

Minutes of the Meeting of Griston Parish Council

held on Tuesday 18th July 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.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andy Parsons and District Councillor Phil Cowen.

3.To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2023.

The minutes of the meetings were approved without amendment, proposed by Councillor Park, seconded by Councillor Barber, and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

None

5. Welcome to a representative of HMP Wayland Security Team

The Chairman prioritised the agenda so that the Governor of Security of HMP Wayland could address the meeting. Lyn Thompson introduced herself and said she was hoping to foster good relationships with the residents of Griston. She explained that the aim of the security team is to uphold the law and stop throwovers into the buildings. Lyn was asking the residents to inform Crimestoppers if they saw any behaviour that they thought may be unlawful.

A resident stated that the Prison needed to work with the residents, they explained that they had been requesting the boundary hedge be cut for two years, this has not happened. Governor said she would take the complaint forward.

A member of the public said that since the closure of the gate leading onto the prison property from Blenheim Crescent a lot of the local goodwill towards the prison had been eroded. Governor was not aware of the gate and the area that was spoken about.

Residents explained that there had been very few problems caused by access to the prison path prior to its closure, it was a good amenity for the residents to walk their dogs and they were able to report any untoward behaviour they observed.

Residents described the heavy handed attitude of the staff that they had experienced at previous Parish Council Meetings, when discussions took place about the proposed gate closure to the residents of the area.

Ms Thompson said she would take the issues back to the Prison and suggest that a member from the Prison Project team attend the next Parish Council Meeting.

6. Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns about a chimney that has been built on a building on the Caughtrey Industrial estate. The chimney was not on the original plans, residents have complained to Breckland Council who, up to date have disregarded the complaints. The chimney is not in keeping with the building.

Member of the public requested that the Parish Council write to Breckland. Clerk to write a letter.

Discussion took place about the ratio of complaints that have been forwarded to Breckland Council re this planning application. The next date this application could be discussed is possibly 01/08/23 or 29/08/23. The member of the public requested that a representative of the Parish Council used their opportunity to speak about the application.

A resident asked if any more thought has taken place about a Neighbourhood Plan, there were mixed responses to the idea. Councillor Barber stated he thought it was worth investigating and agreed to carry out some research and report back to the next meeting.

A resident whose property backs onto the Recreation ground informed the Parish Council that they have a tree on their property that is dangerous and needs to be felled. They were concerned about the safety to recreation ground users and said that they would do their very best to ensure the area was safe whilst the work was being undertaken.

The Church warden complained about the standard of the maintenance of the Churchyard from the contractors who cut the grass. Clerk agreed to contact the contractor again.

A member of the Public complained about the overhanging hedge blocking the pathway beyond Thorp House, Clerk explained that this was private property, she had contacted the land owner three times and will do so again to request that it is cut back.

The overgrown grass verges in the village were discussed. They are looking very untidy which does not give the impression that the village is valued. They need cutting. Clerk to contact highways. A comment was made that Norfolk County Council are to give money to local parish councils to enable them to oversee the maintenance of their grass areas.

7. Report of County Councillor Claire Bowes.

Councillor Bowes not present no report given.

Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

Councillor Cowen had sent a report which was read by the Clerk, he stated that the new Council members were getting into their roles and receiving training where needed.

Councillors Suggitt and Cowen both have Cabinet positions. Councillor Suggitt as Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive member for Strategic and Operational Planning. Councillor Cowen remains as executive member for Finance, Revenues and Benefits.

Councillor Cowen stated that the Local Plan Review is progressing positively.

The Serco contract is currently being reviewed, announcements due from Westminster are awaited to see what changes need to be made to ensure that waste collection fits in with the national profile.

Report of the Clerk.

The Clerk stated she had received a letter from the Maintenance Contractors asking if the Parish Council wished them to cut any overgrown areas in place of NCC. The Parish Council have not included such moves in the current budget, so is not in a position to take up any offers such as these in the current financial year.

All other correspondence has been forwarded to the council Members as they have been received.

8. To discuss the Playground Inspection Report.

The Parish Council were pleased to read that there are no immediate safety issues that need attention in the Playground. Councillor Andy Parsons was not present at the meeting, as he has been the lead person dealing with the Playground, the Councillors decided to defer discussing the report in depth to the next meeting.

10. Update on SAMS2.

Councillor Mace had investigated costs of new batteries for the SAMS", he thought they were overpriced. Councillor Barber agreed to take on this project.

11.To discuss Councillor Vacancies.

A member of the public who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor was present at the meeting as an observer, they will contact the Parish Clerk if they wish to seek co option onto the Council. A member of the public had also spoken to Councillor Park and contacted the Clerk but has made no further contact.

13. Website Update.

The Clerk apologised that this is still work in progress.

14. To receive SNAP Report.

None.

15. To decide the best place to site the Owl Box.

Wayland Men's Shed have made and donated a very fine Owl Box along with a bird box and a bug hotel. Discussions took place to decide the best site for it. The tree in the new piece of ground will be a good site. Councillors will need to wait until there has been some leaf fall to site the box safely.

16. 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.

17. To discuss the building site in Church Road belonging to Norfolk Land Developments.

Work has come to a standstill on this site, it looks unsightly. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Phil Cowen for advice.

18. To receive the Financial Report for the period 2022 to 2023 and sign the AGAR

The Clerk presented the financial documentation from the Auditor who has approved the figures, and signed off the accounts.

The various sections of the Agar forms were approved by the Councillors and signed as required by the Chairman and the Clerk

19. To receive the Financial report to date:**Unity Trust Account**

04/06/203	Opening Balance	£17,616.65
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Payments

08/06/2023	Repayment for laptop	£ 359.99
08/06/2023	TTSR First payment of two	£ 1,386.00
08/06/2023	Gallagher Insurance	£ 1,013.80
08/06/2023	NPTS Subscription	£ 165.00
08/06/2023	Clerk Salary April & May	£ 544.34
08/06/2023	HMRC Tax Liability Clerk	£ 136.00
19/06/2023	N Power	£ 57.59
30/06/2023	Bank charges	£ 18.00
	Total	£ 3,680.72

30/06/2023	Balance	£13,935.93
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Payments due

Clerks Salary June & July	£544.34
HMRC Clerks Tax liability	£136.00
NPTS training for S Barber	£ 52.00
Pearce and Kemp	£ 218.59
Playground Inspection Company	£ 87.54
L Wellbelove Audit	£ 50.00

All Councillors present agreed to the payments.

20. To review the Asset Register.

Deferred to next meeting.

21 To agree the Clerks Holiday Dates.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she would be on holiday from 24th July 2023 to 20th August 2023. The out of office notice would be on the mail system. The Chairman agreed that he would be the point of contact in an emergency.

22. Any relevant items not included in this agenda.

Councillor Park reported on the recent meeting of the Wayland Partnership, Watton food hub is available to all residents in the Wayland area. A nominal subscription is paid to use the service.

Wayland partnership are planning on providing IT courses for elders to enable them to use on line services such as banks.

Councillor Park suggested that the Council considers requesting a trod from the Parish Partnership fund will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Councillor Park also reminded the Clerk that hedging can be requested from The Woodland Trust. Plants will be delivered in the Autumn.

23. Items for the next Agenda

Playground Inspection Report

Seat at the top of Church Road

Neighbourhood Plan

Asset Register

Wayland Partnership Meetings

HMP Wayland Forging Positive Relationships in the community

Funding via the Parish Partnership Fund for a Trod

24. To confirm the date of the next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

