

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Griston Parish Council

held on Thursday 30th May 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Present: Councillors K Mace, B Park, S Barber, L Steventon, K Steventon, P Lake, and Jean Williams, Parish Clerk.
There were two members of the public present.

1 Welcome. Councillor Mace welcomed those present.

2. To Elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Mace invited nominations for the post of Chairman.

Cllr L Steventon nominated Cllr Barber, seconded by Cllr Lake, agreed by all present

Cllr Barber took the Chair and asked for nominations for the post of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Barber nominated Cllr L Steventon seconded by Cllr Lake, agreed by all.

Declarations of Acceptance of Office forms will be signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in the presence of the Clerk at a later date, Clerk did not have relevant forms with her.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr K Heath, District Cllr P Cowen, County Cllr Bowes, Bronwen Tyler, Rosemary Scott & John Heath.

4. To declare any pecuniary interest and seek dispensations

None

5. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2024

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

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

The siting of the dog waste bin is still outstanding.

7. Public Participation

Members of the Public had had very full conversations during the Parish Meeting which had taken place prior to this meeting .

Items covered included Planning situation of Eastern Attachments

The siting of the Trod

Overgrown vegetation on Church Road, Mr Scott was present, he agreed the vegetation would be cut back and the Parish Clerk had no need to write to him again.

8. Report of County Councillor Clare Bowes.

Councillor Bowes not present, the Chairman reported that Councillor Bowes has promised to contribute £1000.00 towards the cost of the Trod from her Community Fund.

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. To discuss any Playground Matters including:

The monthly inspection report John Ashdown had carried out the inspection, he reported that the post cover to the arial runway had been damaged by vandals. Mr Ashdown had carried out a repair using strong gaffer tape but this had been cut away also. Mr Ashdown had suggested using some form of piping to cover the post but Cllr's thought this was too flimsy and agreed to look at other options. Concern was raised by Cllrs. that people were obviously visiting the Park with sharp objects with the intention to cause damage. Cllr Mace stated that he would report this to the police. All Cllrs agreed to this action.

Cllr Barber reported that all the picnic tables needed remedial work, he also stated that he has concerns about the gateway to the recreation Ground off Carbrooke Road. Cllr Park stated that the whole of the area requires remedial work. Cllr Barber stated he has costed materials to make the entrance closed to motor vehicles, the cost at today's prices would be in the region of £1,500.00 which would need to be included in the budget for the next financial year, to be able to carry out the work.

Cllr Barber spoke about weed treatment for the whole of the recreation ground, some members of the Parish Council were against this idea, stating that the flora gave food for the insects and bees as well as the children enjoying making daisy chains.

After discussion it was agreed that Cllrs would meet to look at the whole area and formulate a plan of work required.

10. To discuss the siting of the Owl Box.

Cllrs stated that they would prefer the Owl Box to be sited on public ground as it had been donated for the Village, however, the tree in the Playground is not suitable because of its proximity to the play area where the birds could be disturbed and the box maybe a target for vandalism.

Discussion took place at some length, sites suggested, were the churchyard, Thorp House, Red House Farm.

It was agreed by all that the Chairman would approach Thorp House to ask if they would accommodate the Owl Box on one of their trees.

11. To consider any Planning Applications

3PL/2022/1228/O Greenacres Church Road, Griston has gone to Appeal, Cllr K Steventon will observe the progress on this.

12 To receive The Website Report.

Cllr Barber stated that all was going well with the website. He has included Planning Applications but not appeals or variations.

There have been 92 unique visitors with 169 people looking. The website progress is ongoing.

The Neighbourhood Plan application will be able to proceed when a few items are added to the information required.

13, Snap Report

There was no SNAP report. Cllr Mace agreed to become the representative for Griston on this group, however, need to enquire if it is possible to move to attend a more suitable group for the area.

14. To agree the Insurance Proposal.

The Clerk reported that the Insurance invoice is now payable amount due is £1,048.07 the Council is tied into a three-year agreement, this being the last year. Cllr Park proposed that this invoice is paid, seconded by Cllr L Steventon all agreed.

15. To receive an update on the SAMS2.

The SAMS2 has been sited in three different locations since the last Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Barber is keen to be able to download the information from the SAMS2, he will contact the person who has responsibility for the SAMS2 in Caston for some help. The batteries in the SAMS2 are working well.

16. Seat on Thompson Road.

Cllr Lake stated that once a new seat is installed on Thompson Road, he has neighbours who would like to have an inscribed plaque attached to it.

Councillors agreed that it would be good to have a memorial seat, the costs of plaques could offset the cost of the bench.

The cost of a bench would be in the region of £600.00 it would be securely fixed, could be self-installed.

Discussion took place re: the removal of the current bench prior to it disintegrating any further, no firm plans made to carry this out.

Cllr L Steventon proposed that this idea was investigated, seconded by Cllr K Steventon, agreed by all.

17. To discuss proposed Boundary Changes

Consultation has begun re: Breckland Boundary Changes. Parish Council boundary changes will not be affected.

18. To discuss Village, Notice Boards.

As previously discussed, the village notice boards all need attention, it was decided that a group of Councillors would meet on Saturday morning 01/06/2024 to discuss the work that is required and report back to the next meeting.

19. To Review and Update the Asset Register.

Cllrs Barber, Park and Mace will form a group to review and update the Asset register

20. To receive the Financial Report.

The Clerk reported that

The Balance on 30/05/2024 was **£29,213.25**

Cllr Park proposed that **£16,455.00** should be transferred into the Savings Account to ensure that payments were being taken from the Precept. This was seconded by Cllr Mace and agreed by all present.

This would leave a balance of **£12,758.25**

21. Public Participation (15 mins maximum)

No further comments

22. To agree proposed dates for meetings throughout the year

Dates agreed as: 27/06/2024 11/07/2024 12/09/2024 14/11/2024 09/01/2025 13/03/2025 08/05/2025

23. Any other relevant matters not included on this Agenda.

The Chairman presented a proposed rolling plan for the business of the Council, which he said he hoped this would help the Parish Council to achieve their aims.

Cllr Mace asked permission to purchase bin bags, all present agreed.

24. To receive items for the next Agenda

None

The meeting closed at 9:39pm

Signed Chairman

Date.....