

Please note that minutes are published in draft form until approved at the next Council meeting

MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5th AUGUST 2025 AT 7.00PM IN THE READING ROOM

11365 Present: Councillor Beazley – Chair Councillor Melton
Councillor Crisp Councillor Radford
Councillor Keidan Councillor Day
County Councillor Kiddle-Morris

6 members of the public

11366 To receive apologies for absence – Councillor Reader.

11367 Declarations of interest – All Councillors in attendance declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

11368 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st July were agreed by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11369 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only)
The Chairman thanked Terry Wootten for taking on the Sam2 sign volunteer role and for attending the recent SNAP meeting.

11370 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public.
A resident commented that the clerk's details need updating in the New and Views.
A resident confirmed that the trees had been trimmed by Nick Saunders which was a great improvement however the posts on the edge of the footpath need repairing and they confirmed that they would replace/repair the posts.

11371 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- To receive any highways defects to report – none to report.
- A water leak was reported by the bowls club. Clerk to report to Anglian Water.
- It was confirmed that the water leak on the Green had been repaired.

11372 To discuss and consider update on The Social Club – It was agreed that the roof repairs highlighted in the recent survey were the most urgent work that would need completing however this will be expensive and it was therefore agreed to research funding options.

11373 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – 29 visits with 36 passengers were covered during July. It was reported that July had been a quieter month.

11374 Update on the Elmham GP Surgery – Cllr Keidan reported that the next Patient Participation Group is on 13th August. Cllr Keidan stated that it would be useful if the surgery could use the parish magazine for reporting updates on the surgery and she would raise this at their next meeting.

11375 To receive update from Play Park Project – It was reported that the order had been placed for the play equipment for Phase 2 and work was due to start in September.
It was agreed to look into purchasing a noticeboard for the Play Park once Phase 2 had been completed. This would display relevant information to users of the Play Park.
Councillors expressed their thanks for the funds received from the recent dog show together with funds received from the Fete committee which together total £3172.60

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- 11376 To discuss and consider arranging Himalayan Balsam bash – It was reported that the “bash” had been completed and two further dates have been scheduled for 11th and 20th August with potentially a community “bash” in September. The clerk will be notified of the date in due course. It was reported that Liam Smith is moving on from his role and contact details of his successor will be sent to the clerk. Cllr Crisp asked for thanks be passed to Liam Smith for all his work with the Balsam Bash.
- 11377 To discuss and consider Financial Reserves policy – it was agreed that the general reserve of £5k held by the Parish Council was not unhealthy and residents may be concerned if it was too much higher. It was agreed that the clerk would re-circulate the policy for review.
- 11378 To discuss and consider Play Park and MUGA Inspection Reports – it was agreed that the inspection reports would be followed up with Cllr Reader on his return.
- 11379 To discuss tree maintenance – it was confirmed that some tree maintenance had been carried out by Nick Saunders around the stream and it was agreed to follow up with Nick concerning further works due to take place.
- 11380 To discuss and consider planning matters – *Beryew Cottage – proposed erection of new dwelling with detached double garage*. Councillors confirmed that the plans had been inspected and it was agreed by all Councillors present that there were no objections to the planned proposal. Clerk to file response with Breckland Planning.
- 11381 Report from County Councillor – Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that a Devolution report was published on 10th July (full copy available on Gressenhall Parish Council website). It was reported that all parish councils need to submit their views re unitary authorities by 24th September. Cllr Kiddle-Morris confirmed that Norfolk County Council are proposing one single unitary authority whilst six District Councils are proposing three unitary authorities. Feedback received so far from parish councils is more unitary authorities therefore keeping services more local rather than one single unitary authority meaning less District Councillors therefore less local contact.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kiddle-Morris.

Local Plan – Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the Regulation 18 consultation was published on 15th July 2025 with 6 weeks from this date to comment. A further consultation will take place in 2026.

- 11382 Report from District Councillor – No update.

11383 Financial Matters

To confirm payments for July: Clerk salary and expenses (Sue Horton) - £300.72, Gressenhall Community Car scheme - £68.17, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £79.88, NALC (web & email hosting) - £102.50, Playsafety Ltd - £196.80, Gressenhall Reading Room - £20.00, Volunteer Norfolk (DBS check) - £65.10, TTSR (grass cutting) - £903.34.

Receipts – Breckland Recycling - £185.76, Fete Committee and Dog Show - £3172.69

It was agreed that Anglian Water should be approached to cover the cost of an extra grass cut on the Green due to the delay in repairing the water leak. Clerk to write to Anglian Water with cost of grass cut and request for reimbursement.

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11384 Report from Terry Wootten – Terry reported that he attended the last SNAP meeting. He also raised the issue of speeding vehicles on Bittering Street. Terry also confirmed that he would liaise with Cllr Beazley regarding the SAM2 sign.

11385 Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr Keiden requested updates for the Box:

- Link to report pot holes
- Link to report water leaks
- Reminder to residents about picking up litter around the play park
- Potential September date for Balsam Bash
- Amount received from Breckland for recycling and reminder to residents to use the recycling facilities in the village

11386 Correspondence (for information only) – None received.

11387 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – **Tuesday 9th September 2025** at 7:00pm. Cllr Crisp gave his apologies for the September meeting. Clerk to alert District Councillors of the change of date, add to website and enter in News and Views.

That being all, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....