

Minutes of the Meeting of Griston Parish Council

held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7.30pm

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

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

1 Welcome. The Chairman welcomed those present.

2 Apologies for Absence:

Councillor A Parsons

3 Members declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2023

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

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

None

6 Public Participation.

None

7 To receive reports

7a Report of County Councillor Clare Bowes.

Councillor Bowes not present, no report received.

7b Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

Councillor Cowen reported that this will be the last Parish Council Meeting of the cycle. Breckland District Council have fulfilled their obligations to the residents of the area. As a result of the pandemic, changes of work programmes have been introduced. A balanced budget has been agreed for the next two years, which will allow discretionary grants to be allocated to those in need. An increase in the rates means a £2 increase a week for band D households, many residents live in properties with a lower tax band. Breckland Local Plan consultation is progressing well. The local plan update is not a simple task, there is a focus on planning, climate change, drainage and water usage, we live in the driest part of the country, water stocks are the lowest since 1959. Committees are looking at how changes can be channelled.

Councillor Cowen stated that Breckland will be marking the Kings Coronation with large television screens placed in market towns so the public are able to watch and celebrate together.

7c Report of the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Clerk reported that all relevant correspondence received had been forwarded onto the Councillors as it had arrived. All other items of interest are included in the agenda.

8. Update on Playground Repairs

Councillor Parsons as lead of the project was not present, however, it is understood that the repairs are to be carried out very soon and all is in order.

9. To receive update on the new piece of land.

The contractor had suggested that there be a new gate fitted to close the gap where the shrubbery had been removed. After discussion, it was decided that this would have to be deferred due to the lack of finances at the

current time. A date for planting the hedging will be arranged as soon as the plants arrive. Councillor Park suggested that it should be carried out by the end of March.

10. Update on SAMS2

Councillor Mace informed the meeting that this is still work in progress.

11. To consider any Planning Applications

The Parish Clerk reported that no new Planning Applications had been received. The District Councillor informed the meeting that the Parish Boundary would be likely to change due to reorganisation.

12. To receive information on the Elections and discuss vacancies

The Parish Clerk gave information to those present.

13. Website Update.

The Clerk apologised that this is still work in progress

14 Update on Post Box

The Parish Clerk stated that this is still waiting to be commissioned she has contacted Royal Mail and is awaiting a response.

16 Update on Notice Boards

No further information at the current time

17 To receive SNAP Report

None

18. To Discuss parking on Pavements

There is an increase of parking on pavements in Church Road opposite the Pub, making difficulties for residents who use mobility scooters or Parents/Carers pushing prams or buggies. The parking is dangerous because of the bend in the road. It was decided that an article would be placed in the Waylander Magazine and the Clerk would write a polite letter to the offending households reminding residents that it is unlawful to park on pavements.

19. To discuss visibility splay at the Caston end of Thompson Road

Councillor Park stated her concerns over the lack of visibility at the Caston end of Thompson Road because of overgrown vegetation. It is now the wrong time of the year to cut hedging. Highways will be contacted later in the year to trim the area back.

20. Financial Matters

Unity Trust Balance at	31 st January 2023	£20,020.37
Barclays Community Account at	7 th February 2023	£ 2,820.07
Barclays Saving Account at	7 th February 2023	£12,185.18

VAT reclaim for 2021-2022 has been submitted a total of £956.39

The Clerk raised the problem of fees for the payroll company, who wanted to charge an exorbitant sum for their services. A new company had bought out Orchard Accountancy. The Parish Council had not been informed of new ownership and had not signed a contract with them. After consultation the company had agreed that their costs would be £144 for the last two years. Councillors agreed unanimously that they would pay this amount.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would use the service offered by NALC to operate the payroll, costs for non-members of NALC are £12 per month. Clerk to arrange.

21. To agree the Clerks updated Contract of Employment

Councillors agreed the document unanimously, it was signed by the Chairman and the Parish Clerk

22. Any other relevant matters not included in this Agenda

None

23. To receive items for the next Agenda

None at this time

24. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 11th May 2023

All agreed

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

Signed Chairman

Date.....