

Minutes of the Meeting of Griston Parish Council

held on Tuesday 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Present: Councillors K Mace, Chairman. B Park, S Barber and Mrs Jean Williams, Parish Clerk. K Thompson Governor of Security HMP Wayland. There were seven members of the public present.

1 Welcome. The Chairman welcomed those present. He introduced the representative from Wayland Prison and invited her to address the meeting.

2. Election of Chairman.

The Clerk invited nominations for the post of Chairman. Councillor Mace was nominated by Councillor Park and seconded by Councillor Parsons, all agreed and Councillor Mace took the Chair.

It was decided that there should be a Vice Chairman, Councillor Park nominated Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Mace, all agreed.

3. Councillors sign Acceptance of Office Forms.

Acceptance of Office forms were signed by the Councillors and witnessed by the Parish Clerk.

4. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shane Barber and District Councillor Phil Cowen.

5. Members declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd March 2023

The minutes of the meetings were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

Councillor Park stated that she had requested that the County Council be informed of overhanging vegetation at the top of Thompson Road. Whilst she realised now is not the time to cut hedges back because of birds nesting, they, the County Council, would be informed ready to carry out the work in the autumn. The Clerk agreed to contact Norfolk County Council.

8. Public Participation.

A member of the public queried the cost of the Playground refurbishment. Councillors explained the high cost of materials and labour, they also informed the resident that the refurbishment was financed with the help of a grant of £10,000.00 from the Lottery Community Fund.

A question was raised about the cross roads at the junction of the A1075, the resident stated that it was dangerous, vehicles speed along the road. Councillors responded stating that road signage had been increased, the County Councillor had previously stated that the speed limit there had been lowered and at the current time there is not much more that can be done. Councillors are aware that the corner is potentially dangerous.

Grass verges were also discussed, Councillors informed the meeting that the verges are cut by Norfolk County Council, who have changed their mowing policy. Grass is not cut in May to allow

insects to breed. The Councillors will raise issues with the County Council if visibility by the service road on Thompson Road is restricted.

8. To receive reports.

8a Report of County Councillor Clare Bowes.

Councillor Bowes not present, no report received.

8b Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

Councillor Cowen reported that he is proud to have been part of Breckland's achievements over the last four years.

He is looking forward to working to support local environment through the Breckland 2035 initiative:

by delivering services to enhance and protect the environment.

Helping the district to thrive by investing and supporting various schemes and programmes.

Inspiring local communities

Continuing the smarter working within the District Council to build upon their achievements.

The District Council intends to continue to provide services to the elderly and vulnerable.

Protect green spaces and the environment.

Reduce crime and protect from anti-social behaviour.

Supporting the local economy.

Providing good quality local services.

Keeping the district charge in the overall council tax bill low by

Strong financial management and providing well run and effective local services.

8c Report of the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Clerk reported that there are currently three vacancies on the Parish Council

Tas Ahmad had not sought re election to the Council, the Clerk thanked her for her endeavours during her office.

The Council had received a grant of £10,000.00 from the lottery Community Fund which had enabled the repairs and improvements in the Playground. Work in the playground is ongoing, it is hoped that the Parish Council may secure a further grant in order to continue with refurbishment.

The new piece of ground is looking much improved, thanks were offered to those members of the Village who helped plant the hedging which is now growing well.

Planning applications have kept Councillors busy especially HMP Wayland and the plans for Eastern Attachments on the old Caughtrey site.

The clerk reported that in the last year there had been six parish Council Meetings, where on average, there had been 4 members of the public present. The figure was boosted because of 10 people had been present for one meeting.

The clerk said, it would be good to see more residents attending meetings and to receive answers to questions posed about proposed activities such as celebrating the King's Coronation.

9. Playground Matters

Councillor Parsons stated that he is willing to take on the role of inspecting the playground.

The Annual Inspection should be due any time now.

Concerns about the efficiency of the last inspection were raised. When the report is submitted by the company the Councillors will be able to ascertain how effective the process is.

It is hoped to apply for a further grant to be able to continue the maintenance of the playground

Concerns were also raised that the contractors who cut the grass are still strimming round the wooden bases of the equipment. It was decided to seek a site meeting with Wil Smith to discuss the issues.

10. Update on SAMS2

Councillor Mace informed the meeting that this is still work in progress. Clerk will contact Westcotec.

11.To consider any Planning Applications

The Parish Clerk reported that no new Planning Applications had been received. Councillor Park said that there was an application to build a further property on Airfield Way, the Clerk has not received this application from Breckland.

12. To discuss Councillor vacancies

The Parish Clerk will contact Electoral Services for the notice of vacancies.
Clerk to include a piece re: vacancies in the Waylander

13. Website Update.

The Clerk apologised that this is still work in progress

14. To receive SNAP Report

None

15. Update on Parking on Pavements

Since the article was published in the Waylander last month parking on pavements has improved slightly, but it is still a problem. It was decided to observe the situation. Overhanging vegetation is still a problem on Church Road, clerk to write to the landowner to request that the hedge is trimmed.

16. To decide if Owl and Bird Boxes should be ordered for the new piece of land.

After discussion it was decided that the Owl, bird and bat boxes would be deferred and purchased at a later date. This is due to not managing to secure a grant, that would have paid for the boxes. Parish Clerk will inform Wayland Men's Shed that the boxes are not needed at this time.

17. To discuss and decide the purchase of a new Laptop.

The current Laptop is very slow, and due for replacing. The Clerk has sourced a Dell Laptop from a company recommended by the technician that has been servicing the laptop and keeping it functioning.

Cost will be £359.99. Councillors decided that the laptop should be purchased. Clerk will order one.

18. Financial Matters

Unity Trust Bank

Receipts

		Balance
01/04/2023	opening balance	9,680.72
11/04/2023	Precept from Breckland	8,250.00
	Total	17,930.72

Payments

03/04/2023	HMRC Clerk	62.8
03/04/2023	Salary	251.27
	Total	314.07

Balance to date **17,616.65**

Payments due				
TTSR			1.386	
NPTS			165	
Insurance	Last year	941.49	941.49	will increase because of fencing
Electricity			62	
HMRC			62.8	
Clerks Salary			251.27	
Total			1483.946	

Barclays Savings Account			
	Opening Balance		Balance
06/04/2023	12,200.30	12,200.30	
N.B As of the 26/04/2023 this account was transferred to the Current Account			

Barclays Current Account			
	Opening Balance		Balance
06/04/2023	2,684.62	2,684.62	

On 06/04/2023 the total amount in Barclays bank was £14,884.92
On 25/04/2023 the bill for the refurbishment of the playground was paid
the total amount was £13,833.72 leaving a balance of £1050.20
I am intending to pay for the new laptop out of this account and then close it
The balance will then be transferred to Unity Trust

I will be advising the Councillors to transfer some funds from the
Current Account to the Savings
Account

20. To review and update the Asset Register

After discussion it was decided to form a working party to review several documents a date will be arranged.

21. Any other relevant matters not included in this Agenda

Councillor Parsons stated that the seat at the junction of Church Road and Thompson Road is in need of renewal.

22. To receive items for the next Agenda

Seat at the top of Church Road

23. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 13th July 2023

All agreed

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

Signed Chairman
Date.....

