

Minutes of Griston Parish Council Meeting held at St Peter and St Pauls Church

On Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Barber (Chair) L Steventon, Park, Mace, K Steventon & Mrs J Williams (Clerk)

There was one member of the public present.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllr. Heath.

3. To declare any pecuniary interest or seek dispensations: None.

4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2024: The minutes were agreed by all present. Proposed by Cllr. L Steventon. Seconded by Cllr K Steventon, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the minutes not included in this agenda: None.

6. Public Participation (10 minutes): None.

7. Report of County Councillor Claire Bowes: Read and noted.

8. Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen: Read and noted.

9. Report of the Parish Clerk including any correspondence not previously circulated: None.

10. To discuss Planning Applications: None.

11. To discuss Eastern Attachments and the Coughtrey Site: Planning permission was refused six months ago. The Secretary of State advised that the company should submit an Environmental Statement to cover, Transport, Noise and Pollution, to date this has not been carried out. On 25/08/2024 Eastern Attachments suffered a serious fire on their premises in Attleborough. The Parish Council that the company may attempt to move into the premises in Griston without the correct planning permission. Residents have noticed more activity and noise emanating from the site. The Parish Council is concerned that should Eastern Attachments be successful in gaining planning permission for the site, if a similar disaster happened, then the safety of the residents and staff of the Prison could be seriously compromised. Causing a major evacuation of prisoners and staff. There are also concerns that the Prison has not been included in the consultation process of the Planning Application. The residents and staff of the Care Home in the village could also be at risk, they have also not been included in the consultation process of the planning application. It was decided that a letter of concern should be sent to the Prison with copies sent to the Prison Group Director and the Director General Operations. It was agreed that Cllr K Steventon would draft a letter by 18/09/2024. Cllr Steventon would liaise with the Clerk. The Chairman will write to the Inquirers of the Investigation about the fire at Attleborough to discover the outcome.

12. Letter received from 2 Manor Road, Griston: The Clerk had received a letter from the residents of 2 Manor Road, Griston asking if the hedge could be cut at the Manor Road entrance to the recreation ground. They complain that the hedge is damaging their fence. Cllr Park and the Clerk had looked at the hedge and fence but were unable to see if any damage was evident. The Chairman said he would visit and see what could be done.

13. To discuss articles for the Waylander Magazine: The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Chairman had objected to her style of writing in the magazine. He would like the information published to be more in line with the Website and Facebook page to include QR codes and hyperlinks. The clerk said that she thought the magazine was that of a rural community and the readers would prefer a more relaxed presentation. It was agreed that the clerk would not be the sole contributor to the magazine.

Cllrs wishing to publish information must ensure the clerk had their articles to send to the correspondent by the due date.

Cllrs will be informed of the deadline date each month seven days prior.

Cllrs agreed that they preferred the more informal style of writing.

14. To receive information re: NPTS Chairmans Event 04/10/2024: The Charman informed the meeting that he would be attending the above event on the above date. The meeting is by Zoom.

15. To discuss and decide attendance at NPTS Seminar on 18/10/2024 in Norwich cost £56 per person.

The clerk expressed an interest in attending the above meeting Cllr L Steventon also stated he would like to attend. Councillors agreed unanimously to this request.

The Clerk and Cllr Steventon will share all relevant information received back to the Parish Council.

16. To receive information re: Breckland District Council Engagement Events.

Information previously circulated:

The Chairman stated he intends to attend this meeting and invited other Cllrs. to join him. Cllr. K Steventon agreed to attend.

17. To receive updates re: The Noticeboards: The Chairman reported that the noticeboard from Manor Road was currently undergoing refurbishment. The Chairman and Cllr Lake will re-site the noticeboard, cost of the repairs will be in the region of £90. Cllr L Steventon proposed that this be accepted, seconded by Cllr K Steventon, all agreed.

The Church noticeboard is in dire need of refurbishment, it could be a big project. The makers of the notice board had quoted £1,300.00 to carry out the work. It had been agreed at a previous meeting that if could be refurbished by volunteer Councillors.

ACTION: Clerk will write to the Parish Church Council to ask if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of the refurbishment.

18. To decide the date of the installation of the dog waste bin: The Chairman stated that he had received confirmation of the agreement to site the dog waste bin in Carbrooke Road. He and Cllr Lake would arrange an agreeable date when they would complete the task.

19. To discuss the delegated grass cutting scheme: The Chairman had been discussing the delegated grass cutting scheme where Parish Councils can claim 9p per square metre from Norfolk County Council if they manage their own areas of grass that is usually cut by NCC.

The Chairman had requested that the clerk seek the cost per square metre for grass cutting that the Parish Council pay to the current contractor. The contractor does not quote by area because of trees, bushes or ponds that may be in the pathway, he quotes for a complete area by visiting the site. After much discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would continue with the current arrangement and ask NCC to cut the grass as per their obligation.

Currently residents cut the grass and tidy the area of grass on Thompson Road. They keep the area looking very smart, Councillors are very appreciative of the time and energy they spend in the upkeep.

ACTION The Clerk will write to Norfolk County Council and ask them to cut the grass areas in the village as per their obligation.

20. To discuss the siting of the gate at the Carbrooke Road entrance of the Recreation Ground. The Chairman reported that he has met with a representative of Norfolk County Council who advised him in writing that the gate could be replaced. It would be a strong metal gate, cost would be £2,300. Half of this cost could be covered by the Parish Partnership Scheme. The existing gate could be refurbished. Cllr Mace queried why a new gate was needed. The existing gate is in a very poor state of repair. It was decided by all present that the work on the gates should go ahead. PPS will be applied for the financial year 2025/26

21. To receive an update from Playdale re Playground Equipment: Playdale have quoted £5,000 for the refurbishment of the Activity trail in the recreation ground. This could be covered by a Grant. Councillors would

like to replace this piece of equipment like for like. No response has been received from Playdale, with offers of assistance to seek funding. Cllr Steventon will look at applications for Grant funding.

22. To discuss the repairs of the aerial runway and the swing seats in the Playground. The aerial runway requires a replacement spring. The spring can be purchased from Playdale and fitted by the company at a cost of £400. The Chairman stated that it could be fitted by Cllr's but needs the use of a Cherry Picker. Chairman will ask if it could be used to enable the spring to be fitted. Cost from Playdale will be £290.78, it is not known if that includes VAT, but the Parish Council can claim that back. It was decided to order the kit from Playdale.

ACTION: Clerk to order kit

AR 016 a spring replacement part for the Aerial runway.

Swing seats also require

replacement cost is £60.00 each from Online Playgrounds. Need to check the sizes required. It was prop by Cllr K Steventon that the swing seats be purchased, seconded by Cllr L Steventon, all agreed.

The flower barrel at the Manor Road entrance to the recreation ground has been broken to pieces, it was decided unanimously to remove what few bits are left.

23. To agree a date to review the Asset Register: Cllrs Barber, Mace and Park as well as the clerk will review the asset register on Friday 20th September 2024 at 10am in the Church

24. To discuss Hi Viz Vests: The Chairman distributed the Vests at the meeting, they will be worn when undertaking activities agreed by the Parish Council.

25 To discuss the broken barrel at the Manor Road entrance to the recreation ground.

See item 24

26. To discuss and decide the frequency of the Parish Council Meetings.

The matter was discussed at length, it was decided that Parish Council Meetings would take place once a month for the next six months. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that costs would increase because she would be working more hours. That advice was accepted and most Cllrs agreed to try this for that period.

27. To receive update re The Chairmans recent meeting with NCC.

See items 19, 20 and 30

28. To discuss the building site on Church Road.

Cllrs voiced their concern that there has been no progress with the development of the dwellings on this site. The company are blocking the opportunities for other developers in Griston to build. Cllr Mace said he believed that the land is contaminated, but could be used for industrial units. The actions of the development company are preventing growth in the village.

ACTION: It was decided that Cllr L Steventon should draft a letter to Breckland Planning, who would forward it to the Clerk within 2 weeks of this meeting.

29. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan:

The Chairman stated that a meeting of the neighbourhood planning group has met, minutes were taken. They are in a position to issue a notice of designated area, with an outline plan of the parish. It was agreed that this would happen. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council are the qualifying body. The papers were signed by the Chairman and the clerk.

ACTION: the clerk will forward the documentation to the Neighbourhood Planning Officer at Breckland District Council.

30. To discuss the Trod and the Parish Partnership Scheme for 2024 to 2025:

After meeting with NCC the chairman has consulted another contractor to discuss the Trod project and possible cost. Cllrs stated that since the prison gate was closed making a circular walk impossible to local people, there are fewer residents using Thompson Road to walk their dogs or enjoy a local walk. Cllrs felt that to have the trod on the far side of Thompson Road meaning pedestrians would need to cross over the road to use it was not worth the expenditure of public money. Questions were asked, if some of the land could be purchased from home owners to enable the trod to be built. Concerns were raised that the Precept had been raised in the last financial year, residents would need to know what the funding had been used for. It was agreed to discuss this

further at the next meeting.

ACTION Clerk to put item on agenda for the next meeting.

31. To receive information re: expiry dates of contracts for Electricity and Grass maintenance Contract information was given Grass maintenance expired October 2024. Electricity maintenance ends March 2025.

32. To discuss and agree arrangements made for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The meeting will go ahead as planned by Cllr Heath, Cllrs that are available will attend the meeting.

33. To discuss, decide and agree re: Donation of Funds to The Wayland Partnership and Norfolk CAB.

Cllr L Steventon asked how the Parish Council benefit from the Wayland Partnership, Cllr Park stated in the past the Parish Council had benefitted from the support of the Partnership when applying for grants for the Playground, Stans Walk is a legacy from the work of the Partnership these are just two examples of their work for the village. It was agreed by all present that a donation of £450 would be given to the Wayland Partnership. Discussion also took place re: donating to Norfolk CAB, Cllr felt that this is a worthy cause which is open to all residents. It was agreed by all present to donate £25 to Norfolk CAB.

ACTION: Clerk to send donations to The Wayland Partnership £450 and Norfolk CAB £25

34. To receive the Financial Report and agree any unbudgeted expenditure:

The clerk presented a financial report listing budgeted expenditure.

The Current Account showed a balance of £7,727.21.

The savings account showed a balance of £17,450.83

The clerk requested a payment of 17.59 to reimburse her for the purchase of an ink cartridge, all present agreed to this request and the finance report.

35. Further Public Participation (10 minutes) None

36. Any other relevant matters not included in this agenda.

The Chairman stated that the Owl Box has now been installed at Thorp House. Many thanks to Thorp House for accommodating the box and thanks to Craig Harris for the use of his time, equipment, and assistance in installing the owl box.

37. To receive items for the next agenda.

discuss the two-year plan presented by the Chairman

To

38. To confirm the date for the next meeting.

The date of Thursday 10th October 2024 was agreed by all present.

The meeting closed at 9.36pm

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

DRAFT