

Minutes of the Meeting of Griston Parish Council
held on Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.30pm
In St Peter & St Paul's Church, Griston.

Present: Councillors K Mace, Chairman. B Park, S Barber R Howarth and Mrs Jean Williams, Parish Clerk. There were three 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, they were accepted by those present

7. To Co-opt Ms R Howarth to the Parish Council.

This item was brought forward in the agenda

A proposal was made by Councillor Barber to co-opt Ms Howarth as a Parish Councillor, seconded by Councillor Park, agreed by all present. Ms Howarth joined the Councillors.

3.To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023 were approved without amendment, proposed by Councillor Park, seconded by Councillor Barber, signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

None

5. Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns about overgrowing hedges in Church Road, the Parish Clerk stated that she has repeatedly asked the land owner to address the issue, this has still not happened .It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to the landowner again. The landowner arrived at the Parish Council Meeting, he agreed he had received communication about this issue and said that he would attend to the matter.

A resident gave an update of the ongoing situation re: planning concerns with Eastern Attachments.

Apologies have been received from Breckland Council who have not responded to the resident within the due time scale according to their policies. The resident has contacted the local press, who ran an article. The Community Group that is formed from a group of concerned residents have a meeting planned with County Councillor Claire Bowes, Councillor Barber will represent the Parish Council at that meeting and report back.

The resident stated that Breckland Planning Department have not handled the Eastern Attachments planning application in a competent way. The site is a light industrial site, the application should have been for a B1 not a B2 which allows heavy engineering to take place, there are now more people involved in the campaign to prevent heavy engineering taking place on this site..

There are concerns that the roads are too narrow for large heavy vehicles.

There are now more dwellings in the village which means an increase in traffic, the resident stated that he believes the village formation has changed to residential rather than the previous industrial status it held in the past. Lots of the light engineering companies have moved away or ceased to trade.

There have been reports from residents that a lamp standard in Sycamore Road adjoining Manor Road is unsafe it has been damaged for some time. The lamp is on private land, the landowner was present at the meeting, the problem was raised with hm, he agreed to attend to the matter.

6. Report of County Councillor Claire Bowes.

Councillor Bowes not present no report given.

Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

Councillor Cowen not present no report received.

Report of the Clerk.

The Parish Clerk sought permission from the Council to attend a seminar hosted by NPTS, Councillors agreed to this request.

Councillor Barber agreed that he would respond to the letter from Sonny Buttifant.

7. See above

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

The progress of Eastern Attachments planning application had been thoroughly discussed under item 5.

3PL/2023/0790/F Willowfields, Thompson Road. Councillors stated that the property planned would be intrusive to the area and a single storey building would be more suitable.

The premises should have an agricultural restriction.

Clerk to respond.

Planning application 3SR/2023/0008 SCR permission has been granted.

An appeal had been made for a planning application; it was agreed that the Clerk would respond citing the previous statements emphasising that the proposed properties were too close to a bend in the road. Further comments to be made are that property is currently not selling.

9. Update of the Website

The Clerk reported that she has made progress with the website, she is attending a Clerks networking meeting where she will be able to seek advice and help from colleagues.

10. To receive SNAP report

Councillor Parsons was not present at the meeting, he is the representative of the Council who attends the SNAP meetings. It was suggested that, in light of recent vandal activity in the area, to request more police patrol around the village and Stans Walk.

11. To discuss a Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Barber is keen to form a Neighbourhood Plan for Griston, discussion took place about time implications, cost and who would be involved.

Councillor Barber explained that there are advantages in having a Neighbourhood Plan

Grants are available towards the legal costs.

After discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Barber would carry out a feasibility study and report back to the next meeting

12. Report Re: SAMS2

The SAMS2 is up and working, Councillor Barber has been re-siting it as needed, a new battery is required, it was agreed that Councillor Barber should purchase one. Discussion took place re: keeping the SAMS2, it was decided that the machine is a useful deterrent to speeding road users.

13. To discuss the building site in Church Road

The building site in Church Road has become unsightly, no building work has been undertaken in the last months.

The Parish Clerk has reported the site to the unsightly sites team, an enforcement notice has been served, the area has been cleared, which is a great improvement

14. To receive a report from The Wayland Partnership Meeting

Councillor Park stated that there has not been a meeting recently

15. 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.

16. To discuss Councillor Vacancies:

The Councillors expressed their pleasure in having co-opted Councillor Howarth at this meeting, however more Councillors are still needed to fill the two remaining vacancies. Councillor Park stated that she was aware that there is another resident who is interested in joining the Parish Council. To date the Clerk has not had contact with the resident.

17. To discuss the Parish Partnership Funding for a Trod on Thompson Road

Councillors agreed that a trod would be beneficial to pedestrians, it was agreed to investigate costs etc.

18. To discuss the replacement of Road Traffic Signs

Councillor Barber stated that he thought the street furniture in the village should be replaced, especially the speed signs. Councillor Barber was advised that street signs are the responsibility of Norfolk County Council Highways Department who would need to be approached regarding this request.

19. To discuss issues related to the Playground and Recreation Field

Councillor Barber stated that he thought the Recreation ground should have a sign stating it should be used from Dawn to Dusk, there is currently a sign in place.

There are no immediate causes for concern with the Play equipment. It was therefore decided that this item would be deferred to the next meeting when hopefully Councillor Parsons, who has taken the lead role for this area would be present

20. To receive the Financial Report

The Clerk gave a detailed report of the Parish Council Finances

The Unity Trust Account Balance to date £12,163.83

The precept has not yet been received

Currently there are no ear marked reserves in place.

Barclays Account stands at £956:10 the funds in this account need to be transferred to Unity trust and the Barclays account closed.

Councillor Barber proposed the accounts be accepted this was seconded by Councillor Howarth.

21 Any relevant items not included in this agenda.

Planters near the Griston signs: Councillor Barber asked who has responsibility for the planters. Councillor Park plants and maintains them. Councillor Park donates the plants.

Induction course for Councillors: Councillor Barber gave feedback on the course he had attended, which he said was most informative.

Capital Funding: Councillor Barber asked if the Parish Council has a Capital Fund for amenities in the village. Discussion took place around this subject.

Tree Planting: Councillor Park informed the meeting that the new saplings should arrive in in the first two weeks of November. It was agreed that help with the planting would be sought from the residents as has happened previously. Councillor Park will inform the Clerk when the saplings arrive.

22. Items for the next Agenda

TTSR Contract

Neighbourhood Plan

Working Parties

Repair of Notice boards

Recreation ground gate

23. To confirm the date of the next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

