

**MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7:00PM IN THE READING ROOM**

11201 Present: Councillor Beazley – Chair Councillor Crisp
 Councillor Radford Councillor Reader
 Councillor Day District Councillor Atterwill
 District Councillor Duffield

8 members of the public

11202 To receive and accept apologies for absence – Councillor Kiedan, Councillor Melton and County Councillor Kiddle-Morris.

11203 Declarations of interest – All Councillors in attendance (except Councillor Radford) declared an interest in The Swan Public House, Councillor Reader declared an interest in agenda item 11 - Gressenhall play park.

11204 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December were agreed by all councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11205 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only) – None.

11206 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public. The meeting was opened to the public at 7:02pm.

A Trustee of Dereham Meeting Point explained the loss of NCC funding. They informed the meeting that the Charity will be writing to all local parish councils to see if they are able to help with a financial donation to help with the day to day running costs, once the funding ends on 31st March 2025. NCC have said that discussions will stay open. The Trustee told the meeting that 70% of users are from the Dereham/Toftwood area and 30% from the surrounding villages. Two residents of Gressenhall currently use the centre. Breckland Council have been informed and are looking to see if any funds are available. It was agreed to add the item to the March agenda. Dereham Town Council are meeting tonight to discuss if they are able to assist with funding.

That being all the meeting resumed at 7:16pm.

11207 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- The clerk is still chasing NCC re the siting of the SAM2 sign. Cllr Kiddle-Morris has been asked to assist.
- The clerk is in communication with Anglian Water with regard to repairs caused by the water leaks.
- Two grass cutting tenders were received. Following a discussion, it was agreed to speak with the current provider to ensure grass is cut in time for the summer fete and to see if they could reconsider their pricing.

11208 Update on Affordable Housing scheme

It was agreed to take stock of the current position and if any proposals come to light, these can be considered.

11209 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme

January has not been quite so busy. Figures will be circulated at the end of the month. All journeys were covered this month. One new driver has come forward and is currently completing paperwork. Breckland have confirmed that no medicals are required unless the driver would like to provide one.

Any costs for these will be covered by Breckland. Drivers over 70 years of age need to renew their license every 3 years and DBS checks are required every 2 years.

- 11210 Update on the Elmham GP Surgery
No update.
- 11211 To receive update from Play Park Project
No update.
- 11212 To receive update on Speed Awareness volunteers
Speed Watch volunteers have met. A report will be prepared for the next meeting.
- 11213 To discuss and consider response to Breckland's Ward Boundary Review
Breckland have put proposals forward to the Boundary Commission. If the Devolution Deal takes place, this will cancel the Boundary Review.
- 11214 To discuss and consider appointment of the annual play area inspector
Clerk to research current providers and obtain quotes.
- 11215 To receive report on Christmas Eve fun run
The report was read to the meeting. It was agreed, that due to the success of Christmas run, an Easter run should be considered.
- 11216 To discuss and consider mole problem on The Green and Playing Field
A quote was received to attend the mole problem. An option to monitor and treat over a 12-month period was agreed as the best option. Cllr Crisp to speak to the contractor and clerk to request formal quote and insurance details.
- 11217 To discuss and consider the overgrown hedge on Church Road
Clerk to write to the landowner.
- 11218 To discuss and consider the roadside trees at the Surveyor's Pit
To be discussed at the Charity meeting, following the parish council meeting.
- 11219 To discuss and consider the social club
The Social Club was improved significantly around 20 years ago and will require help in the forthcoming years. It currently has high utility costs. A funding application was submitted for solar panels and a new roof but this was unsuccessful. The asbestos roof has no insulation and needs replacing. A quote was received to carry out a condition survey. This was more expensive than anticipated. It was agreed to obtain a quote for a more slimline survey. For additional space, the idea of a 20ft container was suggested. Clerk to request copies of the 5-year electrical testing and annual gas certificate.
- 11220 To receive Roadside Nature Reserve Notification
Received.
- 11221 To receive clerk's resignation
The clerk's resignation was accepted although she is willing to stay in post until a suitable replacement is found. The position is being advertised on the parish noticeboard, website, News and Views and with Norfolk ALC. Clerk to see if NPTS are willing to advertise.
- 11222 **To discuss and consider planning matters**
Planning Applications
- PL/2024/1124/FMIN - Sparrow Green Farm Longham Road, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2QL, Creation of 3 no. holiday lets to include the conversion of 3 existing buildings and associated works – Following clarification and discussion, Councillors decided not to object on the condition that hot tubs were not introduced in the future, and

that the management plan was adhered to with particular regard to minimising impact upon the neighbouring property.

11223 Report from County Councillor
Report circulated to councillors in early January.

11224 Report from District Councillor
District Councillor Duffield reported that there is a call for sites as, due to the increased amount of homes needed, the five-year housing supply may not be met. Should the Devolution deal go ahead, Breckland residents could see an increase in Council Tax of around 30% as the Council Tax is currently significantly lower than other areas.

District Councillor Atterwill reported that Breckland's Local Plan process will restart in March. The Council Tax Band D will increase by £4.95.

11225 **Financial Matters**

To confirm standard payments for December: Clerk salary and expenses - £346.87, HMR&C - £84.20, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £90.27, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £101.38.

To confirm payments for January: Clerk salary and expenses - £351.82, HMR&C - £84.20, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £tbc, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £tbc, Poor Lands Charity - £1.00, Gressenhall Reading Room - £15.00.

Financial information will be circulated the first week of February.

11226 Reports from councillors (for information only)
Councillors agreed that the new Reading Room floor look very nice.

11227 Correspondence (for information only)
None.

11228 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7:00pm.

Signed: Councillor Beazley

Date: 4th March 2025