

Minutes of the Meeting of Griston Parish Council

held on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.30pm

In St Peter & St Paul's Church, Griston.

Present: Councillors K Mace, Chairman. B Park, S Barber, District Councillor P Cowen and Mrs Jean Williams, Parish Clerk. There were two members of the public present.

1. Welcome.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andy Parsons, apologies were accepted by those present.

7. Report from District Councillor P Cowen.

The Chairman invited District Councillor Cowen to speak to the meeting to enable him to attend another appointment. Councillor Cowen raised the subject of Boundary Changes and the anomalies that this can bring about. Currently there are 108 addresses in Carbrooke where the residents are listed on the Griston Electoral Register. These properties have no relation to Griston. Should the addresses be removed from Griston Electoral Register there would be serious implications for the precept as well as added responsibilities such as the Playground. Councillor Cowen gave advice re: the initial moves the Councillors need to make. Boundary review will require a formal consultation with residents, there is a time frame. Parish Council should contact Carbrooke Parish Council as well as Breckland District Council.

Councillor Cowen reported that flooding has been a problem in some localities, he reminded the meeting that it is resident's responsibilities to report any flooding issues they may have.

It is also the responsibility of residents to ensure that waterways are kept clear and free of debris.

To date there is no further progress on the Planning Application by Eastern Attachments.

Councillor Cowen reported that the District Council have increased the budget. There are currently more homeless people living in Breckland who need help with housing issues, this is caused by private landlords withdrawing available properties to sell them.

There has been a significant drop in planning applications being submitted.

House building is slowing down but may improve in the spring.

Councillor Cowen stated that times are very challenging and that the District Council will do their best to maintain statutory services.

Councillor Barber sought advice from Councillor Cowen re: a Neighbourhood Plan for Griston.

Councillor Cowen advised it was not a task to take on lightly.

Local plans need to fit in with Breckland Councils Local Plan, which is the overarching plan.

Will need individuals to manage information gathering.

People to liaise with planners.

Councillor Cowen stated that Mattishall and New Buckingham had very good Neighbourhood Plans help and advice may be available from them.

Councillor Cowen said that a neighbourhood plan for Griston could dovetail with other local villages and benefit the area, The Parish Council must give their name to the plan. It will also need members of the community both householders and business to be involved in the process.

3. To declare any pecuniary interest or seek dispensations.

None.

4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2023 were approved with two amendments, one to item 18, 40 mile an hour signs and re: the Quantrill site which belongs to Norfolk Land Agency.

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Park, seconded by Councillor Barber, signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5. Items arising from the minutes not included in this agenda.

Councillor Barber queried the reason the minutes didn't follow on numerically, this was because the item dealing with the co-option of a new Councillor was prioritised at the suggestion of the Parish Clerk.

The lamp post on Sycamore Road nothing has happened, the lamp post is on private land, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Scott.

Ms Howarth was co opted onto the Parish Council in September, she has since decided that, due to personal reasons she will not continue as a member of the Parish Council. Ms Howarth has not signed a declaration of acceptance as a Parish Councillor.

6. Public Participation

A resident requested that the public participation item on the agenda was split into two parts, one near the beginning of the meeting and one nearer to the end. This was agreed by all those present.

Residents asked about the status of the Website, the clerk informed them that she is in communication with the website constructor who will be taking steps to launch the site very soon.

A resident requested that the Parish Council ensure that they respond to the Planning Application to vary the conditions on the application for Eastern Attachments.

A request was also made to approach Breckland Council to ask for the removal of the recently erected chimneys on the site by Eastern Attachments.

The state of the dog fouling in the Recreation Ground was raised, members of the public thought it had improved, they stated that they clear up after other dogs if needed. Parish Councillors said they also clear up after dogs, other than their own.

7. Report of County Councillor Claire Bowes.

Councillor Bowes not present no report given.

Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

See item 7 at the beginning of the minutes

Report of the Clerk.

The Clerk had stated that all correspondence had been forwarded to the Councillors as it arrived, there were no outstanding issues.

8. To discuss the contents of an email circulated on 21/09/2023

The Clerk reported that the matter had been resolved.

9. To consider any Planning Applications including the progress of Eastern Attachments

Eastern Attachments have applied for a variation to their planning application concerning hours of operation. Councillor Barber stated that he would contact the Planning Officer to seek clarification of the application. After discussion the Parish Councillors agreed that the variation should be opposed.

3PL/2023/0790/F Willow fields, Thompson Road. Has been refused.

10. Update of the Website

The Clerk reported that the website was completed she is waiting to hear when it will go live.

11. To receive SNAP report

Councillor Parsons was not present at the meeting, no report available.

12 To discuss and approve the Asset Register

Item deferred to next meeting.

13. To receive information and agree the way forward for a Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Barber presented a paper to the Parish Council on his findings re a Neighbourhood Plan.

The total cost would be around £33,000.00 with a nil cost to the Parish Council. Funding would come from Grants available specifically for this purpose.

Would function well with a committee of four people one of which should be a Councillor.

Councillor Barber said that he has three people who are interested in joining the committee.
Neighbourhood Plan would be long term, must be approved by the Parish Council and carry their name.
The Neighbourhood Plan must also tie in with Breckland Council's Plan.
Would have a consultant to guide the committee.
The Plan will be cyclical to the Election Diary
Councillor Barber proposed that Griston Parish Council should go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan, seconded by Councillor Park. All agreed.
Councillor Barber will be the Council's representative on the Neighbourhood Plan.

14. Report Re: SAMS2

The SAMS2 is working well.

15. To discuss Dog Location Bins

The clerk to contact NCC Highways to confirm the correct site of the new bin.

16. To receive a report from The Wayland Partnership Meeting

Councillor Park stated that she attended the recent Partnership Meeting.
Offices are once again almost fully occupied.
The new manager is developing the Gallery which is doing well.
Finances are improving.
Courses are being planned for those who need IT skills.
New project beginning working on Legends of Wayland.
Grant has been awarded and a Project Manager will be appointed to head the media aspects.
Companies are being sought to invest in the media centre.
There is a lack of representatives from the villages, partnership are aiming to improve this.
Councillors agreed to invite a representative of the Partnership to speak at a Parish Council Meeting. Clerk to send an invitation. The aim will be to raise awareness and encourage more residents to become involved

17. To discuss the seat at the top of Church Road.

This item was raised by Councillor Parsons it was deferred to the next meeting when, he will hopefully, be in attendance.

18. To receive information on Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership/Watton and Saham Flood Action Group

George Freeman had recently communicated information re progress in this area, all noted.

19. To discuss Parish Partnership Funding for trod on Thompson Road.

Councillor Barber reported to the meeting that Norfolk County Council had measured the trod to be approximately 200 meters in length. The trod will start from the end of the service road on Thompson Road to the pathway by the Prison.
It was agreed that the Parish Partnership Funding could be used for this purpose. Clerk will contact to enquire.

20. To discuss and agree any issues pertaining to the Recreation Ground and Play Area, including replacement of the Gate and repairs to the noticeboard.

The noticeboard is rotten needs to be replaced. Clerk to investigate.
It was agreed to re fix the gate, screws will be welded to prevent anyone lifting it off the hinges. Councillors will deal with the gate fixing.
Councillors agreed that whilst there had been some issues with the grass cutting in the Churchyard, they were very pleased with the maintenance of the Recreation Ground.

21. To discuss training of the whole Parish Council.

The clerk had suggested that the whole Parish Council undertake some group training, it was agreed by all present that NPTS would be approached.

22. To discuss TTSR contract

The clerk has received a quote for 2024 for grass cutting in the Recreation Ground, the Churchyard and grass verge.
The total sum for 14 cuts during the year is £2471 + VAT
The clerk was unsure if this was a new contract or the continuation of a two-year contract she will investigate.

23. To discuss the Budget for 2024 to 2025.

The clerk had prepared a budget for discussion, but in the light of the possibility of financing a road, it was agreed that a working party be formed to carry out some detailed budget work, which will include arranging a ring fenced special project contingency fund as well as a contingency fund. A date for a meeting to be arranged.

24. To receive the Financial Report

The clerk reported that the Balance of the Unity Trust Account on 08/11/2023 was £19,595.93

Items owing

DD N Power £ 88.54 due 18/11/2023

TTSR 2ns grass Cutting Payment £1,386.00

Breckland District Council Election Costs £ 75.00

TOTAL £ 1,549.54

Balance after expenditure due

£18,046.39

Councillors accepted the report unanimously.

21 Any relevant items not included in this agenda.

Councillor Park stated that to date, the saplings had not arrived, she will notify members of the Council when they do and arrange a working party to plant them.

There is a tree that has been fly tipped at the Carbrooke Road entrance to the Recreation ground, Councillor Barber will. Contact NCC to arrange removal.

Street lights are out in Church Road Councillor Park will notify the clerk of their position. Clerk will contact Pearce and Kemp.

New pathway outside new houses in Church Road requires repairs, clerk will contact NCC.

22. Items for the next Agenda

Neighbourhood Plan

23. To confirm the date of the next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

DRAFT