

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 4th AUGUST 2026 AT 7.00PM IN THE READING ROOM

11590 Present: Councillor Beazley - Chair Councillor Crisp
 Councillor Day Councillor Melton
 Councillor Reader Councillor Radford,
 Councillor Keidan Sue Horton (clerk)

Also in attendance: Cllr Roger Atterwill

7 members of the public

11591 To receive apologies for absence

11592 Declarations of interest – All Councillors in attendance (except Cllr Radford) declared an interest in The Swan Public House.

11593 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 – The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th July were agreed by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman.

11594 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only).

11595 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public. A resident reported a tethered dog on the land to the west of Longham Road. Advice was sought from the RSPCA and the local police dog handler. There was also a report of a JCB on the site leaking oil. Cllr Atterwill confirmed he would follow this report up with Breckland Enforcement.

There was concern regarding a dead tree and a tree growing through cables on the Green. It was agreed that the Parish Council would inspect the trees on the Green. It was reported that the signage on the Green needs cleaning. **AP**

A resident commented on the approval of the Solar Farm between Gressenhall and Beeston and was concerned about an increase of traffic through the village.

11596 Reporting of any Highways Matters including:

- To receive any highways defects – Nothing to report.
- To receive any water leaks to report – various leaks around Gressenhall have been reported to Anglian Water although many are still awaiting repair. Clerk to contact Anglian Water and send details to Cllr Atterwill. **AP** It was agreed to update the Box with details on how to report leaks to Anglian Water. **AP**

11597 To discuss and consider update on The Social Club - It was reported that the auctions and football training are now taking place. A fire risk assessment has been completed and the report received. A bill of £541.40 + VAT has been received however enquiries need to be made into claiming the VAT back. Clerk to contact HMRC. **AP**
Cllr Melton thanked Cllr Beazley for all his time spent dealing with the administration of the Social Club.

11598 Update on the Gressenhall Community Car Scheme – 695 miles covered 26 journeys with a total of 29 passengers.

Total cost = £312.75, fares received = £145.60, balance to pay = £167.15. Breckland payment = £86.87, Parish Council payment = £80.28.

Thanks was given for the donation of £100 raised from the tennis tournament and substantial donations from passengers this month. More drivers are still required.

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- 11599 To discuss and consider issues on the Green – It was agreed that the parish council would take a look at the trees on the Green and ascertain the location of the water main. A contractor would be contacted to supply a quarterly cost for tree maintenance in order to budget going forward.
- 11600 To discuss and consider update on the allotments – the clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to the tenants whose plots were not being maintained. A further update would be given at the next meeting.
- 11601 To discuss and consider bus shelter – It was reported that through Breckland grant funding, the parish council could apply for 80% of the cost of the bus shelter. All councillors present were in favour of procuring a new shelter however it was agreed that another quote should be sought from a different supplier. **AP**
- 11602 Update on the Local Plan – the dates of consultation and drop in events would be put on the website and in the News and Views.
- 11603 To discuss and consider planning matters - **ENF/244/25 – Land to the West of Longham Road, Gressenhall** – It was reported that Breckland Council’s lawyer has requested a view from planning for the change of use of the land from agriculture/woodland to a mixed use of agriculture and the use of the land for the stationing of static caravans for residential occupation and the standing of containers and portable buildings associated with the residential use. Once received, legal will decide whether to advise the owner to submit a planning application or proceed straight to enforcement.

After discussion it was agreed that the parish council would write to Breckland Enforcement requesting immediate action to a speedy resolution.

To receive planning decisions: *Proposal: Non-Material Amendment to PP PL/2025/1038/FMIN - Addition of garage doors to openings, addition of windows to garage, and brick dentil courses in lieu of fascia/verge. Site: **Beryew Cottage** The Green, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4DT – Accepted with conditions*

- 11604 Report from County Councillor – No update.

Report from District Councillor – Cllr Atterwill reported that approval had been granted with conditions for the Dyke Wood Solar Farm.

Cllr Atterwill agreed to contact Breckland Enforcement regarding the unauthorised development on the land to the West of Longham Road.

- 11605 Financial Matters – to confirm payments for July:
Clerk salary and expenses - £289.20, HMR&C - £10.00, Gressenhall Community Car scheme (Parish) - £80.25, Gressenhall Community Car Scheme (Breckland) - £86.87, CBR Solutions (DBS check) = £15.60, PKF Littlejohn (external audit) = £252.00, SLCC (Cilca training) = 308.57, NGF Play (maintenance and checks) = £227.40.

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

To receive income for June: Breckland Community Car Scheme uplift = £210.00

- 11606 To consider external audit report – a successful external audit had been completed with the recommendation of an IT policy. **AP**

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- 11607 Reports from Councillors (for information only) Cllr Reader confirmed that bird-spikes had been installed on the frame above the swings in the play park.
Cllr Keiden suggested keeping a diary of when the unauthorised development on Longham Road was occupied.
Cllr Radford raised concerns over the risk of fires at the Campervan Live Lounge event to be held in Gressenhall on 14th/15th August. It was agreed to contact the organiser for written confirmation that no fires/barbecues would be allowed and for details of their fire risk assessment.
Cllr Beazley encouraged residents to vote for The Swan in the Breckland Business Awards 2026 [Vote for the Local Pub of the Year 2026 - Breckland Council](#) Details on Gressenhall Parish Council website and in News & Views.

- 11608 Correspondence (for information only)

- 11609 To confirm the date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council – **Tuesday 1st September 2026** at 7.00pm.

That being all, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....