

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 4th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM IN THE READING ROOM

11432 Present: Councillor Beazley - Chair
Councillor Melton Councillor Radford
Councillor Crisp
Sue Horton (clerk)

Also in attendance:

9 members of the public

11433 To receive apologies for absence – Councillor Keiden, Councillor Reader, Councillor Day, Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris, Councillor Roger Atterwill

11434 Declarations of interest – All Councillors except in attendance excepting Councillor Radford, declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

11435 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th October were agreed by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11436 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only).
Allotments – 6 allotments have been paid for and the two vacant plots have been taken on by new tenants. **Christmas Event** – Zurich have confirmed public liability insurance for this event. **No parking sign on the Green** – these are being repaired and will be erected in December. **DBS Volunteer checks** – in progress. **Planning Enforcement** – an enforcement has been lodged with Breckland Council. **Play Park bin** - the bin has been emptied and will be emptied on a weekly basis as per the parish council's contract.
Budget/Precept 2026-27 – the clerk had prepared budget figures which were presented by the Chairman. It was suggested to increase the precept to £17,000 which represents a 3% increase. The figures will be revised and emailed to all councillors to be considered at the December meeting.

11437 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public. A resident enquired what was meant by “authorising payments online”. The payment process with Unity bank is such that the clerk submits the payments due (once invoices have been approved by Council). Two councillors will then individually authorise the payments.

A resident enquired about the building taking place on land in Dereham Low Road. It was confirmed that the clerk had submitted an enforcement with Breckland Planning. A subsequent email had been received from an enforcement officer; it was recommended that enforcement visit the site as soon as possible. No further update had been received to date. It was suggested that individuals could contact Breckland Planning and lodge a complaint. The clerk will also email Breckland Planning and District Councillor Roger Atterwill.

11438 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- To receive any highways defects
- Highways inspected Park Road but could not find any defects.
- Overhanging hedge in Church Lane opposite the School House was reported last month and will be chased up with Highways.
- The leak on Bittering Street has been marked up by Anglian Water but is still waiting to

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

- be repaired. Clerk to chase.
- Bittering Street blocked gulleys – clerk to report with Highways.

- 11439 To discuss and consider update on The Social Club. No update.
- 11440 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme - 25 visits with 27 passengers were covered during October. Total cost = £294.75, fares received = £139.20, balance to pay £155.55. Breckland payment = £81.88, Parish Council payment = £73.67.
- 11441 Update on the Elmham GP Surgery – No update. Information can be found in the News and Views.
- 11442 To receive update from Play Park Project – clerk to email Cllr Reader for an update on the existing signage. The Chairman reported that the Play Park is looking neat and tidy and is being well used.
- 11443 To discuss and consider arranging Himalayan Balsam bash – no update.
- 11444 To receive update on tree maintenance – Nick Saunders has surveyed the area and will provide a schedule of works and costs in due course.
- 11445 To discuss proposed Solar Farm – An email had been received from a resident requesting details submitted by the parish council regarding the proposed solar farm. Cllr Beazley read out the extract from the June parish council minutes when this was previously discussed. It was still felt that whilst this was not an immediate concern to Gressenhall it would be prudent to submit further comments to reflect how previous work carried out by RWE, on a separate project, caused an adverse effect on some residents, including damage to properties which was not rectified as promised. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to George Freeman MP plus the appropriate Government department.
- 11446 To consider Breckland Mindful Towns – it was agreed to put details on the website and in the News and Views.
- 11447 To discuss and consider planning matters – unauthorised development on the Dereham Low Road, Gressenhall – it was agreed that the clerk would follow this up with an email to Highways Planning and District Councillor Atterwill.
- 11448 Report from County Councillor – Report received by email from County.
- 11449 Report from District Councillor – No update from District.
- 11450 Financial Matters
To confirm payments for October: Clerk salary and expenses (Sue Horton) - £287.00, Gressenhall Community Car scheme (Parish Council) - £73.67, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £81.88, Gressenhall Reading Room (room hire) - £15.00, TTSR (grounds maintenance) £903.31.
All Councillors present agreed to payment of the accounts. It was agreed Councillors Beazley and Crisp would authorise the payments online.
- 11429 Reports from Councillors (for information only) - A resident had spoken to Cllr Radford regarding damage to her property following the RWE project. Cllr Melton requested that the

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

clerk inform the council if a new laptop was required in the future and provision would be made in future budgets.

11430 Correspondence (for information only)

11431 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – **Tuesday 2nd December 2025** at 7:00pm.

That being all, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

DRAFT