

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

MINUTES OF THE GRESSENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2026 AT 7.00PM IN THE READING ROOM

11492 Present: Councillor Melton - Chair Councillor Reader
Councillor Crisp Councillor Keidan
Sue Horton (clerk)

Also in attendance: Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, Cllr Richard Duffield

6 members of the public

11493 To receive apologies for absence – Councillor Beazley, Councillor Day, Councillor Radford, Cllr Roger Atterwill

11494 Declarations of interest – All Councillors in attendance declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

11495 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February were agreed by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11496 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only).
An email received from a resident concerning trees would be discussed and a decision made at the next meeting.

11497 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public.
Thanks were given by the resident for the flowers and card which were presented to her last month. A resident enquired whether there was any possibility of having a bus shelter in Bittering Street. It was agreed to add to the agenda for April to discuss. Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris reported that funding is still available through the Norfolk Parish Partnership Scheme.

11498 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- To receive any highways defects – broken road signs in Bittering Street (already reported to Norfolk Highways)
- Pot holes on Church Lane were reported. Cllr Crisp to send photos to the clerk in order to report to Highways. **AP**
- An area of road between Bramble Farm and Eels Foot was reported as breaking up and this would be reported to Highways **AP**

11499 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – 37 trips were covered during February covering 870 miles. Total cost = £391.50, fares received = £209.10, balance to pay = £182.40. Breckland payment = £108.75, Parish Council payment = £73.65.

It was reported that the scheme may not be sustainable if more voluntary drivers weren't found. It was agreed to put a notice in the News and Views.

11500 To discuss and consider planning matters - **ENF/244/25 – Land to the West of Longham Road, Gressenhall** – it was reported that Breckland Enforcement have received a response to the Planning Contravention Notice which was served. This is now with the Council's Principal Lawyer who is formulating a response and deciding on the next steps. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

11501 Reports from Councillors (for information only) – It was reported that Norfolk County Council has set their budget and the Band D council tax has been raised by £4.99 for 2026-27.

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It was reported that the Local Government Reorganisation consultation was completed in January and a decision would be made in mid-March. This decision would then be debated in Parliament in July.

It was further reported that Devolution has been put on hold until 2028 but the local elections will go ahead in May 2026 for all 84 county council divisions.

11502 Financial Matters - **Payments made in December:**

Clerk Salary and expenses, Mrs S Horton - £290.15, Gressenhall Community Car scheme (Parish) - £73.65, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £108.75, Voluntary Norfolk (DBS checks x 3) - £48.20, Mrs S Horton (Reimbursement of cost of new parish council laptop) - £568.98.

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

11503 To consider appointment of internal auditor: Details of an internal auditor were put forward by the clerk and it was agreed by all Councillors present to appoint for the 2025-26 internal audit.

11504 To consider draft Email Policy, Data Management Policy and Privacy Notice: It was agreed by all Councillors present to adopt the policies and set a review date for one year.

11505 Correspondence (for information only) – Cllr Reader requested that “drainage on the Green” be added to next month’s agenda.

11506 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – **Tuesday 7th April 2026** at 7.00pm.

That being all, the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....