

**Minutes of a Meeting of Griston Parish Council
held on 14th November 2024 at 7:30pm
at
St Peter and St. Pauls Church. Griston.**

Present: Councillors S Barber (Chairman) B Park, K Heath, K Mace and Mrs Jean Williams, Parish Clerk. Three members of the public, as well as three representatives from Mace who were delivering a presentation about the extension of HMP Wayland

1. Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Steventon, Lake and District Councillor P Cowen.

3. To declare any Pecuniary Interests: None

4. To welcome representatives from MACE giving a presentation re: HMP Wayland Development.

Three representatives from MACE gave information about the proposed development of HMP Wayland prior to submitting a Planning Application to Breckland Council. Councillors and members of the public were given written copies of detailed plans. The representatives spoke to the plans.

Questions/Statements made or asked by Councillors and Members of the Public

Flood lights in winter when the trees are not in full leaf could be invasive for neighbouring homes. No response recorded.

Visibility of the buildings when the trees are not in full leaf. The height of the buildings will be 11 meters to the top of the roof ridge. The accommodation block will be built from pre cast concrete and will be painted a neutral colour. The kitchen will be a single storey building.

Concerns raised about noise, traffic, and disruption to village life whilst the construction work is in process. Councillors and members of the public were reassured that there will be no traffic travelling through the village, because a new road way is to be built round the perimeter of the prison. Plant for the construction will be stored off the new road.

Councillors commented that disruption often occurs with major builds such as this proposal. The finished building does not always represent what was originally planned. Presenters stated that they would do their best to ensure the plans were translated honestly.

The energy centre, the boiler house will remain. A new energy block is to provide electricity to the new accommodation block and kitchen.

Solar panels will remain

Question asked: What is the increase in prisoners? There will be 25% more inmates.

Main concerns from Councillors and Members of the Public were how much the buildings will be visible to residents.

How will residents be informed of the proposed building works? There is to be a consultation exhibition in the Church the first week of December 2024. The Chairman agreed to publicise the event on the parish council website and the village Facebook page.

The presentation ended at 9pm.

5. To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 10th October 2024 and 6th November 2024.

The minutes of both meetings were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the minutes. None

7. Public Participation A member of the public asked about an untaxed vehicle parked on private land in the village. He was informed that as the activity is taking place on private land the Parish Council are unable to act. The Chairman stated that the land owner was aware of the situation and would be moving the vehicle.

John Heath from Griston Community Group offered to give an update on the Eastern Attachment application. He was invited to speak when the item arose in the agenda.

8. Report of County Councillor Claire Bowes. None

9. Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen. None

10. Report of Parish Clerk including any correspondence received not previously circulated.

The Clerk had received a quote from TTSR for cutting the hedges in the recreation ground, the quote was for £450, the same price as last year. The Chairman proposed that this be included into the cost of the maintenance activity schedule for the recreation ground. Cllr Park explained that this cost would be incurred in this financial year, the hedges need to be cut before the end of February 2024. The contractor needs to know if the Parish Council would like this undertaken so that he can arrange his diary. It was agreed unanimously that TTSR would cut the hedges and would be asked to tender a quote to maintain the recreation ground and hedges for the next financial year. Other contractors would also be invited to tender for the contract.

11. To discuss Planning Applications None

12. To discuss any further developments re Eastern Attachments. The Chairman informed the meeting that Eastern Attachments had requested that the planned inquiry was dealt with by written representation. Change of use cannot be dealt with in this way. Griston Community Group and others have written to the Inspectorate asking that they reconsider their decision.

13. To discuss the Two-Year Plan. The Chairman presented the above plan to the Parish Council in May on his election to the Chair. He has carried out a review of the plan and stated that many of the items had been addressed or were already work in progress. The plan was discussed at length. Working parties have been formed to deal with practical issues, as well as various groups to deal with items such as procurement, staffing issues, budget and finance. Others will be formed as they are needed.

14. To discuss the recruitment of a Parish Clerk. Due to the resignation of the Parish Clerk the Chairman stated that he has been in contact with Norfolk Parish Training and Support (NPTS) to ask for the names of locum clerks. Three names had been forwarded, two people had declined the invitation to Clerk on a locum, basis for Griston. A group has been formed to deal with the recruitment. The current clerk will be in post until the end of December 2024.

15. To discuss Councillor Vacancies. Councillor vacancies have been advertised on the website and on notice boards as well as in the Waylander. The clerk has tried to contact Democratic Services but to date has had no response from them.

16. To agree working parties for The Orchard, The Bus Stop Notice-Board and the siting of the Dog Waste Bin. No firm decisions have been made at this time about the Orchard, the Chairman stated that he and Cllr Lake would install the Dog Waste Bin. The repairs to the notice board at the bus stop would be carried out by Cllrs Steventon and Barber.

17. To discuss Parish Partnership Funding for the Gate at the Carbrooke Road entrance to the Recreation Ground. The Chairman reported that the application for Parish Partnership Funding for the gate refurbishment required agreement from all Councillors before he could proceed. Discussion took place about the kissing gate needing to accommodate mobility scooters and wheelchairs. All Councillors agreed to the proposal and the application. The Chairman will complete and submit the application.

18. To receive updates on the Trod. This project is on hold, due to the revised siting and the higher cost than first quoted.

19. To receive updates on the refurbishment of the notice boards and siting of the Dog Waste Bin. See item 16. The noticeboard at Manor Road is completed. The Church noticeboard will be refurbished at a later date when there is a response from the Church and a better idea of the costs involved.

20. To receive feedback on any training sessions attended by Councillors. The Chairman stated that he is due to attend an online training course next month.

21 To receive updates on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Cllr Heath stated that the information session held in October was a success and very informative. She has received publicity information and signs to erect and will decide where they should be sited. A notice has been published in the Waylander informing the residents of the scheme. There will be website notices informing parishioners of alerts in the local area.

22. To receive updates on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman reported that the working party are waiting for a response to their application from Breckland District Council.

23. To receive the Financial Report and agree the payment of expenditure incurred in the last month. Report is attached it was agreed by all present. The payment of the expenditure was also agreed.

24. Public Participation. A member of the public asked why so few members of the public attended meetings. How were the meetings advertised? The Clerk explained that unfortunately, unless there were any issues that affected residents directly, attendance at meetings was very sparse, it is not a situation that is peculiar to Griston. Notices of meetings are published on the website and the village noticeboards as well as in the Waylander.

25. Any other relevant business not included on the agenda. The Clerk requested that a meeting be called to discuss and plan a proposed budget for the next Financial Year. It was agreed the Cllrs Park and Barber would join the Clerk to carry out this piece of work. Cllr Steventon would also be invited to attend.

26. Items for the next Agenda. None

27. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 7:30pm.
This was agreed by all present.

The meeting closed at 9:41pm

Signed Date.....

Chairman

DRAFT