

Minutes of the Meeting of Griston Parish Council

held on Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Present: Councillors K Mace, Chairman. B Park, S Barber, Jean Williams, Parish Clerk and four members of the Public.

1 Welcome. The Chairman welcomed those present. The Chairman prioritised the agenda in order to facilitate the co-option process earlier in the meeting.

2. Co-Option of a Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council had received an application from a resident who stating their interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. All Councillors unanimously agreed that Mrs Heath should become a co-opted member. Mrs Heath signed the declaration of acceptance documentation and joined the Councillors.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr K Steventon and Cllr P Lake.

4. To declare any pecuniary interest and seek dispensations

None

5. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2024

Minutes agreed, proposed by Cllr L Steventon, seconded by Cllr S Barber.

6. Matters arising from the meeting not included on this Agenda.

None

7. Public Participation

A resident stated that he was pleased that the District Council had refused Planning Consent to Eastern Attachments. He thanked the input from some councillors as well as the district and county councillors. He stated that there would be a wait to see what the next steps might be.

A resident complained about the state of the overhanging vegetation on Stans Walk and the lack of maintenance. Stans Walk is maintained by Norfolk County Council.

ACTION Clerk to write to NCC

8. Report of County Councillor Clare Bowes.

Councillor Bowes not present, no report received.

Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen.

Councillor Cowen not present a report had been received which had been circulated to all Councillors, contents noted.

Report of the Parish Clerk.

The parish clerk stated that all correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors as it arrived, there were no further matters to raise.

9. Planning Matters

As stated earlier the Eastern Attachments application has been refused, however variations are still open. Councillors stated that enforcement notices would be sought for the Southern Building, Storage of Gas Bottles and Oxygen cylinders as well as the Chimneys that have been built without planning permission.

10. Update the Website

Cllr Barber reported that the statutory requirements are still work in progress.

There have been many visitors to the website and there is steady progress in publishing information of interest to the residents.

11. To receive a SNAP report

None

12. To discuss the Mobile Library Service to the Village.

Councillor Barber reported that he has contacted the Mobile Library in the hope that they will resume the service to the Village. Thorp House have agreed that the Library Van will be able to park in their car park. Currently there is a provisional date of 28th March 2024 this has not yet been confirmed.

13. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Barber reported that the Neighbourhood Plan would be going ahead. There was interest from three residents at the current time.

14. Update SAMS2

Cllr Barber reported that the SAMS2 is working well, there are now three approved sites, Church Road and two separate sites in Thompson Road.

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

Two new infant swings require replacement it was agreed to purchase them at a cost of £102 each plus delivery and VAT. Total cost £266.40

Proposed by Cllr Park, seconded by Cllr Barber.

ACTION Clerk to purchase two swing seats

The gap at the entrance to the Carbrooke Road side of the recreation ground was discussed, the gate needs to be realigned so there is a smaller gap preventing motor cycles and horses using the area.

ACTION: Cllr Barber will carry out more research and report back to the next meeting

Discussion took place about the Owl Box, there are differing opinions re the best place to site it.

Cllr Park stated that she would seek advice from the relevant bodies and report back to the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Park to seek information and circulate the findings.

The dog bin still need to be sited in Carbrooke Road

ACTION: Clerk to action siting of Dog Bin

Weeds are growing through the new surface it was agreed to seek further costing of weed control.

The entrance to the Manor Road Car parking area has potholes Cllr Park stated that Mr Newby will fill them in when he has the time. All Councillors agreed to this.

Councillor Barber stated that the Orchard required attention, he would like see it restored.

He also stated that the tables need to be restored.

After much discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Barber would organise a work party to carry out some remedial work of those areas.

The hedge was recently trimmed, cuttings were removed from the recreation ground side of the hedge but not on Stans Walk. Thorns from the cuttings could cause a risk to animals and humans, Clerk will raise this with the Contractor.

16. Grass area on Thompson Road.

Residents in Thompson Road have recently cut the Green area, which has made the area much safer and tidier. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Clerk would write a letter of thanks.

17. The seat on Thompson Road.

The seat on Thompson Road is beyond economical repair and requires replacement.

This has not been included in the forthcoming financial year's budget. Whilst it was agreed that the seat should be replaced, the Parish Councillors need to look at funding for this.

Cost will be in the region of £700.00

18. Village Notice Boards

The village notice boards all need attention.

Manor Road notice board requires new legs and re sealing or painting.

The Church notice board requires stripping and re treating with the correct products for the wood.

The notice board at the Bus Stop needs to be replaced with a bigger one so that all notices can be posted and seen easily.

These items will be placed on the May agenda

19. D Day Celebrations

The Parish Council will not be participating in this event.
There is no available grant for funding.

20 Training for the whole Parish Council

It was agreed by all Councillors that this should go ahead.
Caston Village Hall was suggested as a suitable venue.

ACTION: Clerk to organise

21. Report from Wayland Partnership

Cllr Park reported that she attended the January meeting.

There are many projects proposed.

Partnership members have decreased considerably.

The administrator has recently left and a new person has been appointed.

The Dragonfly Gallery is identified as a warm space.

The computer courses are operating well and appear to be successful.

Representative from Saham Action Group reported that Reclaim the Rain is not very pro-active and appear reticent to communicate with the Community.

22. The Parish Meeting

The Clerk explained that the Parish Meeting is for the village, it is hosted by the Parish Council.

Traditionally attendance is very poor.

After much discussion it was agreed that representatives would be invited to attend from The Police, The Wayland Partnership and The Project Manager from the company who are involved in the Prison Developments at HMP Wayland

ACTION: Clerk to invite the above

23. To discuss applying for a speed restriction of 30mph on Thompson Road.

As was stated earlier the grass grows long because the County Council no longer maintain grass areas regularly. Traffic speeds along the road, oncoming traffic can be difficult to see.

Evidence would be required to seek a reduction in speed on the road. It was resolved that action would be taken to learn how to download the information needed to build the evidence to make a case.

The road would make the area safer for pedestrians.

24. Public participation

Residents raised the issue of Thompson Road surface by the Prison. NCC are of the impression that it is not in need of repair.

Discussion also took place about the gate at the rear of the Prison being locked preventing residents using the pathway.

25. To receive the Financial Report for the period January to 14th March 2024

11/01/2024		Opening Balance	£17,063.94
12/01/2024	HMRC	£ 68.00	£16,995.94
12/01/2024	Clerk Salary	£272.17	£16,723.77
12/01/2024	HMRC	£ 68.00	£16,655.77
12/01/2024	Clerk Salary	£272.17	£16,383.60
09/02/2024	Pearce & Kemp	£218.59	£16,165.01
15/02/2024	NPTS Training	£ 48.00	£16,117.01
19/02/2024	N Power	£114.67	£16,002.34
	TOTAL	£1,061.60	TOTAL £16,002.34

Outstanding Expenditure

Sapling protectors	£ 78.99
Clerks Jan Salary	£272.17
HMRC Jan	£ 68.00
Clerks Feb Salary	£272.17
HMRC Feb	£ 68.00
TTSR Hedge Cutting	£540.00
Ink x 3 Cartridges	£ 52.51
TOTAL	£1,351.84

Balance in Bank £14,650.50

Councillors agreed the Financial Report unanimously

26.To ratify payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting
All payments were agreed unanimously.

27. Any other relevant matters not included on this agenda

Cllr Barber reported that the kissing gate at the entrance to the recreation ground has been re installed with thanks to Mr Heath and Cllr Lake for their assistance.

28 Items for the next Agenda

Seat on Thompson Road
Gate at Carbrooke Entrance to recreation ground
Owl Box
Weed Control in Recreation ground
Notice Boards

29. To confirm the date of the next Meeting as Thursday 30th May 2024

This date was agreed after the Meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed Chairman

Date.....