

Minutes of Griston Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th July 2024

At St Peter and St Pauls Church, Griston.

Present: Cllr S Barber (Chair) Cllr B Park, Cllr K Heath, County Cllr Claire Bowes, District Cllr Phil Cowen, & Mrs Jean Williams Parish Clerk & RFO.

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr L Steventon, Cllr K Mace, Cllr P Lake, Cllr K Steventon, Mr J Heath.
3. **To declare any pecuniary interest or seek dispensations:** None.
4. **To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2024.** The minutes were agreed, with one minor amendment, being a date which was amended to read 2046. Proposed by Cllr B Park, seconded by Cllr K Heath.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** None
6. **Public Participation:** None
7. **Report of County Councillor Claire Bowes:** Cllr Bowes reported that various local businesses had received awards at the recent Royal Norfolk Show. The awards were created in partnership by The County Council and the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association. A delegation of Ukrainian civic and business leaders had visited Norfolk, aiming to build trade and cultural links within the region, they visited the Royal Norfolk Show and met the Duke of Edinburgh.
The visit was a result of a signing of a formal co-operation agreement between Norfolk County Council and the Ukrainian region of Lviv, creating a memorandum of understanding, the first of its kind in the UK. This was brought about after a meeting between Cllr Bowes and Taras Vorko in Watton a year ago. Taras Vorko was the leader of the delegation.
Cllr Bowes also stated that a speed reduction of 20 mph has recently been implemented in Watton High Street, this was funded through her members Highways budget after hearing the concerns of the residents about the speed of HGV's and tractors travelling through the High Street. Clair has also made a successful application for speed reduction to 20mph on Merton Road, past Wayland Academy.
Cllr Bowes reminded members that The Parish Partnership Scheme will be repeated in the 2025/26 financial year.
8. **Report of the District Councillor Phil Cowen:** Cllr Cowen stated that he was pleased to be able to attend the Parish Council meeting. There was no written report because of the state of Purdah during election campaigning, however matters had still been proceeding.
Cllr Cowen reported on the progress of the Breckland local plan, there has been a call for sites and there may be more calls. The recently elected new government could influence this because of the plans to rewrite the Planning Document in line with their policies. Local Councils will know more by next month. There will be some changes but currently, no one knows where the focus will be.
Cllr Cowen confirmed that the Coughtrey site planning application has been refused.
Recently there has been a notification from HMP Wayland Prison about some further building, but this does not require comments.
Cllr Cowen reported on Breckland finances stating that they were working to a balanced budget and are able to provide statutory services plus other core services. There had been some assistance in the form of a large VAT refund which has helped enormously. The Council have benefitted from the reorganisation of the building with staff working from home and out on sites. This has enabled the Council to lease spaces providing some income. The Planning department is now operated in house, Breckland are setting the agenda for planners and there are increased opportunities to work with other departments.
A greater emphasis is now placed on ecology issues when considering planning applications.

Cllr Cowen also reported that there are discussions taking place currently, to begin charging in car parks, the revenue from this will assist with the management and maintenance of the areas.

9. Report of the Parish Clerk including any correspondence not previously circulated.

None

10. To consider any Planning Applications.

There are no new planning applications.

11. To receive updates on the Website.

The Chairman who is the webmaster commented that all is running smoothly, there are some outstanding documents to be published in relation to the AGAR. They will be posted in the next few days.

12. To receive the SNAP Report.

Cllr Mace is the nominated person to attend SNAP meetings although no information has been received lately. The Clerk had been in contact with the police and is awaiting a response.

13. To receive an update on SAMS2.

The SAMS2 is working well and is sited for the next two weeks outside Red House Farm, to date, the Chair has not managed to contact the person in Caston about recovering information from the machine.

14. To receive information on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman reported that he still needs to write to Breckland Council to inform them of the intention to write a Neighbourhood Plan for Griston. There are queries currently of what changes may take place with the new Government in place. Community involvement in the plan is important.

15. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Heath reported that further investigations into the current state of The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme are needed. Cllr Heath will contact the last known organisers. The Community Safety team will assist in organisation of a new scheme which could incorporate other villages if needed or required.

Need to discover what is in plan with local villages.

Who will co-ordinate the scheme.

How the scheme will be administered.

Community Safety Team could attend the September meeting.

16. Two Year Plan.

Deferred to next meeting.

17. Bench at the top of Church Road.

The existing bench is in a very poor state of repair and requires replacement. The new bench will be 1.8 metres long with arms made from plastic material that is maintenance free. It will be inscribed Griston Parish Council.

Will need to be secured to the ground, on the existing concrete base. Installation will be carried out by some Councillors. Cost to purchase at current prices will be £1000.00. Could be a memorial bench where residents pay to have a plaque affixed to the bench in memory of a loved one for a fee. Residents will be informed of the proposal in the Waylander Magazine, cost of plaques to be decided later. It was agreed that the cost of a replacement bench would be included in the next budget, so would be purchased in the next financial year. Proposed by Cllr Heath Seconded by Cllr Park, all agreed.

18. To set dates for working parties.

A date has been agreed to carry out repairs to the notice board on Manor Road and install a wooden post at the Carbrooke Road entrance to the Recreation Ground. The date in the diary is currently 20/07/2024.

Cllrs Barber and Lake along with any other available Cllrs will undertake the tasks. Further dates to carry out repairs will be arranged. It was noted that the Saplings need weeding a call for help from the residents will be posted on the website.

19. To receive information re a Meeting with Playdale.

A meeting with Playdale took place recently, the advice given was to replace broken equipment and the cracked posts which have rotted. The representative from Playdale informed those who attended the meeting that

equipment for children with additional needs or wheel chair users is not installed on grass. Currently waiting for further information and advice re: grants to replace some of the equipment.

20. To receive the Financial Account and agree any unbudgeted expenditure.

The clerk presented the financial report.

Unity Trust Account 20447685

30/06/2024	Opening balance:	£9,619.98
30/06/2024	Bank Charges	£ 18.00
10/07/2024	Audit	£ 50.00
10/07/2024	Play Inspection Company	£ 99.00
10/07/2024	Closing Balance	£9,452.98

Unity Trust Account 20447698

30/06/2024	Balance	£17,450.83
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21. Further Public Participation (10 minutes)

None

22. Any other relevant matters not included on the Agenda.

The Trod will go ahead under the finance agreement arranged by Linda McDermott. Norfolk Highways Dept will carry out the estimate.

The Owl Box is work in progress.

The Chairman stated that he has spoken with Patrick Searle of the Parish Partnership Scheme who had suggested that the parish council may not need to involve the NCC boundaries team, to square the gate at the Carbrooke Road entrance to the recreation ground, if we could agree reorientation with NCC Highways. This would circumnavigate the potential for the boundaries team to be involved.

The Chairman is still waiting to hear from Breckland about the siting of the dog bin.

The footpath in Church Road has been reported to NCC and will be repaired.

The Chairman presented a logo he had designed for the Hi Viz jackets, it was agreed that the logo would be used, proposed by Cllr Heath, seconded by Cllr Park.

A date should be made for the review of the Asset Register.

23. To receive items for the next agenda.

The two-year plan.

24. To confirm the date for the next meeting.

The date for the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7:30pm.

