

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 7th OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.00PM IN THE READING ROOM**

11410 Present: Councillor Beazley - Chair
Councillor Melton Councillor Reader
Councillor Day Councillor Crisp
Sue Horton (clerk)

Also in attendance: Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris, Councillor Roger Atterwill

10 members of the public

11411 To receive apologies for absence – Councillor Radford, Councillor Keiden.

11412 Declarations of interest – All Councillors in attendance, declared an interest in The Swan Public House. Councillor Reader declared an interest in the Gressenhall Play Park Project.

11413 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 2025 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th September were agreed by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11414 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only).
Nothing to update.

11415 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public.
A resident reported that a mobile residence was taking shape on land in Longham Lane. The resident enquired whether this was a legitimate build.

It was reported that there were fallen tree branches on the Green and it was requested that this was looked into.

It was reported that the “No Parking Please” signs around the Green have been broken.

It was reported that there are bushes overhanging the footpath on the property on the corner on Swan Drive.

It was reported that Phase II of the Play Park Scheme had been completed and the park was attracting lots of residents.

11416 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- To receive any highways defects – any highway defects should be reported to the clerk, the defects will then be reported to the Highway Rangers.
- Defect reported to the path on the left-hand side of Park Road.
- Overhanging hedge reported in Church Lane opposite the School House.
- The leak on Bittering Street has been marked up by Anglian Water but is yet to be repaired.
- The pot holes in Longham Lane have all been repaired bar a few which have been white lined.

11417 To discuss and consider update on The Social Club. No update.

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- 11418 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme - 29 visits with 34 passengers were covered during September. Total cost = £296.10, fares received = £143.30, balance to pay £152.80. Breckland payment = £82.55, Parish Council payment = £70.55. The clerk reported that volunteer drivers are entitled to free DBS checks and this is being investigated with various providers. The clerk will liaise with Anne Maskell to complete the DBS checks once a provider has been found.
- 11419 Update on the Elmham GP Surgery – No update.
- 11420 To receive update from Play Park Project – Phase II of the Play Park is complete. The Chairman thanked Harriet Green and her fundraising team for all their work in raising funds. Thanks was also given to everyone involved over the two years of the project. The clerk will check the bin contract with Breckland and confirm emptying cycle.
- Councillor Beazley showed the meeting a draft sign to be erected at the Play Park providing safety information. All Councillors present approved the draft. Details of any providers who requested to be named would be clarified to the next meeting.
- Councillor Reader reported that a couple of repairs highlighted in the safety inspection still need to be rectified.
- 11421 To discuss and consider arranging Himalayan Balsam bash – no update. No details of the successor for Liam Smith have been received.
- 11422 To receive update on tree maintenance – A survey will be carried out in the next week of all the trees in the area marked on the map. It was agreed that a higher budget for tree maintenance would need to be considered for 26/27.
- 11423 To discuss and consider planning matters –*PL/2025/1234/HOU – Proposed single-story side extension to semi-detached bungalow, including bi-fold doors and sheltered entrance to front elevation and new roof construction over existing kitchen and new garage extension. Mon Ami, The Green, Gressenhall.* The plans have been amended to render the exterior of the extension rather than cladding.
- Unauthorised development on the Dereham Low Road, Gressenhall – It was agreed to establish who the owner of the property is by contacting HM Land Registry and thereafter refer to Breckland enforcement. Councillor Beazley to investigate.
- 11424 To review allotment rent – It was agreed to review the allotment rent. Councillor Beazley proposed the rent be increased from £12pa to £15pa per allotment. It was agreed by all Councillors present to increase the rent. Councillor Crisp agreed to identify the allotments currently not being utilized.
- 11425 To review broken “no parking” sign on the Green – The area would be surveyed by the Parish Council and the sign repaired. It was agreed to erect another sign.
- 11426 Report from County Councillor – Local Plan and Devolution - It was reported that Norfolk County Council have put forward a proposal for a single unitary authority to Government.

The Devolution Report will be considered by Cabinet during October 2025.

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- 11427 Report from District Councillor – An update on the Local Government Reorganisation was provided. It was reported that Breckland Council have proposed three unitary authorities.

Local Plan – District reported that under Reg 18 there would be a full consultation starting on 31 October for 6 weeks.

- 11428 Financial Matters

To confirm payments for September: Clerk salary and expenses (Sue Horton) - £287.00, Gressenhall Community Car scheme (Parish Council) - £70.55, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £82.55, Norfolk Tree & Hedges (tree maintenance) £2,517.60, Wright Clear Pest Control (mole control) - £150.00, NGF Play Ltd (Play Park Phase II) - £21,332.96, Gressenhall Relief Charity (Rent of the Green) - £1.00.

All Councillors present agreed to payment of the accounts. It was agreed Councillors Beazley and Crisp would authorise the payments online.

It was agreed that a higher budget for mole control would need to be considered for 26/27.

- 11429 Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Councillor Day reported that the fence on Swan Drive leading to the allotments would need attention. It was agreed that Councillor Melton would contact Nick Saunders.

Councillor Reader reported that the bushes on the Green and the lime tree would need maintenance.

- 11430 Correspondence (for information only) – Letter received announcing the passing of Peter Hind who ran the village shop in the 1990s. The clerk confirmed that condolences had been sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

- 11431 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – **Tuesday 4th November 2025** at 7:00pm.

That being all, the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....