

Minutes of the Meeting of Griston Parish Council

held on Thursday 11th January 2024 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. There were eight members of the public present.

1. Welcome.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence:

None.

3. To declare any pecuniary interest or seek dispensations.

None.

4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023 were approved by all present and signed by the Chairman.

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

The siting of the Dog waste bin is still work in progress.,

At this point Cllr Park requested that Item 16 on the agenda was discussed.

Cllr Park stated that three members of the public who were present at the meeting, had offered their services as Councillors, and could be co-opted on to the Parish Council at this point of the meeting. All current Councillors agreed to their co-option.

Councillors Lake, L Steventon and K Steventon then joined the Councillors. They will sign the relevant paperwork in the presence of the Clerk at a later date.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange signing of the relevant forms

6. Public Participation

A member of the public informed the Council that he was arranging a meeting with George Freeman, MP. about the Planning Application re: the Caughtrey Site and the concerns there are in the village.

Concern was raised that the area is being used for storage.

A chimney has been erected prior to any planning application being received.

Action: The clerk agreed to write a letter to Breckland Planning re the chimney.

7. 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 other than a letter which had been circulated prior to the meeting,

Report of the Clerk.

The Clerk had stated that all correspondence had been forwarded to the Councillors as it arrived, there were no outstanding issues.

8. To discuss the Website.

The website is now live, Cllr Barber is the webmaster, the Clerk will give him the information required for access.

Action: Clerk to give relevant information for the website access,

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

MP. George Freeman has given his full support to residents in their efforts to deal with this Planning Application.

There have been no new planning applications received with regard to this development.

10. Progress report of the Website.

See item 8.

11. To receive SNAP report

No report, currently without a representative to attend this meeting.

12. To discuss the Mobile Library Service in the Village

The mobile library has stopped visiting the village due to lack of support.

Residents at Thorp House would welcome the return of the service as would other residents of the village.

Griston is within the reach of the Library in Watton as the crow flies as per their remit of the visiting service. In reality this is not so.. Cllr Barber is hopeful that the service will be reinstated, Thorp House have agreed that the library vehicle can park in their grounds, if the service is restored to the village.

13. To receive information re: The Neighbourhood Plan.

One of the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan is an active website, this is now in place.

Cllr Barber is attending a Webinar re: Neighbourhood Plans presented by Norfolk Partnership Training Service (NPTS). He is also holding conversations with New Buckingham Parish Council who have recently completed their Neighbourhood Plan.

14. Report Re: SAMS2

The SAMS2 is working well.

There was no risk assessment in place for moving the equipment from one site to another.

There was also no Memorandum of Understanding regarding this equipment when it was originally installed.

Cllr Barber has dealt with this requirement.

Cllr Barber would like to record his thanks to Mr P Ginger for the help he has given providing brackets for the SAMS2 recently.

15. To discuss and agree any issues relating to the Recreation Ground and the Play Area.

Dog Issues:

There have recently been conversations held re: dogs in the park near children on social media.

The Parish Council have not received any complaints, on this matter. After discussion, it was agreed the Clerk should write an article in the Waylander about raising any issues to the Council to enable Councillors to take action if appropriate.

Councillors all agreed that both children and dogs should be always closely supervised in the recreation ground.

Playground Equipment Inspections.

The Chairman informed the Councillors that a resident has offered to undertake the Playground Inspections. The resident has carried out this task previously.

Cllr Park proposed that the resident's kind offer should be accepted, Cllr L Steventon seconded, all agreed.

ACTION: Chairman to contact resident.

The Gate at Stans Walk Entrance

The gate that was removed by vandals is still to be re hung. Cllr Barber stated that he had canvassed both dog owners and parents who use buggies, all stated that they would like the gate to be re-instated.

ACTION: Cllr Barber to source hinges. Cllr Lake will assist with replacing the gate.

Hedge Planting

Cllr Park stated that she was hoping that the new saplings could be planted at the end of the week.

Clerk has purchased protective sleeves; canes will also be needed. Cllr Park said 250 would be required, they would cost in the region of £22. All Cllrs agreed to this spend.

ACTION. Clerk to source and purchase canes

Owl Box

The Owl Box still needs to be sited; Cllr Park is storing it for now. Cllr Lake offered to look at the intended site and see what action is needed

ACTION: Cllr Lake to carry out some investigations of the tree for siting the Owl Box.

16. To discuss Councillor Vacancies

See item 5.

17.To receive a report from The Wayland Partnership Meeting

Councillor Park stated that she attended the recent Partnership Meeting.

Representative who is working with Reclaim the Rain stated that progress is very slow. Leaders are not open to receiving local information and knowledge.

The Watton Food Hub is providing a good service to Wayland residents, any one can use the service. Fruit and Vegetables are free. Users were given £50 vouchers at Christmas.

The Creative Media Centre has a business plan with Breckland Council. The centre could have a major impact on the town.

18. To receive information on the Trod

Cllr Barber reported that the funding application for the trod has been submitted. The funding will be for over two years. It is proposed that the work will begin in March 2025 and end in May 2025. The Council will need to apply for more funding in the next cycle.

19. To discuss the Budget Proposal for 2024/25 and agree the Precept

The Parish Clerk circulated the Budget Proposal for the next financial year.

Cllrs accepted the proposal and agreed on a Precept of £27,779.00 for the year.

Cllr acknowledged that this was a large increase but stated that development of the trod is a much-needed safety requirement.

Other factors are rising prices of electricity and services as well as the maintenance of the playground equipment to ensure the safety of the users. Cllrs will monitor expenditure in the hope that a large rise in the precept will not be needed the following year.

ACTION: Clerk to submit Precept Requirement within the due date.

20. To receive the Financial Report

The Clerk presented the finance report for the period September 2023 to January 2024

03/09/2023	Opening Balance	£12,737.60
29/09/2023	Income second payment of Precept	£ 8,250.00
19/09/2023-		
31/12/2023	Expenditure	£ 2,987.75
11/01/2024	Expenditure not shown on Bank Statement	£ 680.34
11/01/2024	Total Balance	£17,063.94

Councillors agreed and accepted the Finance Report unanimously

21. Public Participation (15 Minutes)

Residents reported an intermittent fault with a light outside Thorp House

Residents asked if signage to the Industrial Estate could be removed.

Cllr Barber stated that if large delivery lorries used Caston Road to access the Village there could be many problems because they are unable to navigate the corner by the Church and the Pub.

Cllr Barber agreed to raise the request with Norfolk County Council, members felt that the sign should remain.

22. Any other relevant matters not included on this agenda.

Cllr Barber reported that vehicles were parking on the pavement outside the building site in Church Road. This was causing obstruction to both the pathway and the road. He had visited the site and spoken to the workers who agreed to park in front of the site off the pavement and road way.

Cllr Barber raised his concerns re: the new properties in Carbrooke that are in Griston. The boundary issues need to be addressed because if the properties were included in Carbrooke, Griston could lose a third of the Precept.

Discussion took place re: the Playground in Carbrooke. It is not clear who currently has responsibility for this, Cllr Barber stated there would need to be a Memorandum of Understanding re: liability and the use of the land.

23. To receive items for the next agenda.

Carbrooke Boundary Issue

Speaker from Wayland Partnership

Seat at the top of Church Road

Councillor Co Option

24. To confirm the date of the next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:13pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

DRAFT