pick was discussed which councillors agreed was a good idea. The health and safety side will be discussed with the student's teacher. Equipment and PPE could be obtained from Breckland. Councillor Melton thanked everyone involved with the play area fundraising as £78,000 was a substantial sum to obtain.
- 11082 Correspondence (for information only) – None.
- 11083 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 7:00pm.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 8:05pm.