

Gressenhall Parish Council AGM – Tuesday 6th May 2025

Report from Gressenhall Parish Council

The Parish Council met 12 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.

The road around The Green was resurfaced with match funding from NCC Parish Partnership Scheme.

Hastoe housing withdrew their planning application for 10 affordable houses, following various planning issues, not least nutrient neutrality. This was very regrettable as the need for affordable housing has never been greater.

The play area funding project has had a very successful year with phase one completed during 2024. Huge thanks to the fantastic fundraising team led by Harriet and Graham. Fundraising is still continuing to complete phase two.

Volunteers are currently being recruited for various parish council activities, so if you would like to help, please contact the clerk.

The following donations were made during the year:

- A donation made to the church to assist with maintaining the churchyard.
- A donation towards the Dereham Meeting Happy Bus, a valuable service for residents of Gressenhall.

Recycling of glass and clothing income totalled £351.88 for the year. Thank you to all the residents who have recycled this year.

Our Clerk Leanne Jarrett tendered her resignation in January, and her successor is in the process of being recruited. We hope she will be joining us formally for our June meeting. Leanne has done a huge amount for Gressenhall parish over the last 15 years, and we are extremely grateful for her hard work and diligence.

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Report from Gressenhall Allotments

The allotment rent was raised to £12 this year.

Two allotments were vacated this year with new tenants taking over. changes of tenants over the past year and all allotments are being used. There are currently six people on the waiting list.

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



Community Car

2 messages

Anne Maskell <[REDACTED]> Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 10:08 AM
To: Gressenhall Parish Council <gressenhallpc@gmail.com>

The last year for the community car scheme has been seeing much the same level of demand for trips as the previous year, although hospital trips have been down, at 208 compared to 246 for 2023-4. Surgery visits have remained stable at 338, compared with 341. We have taken 613 passengers on 588 journeys covering 11,155 miles. Total mileage costs were £5,039.68, which was split £1,394.51 from Breckland, £1,255.09 from the parish council and the balance of £2,370.60 from the fares charged to passengers. We have continued to receive generous support from our passengers as well as from individual donations from, amongst others, the pop up cafe. With the funds we raised on our fete stall, and bowls competition, we have been able to keep a healthy donations account, to allow us to continue to supplement the mileage allowance for our drivers, which has not changed since 2008. Many thanks go to our generous and flexible drivers, without whose dedication we could not continue. I am frequently touched by the warm thanks from our passengers, who reiterate the value of the service to them. I am really grateful to both the parish council and district council for their continued support.

Anne Maskell
29.4.2025

Sent from my iPad

2 attachments

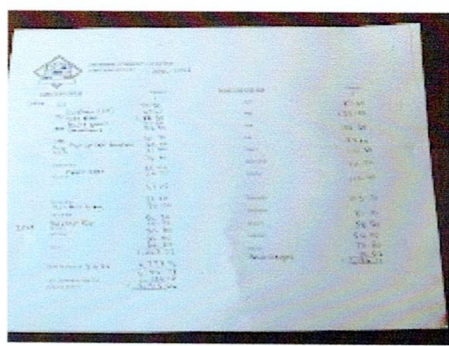


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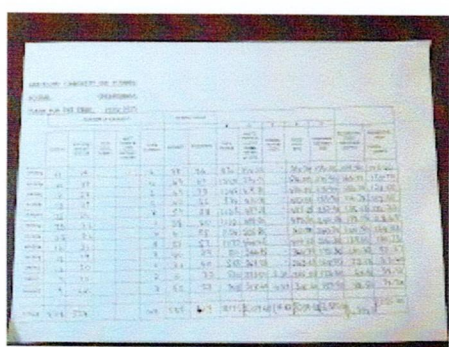


image1.jpeg
2721K

Gressenhall Parish Council <gressenhallpc@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 8:23 PM
To: Anne Maskell <[REDACTED]>

Many thanks Anne.

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]
Sent from my iPad

BRECKLAND COMMUNITY CAR SCHEMES

SCHEME: GRESSENHALL

CLAIM FOR THE YEAR: 2024-2025

	NUMBER OF JOURNEYS					MONTHLY TOTALS								
	HOSPITAL	DOCTORS/ DENTIST/ OPTICIAN	VISITS SICK & ELDERLY	MEET TRAINS & LONG DISTANCE COACHES	OTHER JOURNEYS	JOURNEYS	PASSENGERS	A	B	C	D	E	BALANCE DUE FROM BRECKLAND COUNCIL	BALANCE DUE FROM PARISH/ COUNCIL
								TOTAL MILEAGE	PAID TO DRIVERS (A x current mileage rate 45p per mile)	ADMINI- STRATION COSTS	GROSS COSTS (B+C)	PASSENGER CONTRIBU- TION		
APR2024	17	19			2	38	36	876	394.20	-	394.20	179.10	109.50	105.60
MAY2024	22	37			4	63	69	1320	594.00	-	594.00	272.90	165.00	156.10
JUN2024	18	29			2	49	58	1045	470.35	-	470.35	216.40	130.75	123.55
JUL2024	13	33			2	48	52	934	420.30	-	420.30	185.90	116.75	117.65
AUG2024	25	26			8	59	58	1105	497.25	-	497.25	237.90	138.13	121.22
SEP2024	25	32			1	58	60	1110	499.50	-	499.50	242.30	138.75	118.45
OCT2024	23	32			6	61	58	1124	505.80	-	505.80	240.70	140.50	124.60
NOV2024	16	31			8	55	57	1037	466.65	-	466.65	216.30	129.62	120.73
DEC2024	18	19			3	40	39	811	364.95	-	364.95	173.30	101.32	90.27
JAN2025	13	20			1	34	40	585	263.25	-	263.25	124.50	73.13	65.62
FEB2025	9	20			2	31	33	500	225.00	9.31	225.00	123.40	62.50	39.10
MAR2025	9	40			3	52	53	708	318.60	10.52	318.60	157.90	88.50	72.20
TOTALS	208	338			42	588	613	11,155	5,019.68	19.83	5,039.68	2,370.60	1,394.51	1,255.09

REPORT FOR THE GRESSENHALL POOR LANDS CHARITY – MAY 2025

The Trustees met once during the year.

Monies were distributed during the year to individuals in need in the village. The annual distribution remained at £80.00 per person. Anyone finding themselves in need may write to the chairman for financial assistance.

The Land off Taylors Lane continues to be let on a 5 year tenancy agreement with a local individual.

The accounts for year ending March 31st 2025 are not yet finalised.

Report from St Mary's Community Primary School, for
Gressenhall Parish Council Annual Meeting
May 2025

School Picture: Our Senior Leadership Team

Tanya Treavett – Headteacher
 Sophie Plummer – Deputy Headteacher
 Helen Watts – SENCO
 Karin Barker – Finance

Current number of children on roll: 166

It is my pleasure to be able to write to you this year – in what is now my second full year as St. Mary's substantive headteacher.

It has been a good year for all at our school. We are continually striving to make our school the best that it can be and to make the changes that Ofsted suggested from their last visit – October 2023.

Ofsted report findings:

What does the school need to do to improve?

- Staff do not consistently apply the school's behaviour policy. Expectations of pupils' behaviour are not high enough. As a result, some pupils distract others or do not engage with their work. Leaders should ensure that the school policy is rigorously applied in all classes.
- The curriculum is not yet delivered effectively across the school. As a result, in some subjects, pupils do not know more and remember more. Some staff have not had subject training to enable them to make the improvements required. Leaders must provide appropriate and sufficient professional development opportunities to address this.
- Assessment of pupils' progress is not sufficiently robust or accurate. Subject leaders do not always have accurate information on pupil progress in their subject areas. The assessment systems in some subjects have limited impact. Pupils do not always know how to improve. Leaders must ensure that a consistent and rigorous approach to assessment is implemented.
- School systems for self-evaluation and improvement planning are not sufficiently robust. This reduces leaders' and governors' capacity to understand whether pupils are benefiting from a high-quality education. Leaders should ensure that existing processes are reviewed so that they are fit for purpose. Where systems require updating, this should be done as quickly as is practicable

As always, the running of a school is a team effort. We have a fantastic team of adults who work incredibly hard to ensure that the children are excited, happy and safe. This includes all the adults who work in the classrooms and also our office staff who ensure that everything runs smoothly. We also have a great site staff who work tirelessly to ensure that the school building and site are as ready for the children as they can be!

I could not be more grateful and proud of my team.

School Development priorities:

Priority 1: The quality of education

- To raise attainment across the school meeting expected standards in reading, writing and maths, from 36% to national.
- Lessons being inspire, challenge and engage all pupils.
- Lessons meeting the needs of all abilities.
- The new curriculum embedded and evidence seen of it being used fully.
- Assessments across all areas of the curriculum to be accurate.

Priority 2: Behaviour and attitudes

- Staff will consistently apply the school's behaviour policy.
- Low level behaviour will be challenged.
- Lessons will be exciting, challenging and engaging.

Priority 3: Leadership and management

- Robust systems are in place to enable SLT and Governors to monitor high quality education.

Our governing body continues to be extremely supportive as we implement all of our new initiatives. At this point I would like to express my thanks to Linda Talbot and Jean Johnson, our joint Chairs of Governors, Ben Niven, Helen Watts, Emily Knight, Emma Russell and Jack Harvey 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 (FOSM). The team has pulled together some fabulous ideas to run events and raise money. We thank them all for this, as the funds they raise help to enhance our learning experiences through trips, visits and additional resources. It is with great joy that I am able to share that they have now successfully raised (with the help of a generous donation from a Gressenhall resident) enough money to build the new play equipment that they have been fundraising for the past few years for. It is due to be built in the May half term – the children are very excited.

You will no doubt be aware that schools across the country are finding finances are being stretched beyond capacity, and we are no different. The year ahead will have to see some difficult decisions being made – so I am incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of the Friends of St. Mary's.

The children have enjoyed many events and activities this year and these include:

- Year 6 residential to Hautbois House activity centre
- The school enjoyed watching The Railway Children performed in school
- Years 5 and 4 visited West Stow as part of their history learning
- Year 3 made a trip to visit the Lynn museum in King's Lynn
- Year 4 will be going to Whitwell in June for their residential
- Year 6 visited Gressenhall museum to learn about life in the World War Two
- Our Year 1 class visited the Sea Life Centre in Great Yarmouth

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!

Tanya Treavett
Headteacher

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 25

2024-2025 has been another very quiet year for Gressenhall Neighbourhood Watch. There has been no incidences of Anti-social Behaviour or minor criminal activity, at least as far as I know: nothing has been reported in any physical sense.

There have been some nuisance telephone calls with possible scamming which were dealt with by those receiving them via the reporting procedures on advice from me.

The articles that used to be published regarding the criminal activities in the surrounding country side identified by the police under Operation Randell dried up and I have been unable to identify a way of reintroducing them.

As published in a recent article many of the crimes being committed are now with scamming on the internet via E-mails and on mobile phones via text message and social media e.g. Facebook and Instagram. All this modern tech and the speed with which it is changing is out of my knowledge and I would not be able to give any advice whatsoever in how to handle any hacking or illegal activity. Neighbourhood Watch does have a cyber-crime representative, Mike Onassis (NHW, Deputy Chair, Area Coordinator and Cyberhood Watch Ambassador, Breckland, Norfolk)

Following on from the above part of the Report I regret to inform the Parish Council that it is my intention to stand down from being the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Chairman of the Gressenhall Team. This is due to a recently diagnosed health condition which requires major surgery and the fact that I have been actively engaged for just over 10 years and at 79 years of age wish to pursue my other interests more fully.

Doug Curd on behalf of Gressenhall Neighbourhood Watch Team.

GRESSENHALL READING ROOM AND VILLAGE HALL

REGISTERED CHARITY NR. 272666

Chair's APM Report Tuesday 6th May 2025

The Reading Room Committee, comprising 8 members, continues to hold bi-monthly meetings.

I have recently taken over the hiring management of the Hall from our long serving committee member Loraine Forest who due to health issues has had to relinquish this responsibility for the time being.

We had hoped, as part of our plan of continuing improvements to the hall, to update and refurbish our outdated WC facilities.

Unfortunately problems with damp, led to some subsidence of the main hall floor and we were forced to replace the floor structure and finish. At the same time we did take advantage to insert underfloor insulation to help improve our energy efficiency.

However this work, costing in the order of £8,000 has seriously depleted our current reserves. We have therefore had to put our WC refurbishment plans on hold, pending the resourcing of further finance.

Following the expiration of our fixed price electrical supply in the Autumn 2024 we were faced with a substantial increase in energy costs and reluctantly have had to increase our hiring chares by a further £1 per hour.

We were forced to close the hall for three weeks in January whilst the new flooring works were carried out. However over the year, our hiring income has been steady, with recurring regular and the occasional ad-hoc hirers including a successful two day art exhibition in October.

The 125 club is fully subscribed and provides valuable funds and we continue to advertise in the News and Views of any fund raising events and to attract new hirers.

Bridget Yates has continued to organise a series of well attended talks on Friday evenings. Our latest series of six talks began last September on a monthly basis culminating in a talk, this March by Dick Malt about the Hoe and Worthing Archives. A further of series talks are planned, commencing in September 2025

Last December we revived the Great Reading Room Christmas Bingo Extravaganza including fabulous Christmassy prizes and Christmas songs with musical accompaniment by Linda Howell. It was very well supported and we intend to repeat the event next Christmas.

Garth Russell - Reading Room Chairman

Gressenhall News and Views Accounts
Year 1/1/24- 31/12/24

Balance brought forward from previous year £1,772.97

	Income	Expenditure
MONTH	£1,441.25	£514.27
January	£901.25	£451.56
February	£354.00	£444.38
March	£27.50	£435.40
April	£1,097.35	£465.18
May	£405.10	£465.18
June	£448.10	£496.55
July	£879.60	£0.00
August	£247.10	£930.36
September	£676.85	£32.20
October	£1,011.10	£930.36
November	£764.10	£494.96
December		
Totals	£8,253.30	£5,660.40
NOTE		
<i>Income from Advertising</i>	£3,906.75	
<i>Income from Subscription</i>	£4,346.55	

BALANCE of Income against expenditure £2,592.90

TOTAL BALANCE AT YEAR END £4,365.87
(BBF + BIE)

GRESSENHALL FETE COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM – MAY 2025

The 2024 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.

D Day celebrations were held in June on The Green with the lighting of a beacon and the Gressenhall Singers singing lots of war time songs.

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 have continued to support local causes this year including contributing towards the cost of cakes for the weekly coffee hub at the pub, a Woodstock Care Home each month as well as other organisations in the village.

Molly Crisp

Annual Report to Gressenhall Parish Council

St Mary's Church, Gressenhall

2024/25

After the turbulence at the beginning of 2024 matters were satisfactorily resolved and Reverend Woods left to take up another post. As in previous years, services, social and fundraising events followed their usual pattern and attendance remained encouraging with some new people being welcomed into the regular congregation. There was also an increase in numbers at the larger festivals. Most notable was a congregation in excess of 200 at the Christingle service.

We were delighted that the long-awaited new facilities were finally installed and ready to use in time for a Wedding Blessing in early June. It is a huge benefit to be able to offer a proper toilet and refreshments after our regular services and at special events.

We also replaced our noticeboard which was in a poor state of repair. This was an expensive item and we are grateful to The Fete Committee for their generous donation towards the cost.

We are fortunate in having an active PCC with all the posts filled. Both the church building and churchyard are well maintained. Finances continue to be a challenge but we have benefitted from one or two donations.

The church has continued to play an active role in village events and is well represented at the weekly Coffee Hub in The White Swan. I have continued to visit those in the parish who are housebound or in need of support.

Reverend Julia Houston

April 2025