

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 7th APRIL 2026 AT 7.00PM IN THE READING ROOM

11507 Present: Councillor Beazley - Chair Councillor Reader
Councillor Crisp Councillor Keidan
Councillor Melton Councillor Day
Sue Horton (clerk)

Also in attendance: Cllr Roger Atterwill

9 members of the public

11508 To receive apologies for absence – Cllr Radford, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, Cllr Richard Duffield

11509 Declarations of interest – All Councillors in attendance declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

11510 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March were agreed, with a minor amendment, by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11511 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only).

11512 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public. A resident enquired whether the Parish Council had any plans for the Social Club following the news that the Chairman and the committee were all standing down. This would be added to the agenda for the meeting on May 5th.

A resident enquired whether the ditch by the allotments would be cleared, it was confirmed that this would be dealt with by the parish council.

It was reported that the 30mph speed limit sign on leaving the village on Bilney Road is warped and needs replacing, and the 30mph repeater speed limit sign on Swan Drive is broken. **AP – clerk to report to Highways.**

Pot holes in various locations were reported to the meeting. **AP – clerk to report to Highways.** It was agreed to put a reminder in the News & Views to remind residents on how to report potholes to Norfolk Highways.

The Nar Valley signpost is broken and this was reported last month to the relevant authority.

11513 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- To receive any highways defects – pot holes reported in various locations around Gressenhall.
- To receive any water leaks to report.

11514 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – 701 miles were covered during March. Total cost = £315.45, fares received = £144.20, balance to pay = £171.25. Breckland payment = £87.62, Parish Council payment = £83.63.

It was reported that no responses had been received following the appeal in the News & Views and on the website, for more volunteers. A message had been received from a passenger with thanks to Anne Maskell and the volunteers for providing essential transport and their understanding and patience shown.

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

- 11515 To discuss and consider issues on the Green – It was agreed that the Parish Council would look at The Green during the next week and discuss options for drainage.

A concern had been raised by email from a resident concerning the lack of care in parking around The Green. After discussion it was agreed to speak to Gressenhall Community Enterprise with the suggestion of displaying a notice in The Swan reminding patrons to park considerately and where alternative parking could be found, especially when a large event was scheduled. It was further agreed to print copies of a polite notice that could be left on cars not parked appropriately. It was reported that delivery lorries posed a significant risk with visibility when parked outside the pub. **AP – clerk to contact Gressenhall Community Enterprise.**

It was reported by Cllr Crisp that there were a number of pot holes on the road around The Green and a quote for repair (ideally before the May fair takes place) would be sought. **AP clerk to obtain quote.**

- 11516 To discuss and consider toys in tree – It was agreed by all Councillors present to now remove the toys from the tree in The Drift.
- 11517 To discuss and consider bus shelter – It was confirmed that a response was awaited on cost from Norfolk Highways. Cllr Atterwill reported that a grant may be available for this scheme. **AP – clerk to contact Cllr Kiddle-Morris.**
- 11518 To discuss and consider Data Security and Management – It was agreed by all Councillors present to remove personal telephone numbers and email addresses from the News & Views and the Parish Council website. To comply with data security only the clerk's email address would be published as the point of contact for the Parish Council. If requested then the clerk may pass on a specific councillor's contact email address. A notice would be placed in the News & Views on how to contact the Parish Council. **AP – clerk to notify N&V with update**
- 11519 To discuss transfer of website from NALC to RLS Computers – It was reported that this option is no longer required. The Parish Council website has been updated to be compliant for audit purposes.
- 11520 To receive update on the Surveyors Pit – no update.
- 11521 To discuss and consider Community Asset Transfer – Breckland Council are offering to transfer Breckland owned land (small parcels of land, open spaces) in the village over to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the only piece of land that might be of interest would be the strip by the entrance of the Social Club.
- 11522 To confirm date of the Annual Assembly of the Parish and the Annual Parish Council Meeting – Date confirmed 5th May 2026, 7.00pm.
- 11523 To discuss and consider planning matters - **ENF/244/25 – Land to the West of Longham Road, Gressenhall** – it was reported that Breckland Enforcement received an unsatisfactory response to the Planning Contravention Notice which was served. Therefore, a further Planning Contravention Notice was served on 19th March 2026. Breckland Enforcement have now alerted the Breckland Environment Team and the Environment Agency regarding potential harm to Wendling Beck. The Council's Tree and Countryside Officer will be looking into the damage to the trees on site.

PL/2026/0403/FMIN – Replacement 1.5 storey self-build dwelling plus garage/workshop – Tanglewood, 8 Bittering Street, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4EB – concern was noted from a resident regarding this planning application. It was agreed to ask for an extension of time in order for the Parish Council to discuss in more detail. **AP clerk to ask for extension of time.**

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

11524 Report from County Councillor – no update.

Report from District Councillor – Cllr Atterwill reported that enquiries should be made to Norfolk County Council regarding a grant for a bus stop. It was confirmed that once a bus stop is installed then the ownership and maintenance is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

It was reported that Breckland Councillors had been requested to serve for an additional year until May 2028. Elections would take place in May 2027 for councillors for the new West Norfolk Authority and these councillors would shadow the existing Breckland councillors for one year.

It was further reported that the new Breckland Bridge business plan had been rejected by Cabinet.

11525 Financial Matters – to confirm payments for March:

Clerk Salary and expenses, Mrs S Horton - £330.59, HMRC (PAYE) = £8.40, Gressenhall Community Car scheme (Parish) - £83.63, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £87.62, Wright Clear Pest Control (mole control) = £150.00.

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

A letter had been received from TTSR Grounds Maintenance regarding an increase in charges due to the recent significant fuel costs impacting their business. It was agreed to consider the charges against the annual cost and report back.

11526 Reports from Councillors (for information only) – Cllr Meaden suggested the possibility of a bench near the zip wire at the Play Park. The Parish Council agreed that the cost could not be justified but agreed to put a notice in the News & Views to ask if any resident may like to sponsor a commemorative bench. **AP clerk to place notice in the N&V.**

Cllr Reader agreed to check the gates in the play park and supply a padlock to the grass cutting maintenance company.

Cllr Reader requested that “The Social Club” be added to next month’s agenda. The Social Club’s AGM is on Tuesday 21st April at 8.00pm and Cllr Beazley confirmed he would attend.

11527 Correspondence (for information only)

11528 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council (Annual) – **Tuesday 5th May 2026** at 7.00pm.

That being all, the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....