

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 2nd DECEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM IN THE READING ROOM

11454 Present: Councillor Beazley – Chair Councillor Reader
Councillor Radford Councillor Day
Councillor Crisp
Sue Horton (clerk)

Also in attendance: Councillor Atterwill

11 members of the public

11455 To receive apologies for absence – Councillor Keiden, Councillor Melton, Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris, Councillor Richard Duffield.

11456 Declarations of interest – All Councillors in attendance excepting Councillor Radford, declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

11457 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2025 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November were agreed by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11458 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only). **Solar Farm** – Cllr Beazley confirmed that a response had been drafted to George Freeman MP and read the letter to the meeting. It was agreed by all Councillors present to send the letter as drafted. **Overgrown Hedge, Church Lane** – no response had been received to the letter sent to the resident.

11459 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public.

Concerns were raised by a resident about the solar farm development and alerted the meeting to damaged suffered to property as a result of heavy vehicles moving through the village during a previous development. Vehicles have been reported moving through the village before 8am and it was confirmed that no heavy vehicles should be travelling through the village at all. It was suggested that photographic evidence should be obtained to ascertain which gravel pit the vehicles are from so further action could be taken.

A resident reported that Bittering Street has a blocked drain potentially caused by an oak tree root growing in it. Clerk to report to Highways. **AP**

A resident reported blocked ditches in The Drift. The Parish Council agreed to take a look.

A resident enquired when the “No Parking” signs were due to be replaced. It was confirmed that these would be reinstalled during December.

11460 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- To receive any highways defects
- Pot holes reported in Bilney Road and Church Lane.

11461 To discuss and consider update on The Social Club. No update.

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- 11462 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – 39 trips were covered during October. Total cost = £396.00, fares received = £192.10, balance to pay £203.90. Breckland payment = £110.00, Parish Council payment = £93.90.
- 11463 To receive update from Play Park Project – The new signage for the Play Park has been installed and repair to one piece of equipment has been undertaken. Cllr Reader reported that one more “low risk” repair is required in the region of £850. Cllr Beazley reported that the Play Park project cost £93k with grants received of £68k and funding of £26k. A balance of £621 remains. This was a great result thanks to a lot of successful local fund raising and well targeted grant applications.

Cllr Reader reported that the zip wire will need tightening and maintenance required in 3 years’ time. It was confirmed that the bins at the park are now being emptied as per the contract.

- 11464 To receive update on tree maintenance – No update. All works complete to date.
- 11465 To discuss and consider planning matters – Heathfield, The Drift, Gressenhall – no objection. 16 Bilney Road, Gressenhall – No objection providing non obstructive to neighbour’s light.

ENF/244/25 – Land to the West of Longham Road, Gressenhall. – A reply had been received from the Breckland Enforcement Officer confirming that a draft Planning Contravention Notice is currently with the Council’s Principal lawyer awaiting review and the formal drafting of the notice which will then be served.

- 11466 Report from County Councillor - No update
- 11467 Report from District Councillor – Councillor Atterwill confirmed that there is until 15th December to comment on the Local Plan. It was reported that five towns in the area will potentially have a large number of new houses built following two rounds of consultation. Breckland settlement boundaries are likely to be removed. It was recommended that the Parish Council collectively comment on the Local Plan and stress the importance of retaining settlement boundaries to provide some certainty. It was agreed that Councillor Beazley would draft a response.

Breckland Council have been distributing Winter Warm Packs in place of the previous winter warm hubs.

- 11468 Financial Matters

Income received in November – HMRC VAT reclaim - £4874.06, Surveyors Pit rent £35.00

To confirm payments for November: Clerk salary and expenses (Sue Horton) - £330.39, Gressenhall Community Car scheme (Parish Council) - £93.90, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £110.00, NGF Play (Monthly checks) - £72.00, NGF Play (signage and maintenance) - £708.00.

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

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- 11469 To consider Grant request from St Mary's Church – The grant request for £600 was agreed by all Councillors present. Reverend Julia thanked the Parish Council for their continued support.
- 11470 To consider 2026/2027 Budget and Precept – The budget was presented having previously been emailed to all Councillors for review. It was agreed by all Councillors present to increase the precept by £500 to £17,000.
- 11471 Reports from Councillors (for information only) - The Christmas lights switch on event will take place on Saturday 6th December, 3-6pm.
- 11472 Correspondence (for information only)
- 11473 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – **Tuesday 3rd February 2026** at 7:00pm.

That being all, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....