

**Minutes of a Meeting of Griston Parish Council
held on 10th December 2024 at 7:30pm
at
St Peter and St. Pauls Church. Griston.**

Present: Councillors S Barber (Chairman) L Steventon, B Park, K Mace, P Lake and Mrs Jean Williams, Parish Clerk. Also present were one member of the public, as well as a representative from HMP Wayland, Andy Juden who was making a presentation about Community involvement with the prison.

1. Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Andy Juden from HMP Wayland. Andy had contacted the Parish Council to enquire if there could be involvement with the prison from members of the community, to work with prisoners helping them to prepare for release into the Community. Prisoners would not be allowed to work outside the premises. Andy has some funding to work on a project training prisoners for work in the outside world. He was hoping that the Parish Council would be able to assist in the project. Councillors as individuals, stated that they unfortunately did not have capacity in their days currently. Discussion took place how the scheme may be advertised. It was resolved that Andy would liaise with the Chairman who would advertise the scheme on the website and social media, as well as The Waylander to recruit volunteers. Notices could also be placed on the noticeboards. Andy was informed of other local publications where he may wish to advertise this project.

3. To receive apologies for absence Cllr K Heath, John Heath.

4. To declare any Pecuniary Interests: None

5. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2024. The minutes of the meeting were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the minutes. None

7. Public Participation None

8. Report of County Councillor Claire Bowes. The Clerk received apologies from County Cllr Bowes retrospectively, a written report was included with the apology.

9. Report of District Councillor Phil Cowen. None

10. Report of Parish Clerk including any correspondence received not previously circulated.

The clerk stated that all correspondence has been forwarded to all Councillors as it arrived, however there has been one request from Groundscape asking if they could tender for the recreation ground and Churchyard maintenance contract. They will be advised when the advert for the tender is published.

11. To discuss Planning Applications. There have been no new planning Applications, however HMP Wayland Application for the building project should be submitted very soon. The Chairman advised that MACE, the company who are managing the project had held a consultation day at the beginning of the month where approximately 20 residents had attended. Currently there are no major concerns. Some residents could be affected by light pollution or a change of view from the first floor of their property. The length of the construction work and the associated noise could be a problem.

Lorries delivering aggregate from Caston could cause disruption. This may be a point for further discussion.

12. To discuss any further developments re Eastern Attachments. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Planning Inspector has re instructed the status of the appeal to a full hearing. This should include a site visit.

Evidence will be discussed independently with no advance discussions. The Chairman urged anyone that has written a response to the application to request permission to attend the hearing. Contact information is on the website. Statutory nuisance complaints are still being forwarded to Breckland Council. Councillors commented of very strong smells of paint in the area as well as noise. Concerns were also raised that the Planning appeal response by Breckland have volunteered a 6am to 6pm start and finish time for working hours which is longer than originally stated.

13. To discuss the recruitment of a Parish Clerk. The Chairman reported that to date there has been no interest shown from anyone. He said that there were twelve vacancies for Parish Clerks advertised on the NPTS website. The Chairman stated that he had updated some of the policies for the recruitment working party. The Clerk advised that they could only be used when they had been agreed by the full Parish Council. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The current policies will be used for now. The Parish Clerk had spoken to the Chairman offering to extend her period of notice for a further month to the end of January 2025. The Councillors accepted the offer.

Cllr Park stated that the advert for the Parish Clerk had included the post of safety officer when this was not included in the job description. **ACTION: The Chair will amend the job description.**

14. To discuss Councillor Vacancies. To date there has been no response to the adverts.

15. To receive updates on projects ie: notice boards, dog waste bin and Aerial runway. The Chairman and Cllr Lake will install the dog waste bin, a date was set for 21/12/2024 when they plan to deal with the bin and the swing seats in the recreation ground. The spares for the Aerial runway have been ordered, delivery is awaited. Discussion took place around the noticeboards; it was resolved to speak to the Prison workshop to enquire if they would be able to assist.

16. To discuss Watton Town Parking. Discussion took place re: the proposed plans to make charges to park in the car parks in Watton. Watton Town Council are fighting the plan. Many hurdles are yet to get over to resolve the problems and instigate the plans.

17. To receive feedback from Wayland Partnership Meeting: All Councillors had received the minutes of this meeting. There was no further discussion.

18. To receive feedback on recent training sessions attended: The Chairman reported that he is due to attend an online meeting in the next few days. The Clerk had attended a free Clerks Networking morning which she had found informative.

19. To receive updates on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Councillor Heath not present at the meeting, notification can be made that there is a new scheme in the village. Signs will be displayed soon.

20. To receive updates on the Neighbourhood Plan. The plans for the Neighbourhood Plan should be approved very soon which will mean that applications for funding can be made.

21 To discuss the budget proposals for 2025 to 2026: The Clerk presented the paper that had been produced by the working party. The Chairman explained some of the proposals.

A mobile phone would be donated to the Parish Clerk who would have a Pay as you go sim card which would cost approximately £6 per month. This would provide continuity of contact for the Parish Council All members agreed.

Electricity provider Eon is the current provider whilst the Parish Council will remain with this provider The Chairman stated bills could increase, he would like to see some capital investment to make changes to the street lighting which could mean cheaper electricity bills.

Street Light Maintenance: the contract for this expires in March 2025 the Chairman stated that he would like to investigate the maintenance programme further. Need to form an agreement with the MoJ re the Manor Road lighting nothing is formalised at the current time.

Glass Collection: The Chairman asked if this is still viable now that residents dispose of their glass in their recycling bins. It was resolved to retain the current system for now.

Discussion took place at length over the £6,500.00 that had been allocated for the proposed trod, which is now not being pursued because of the siting and the cost increase. Cllr Park was concerned that the residents have paid an increase in their Council tax and seen nothing for it. Cllr Park would like to see the money returned to the residents in the form of a reduced precept, which would mean residents had a reduction in their council tax. Four Cllrs did not agree. Discussion took place how the underspend should be used. No firm resolutions were made. Many ideas such as new tables in the recreation area.

A proposal was made to purchase a Jungle walkway at a cost of £4374.24 plus VAT Cllrs agreed to this. A local contractor would be asked to install the equipment. The Clerk advised that the contractor should have public liability insurance and guarantee that the working area was safe. No firm plans were made to order the Jungle Walkway.

The Chairman stated that he would like to propose that a Dog Agility area be set up in the park. He had spoken to a ranger from the Forestry Commission who advised him that the tunnel from the Agility area at Lyndford was available free. He felt it would be easy to erect some jumps and a weave for the dogs to enjoy. Discussion took place at length, areas discussed, number of dogs visiting the area, vandalism, families not wanting dogs where children play, Amount of dog waste. The proposal was put to the vote, three Councillors in favour two against. Resolved that a Dog Agility circuit would be built on the Parish Councils piece of land. It was queried if planning permission would be required Clerk to investigate.

The proposed budget was agreed unanimously.

22. To receive the Financial Report and agree the payment of expenditure incurred in the last month. The Clerk presented the finance report, attached, Cllr Park commented that the swing seats had cost more than was originally stated. The report was accepted and agreed by all present

23. Public Participation. None

24. Any other relevant business not included on the agenda. The Chairman stated that he intended to clean the signs in the recreation ground again, Councillors agreed.

The Chairman stated that he would contact the residents of 2 Manor Court about their hedge, he will arrange to cut it back as agreed earlier in the year.

The Chairman raised the issue of the Policies that he had updated and needed approval by Councillors. The Clerk advised that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting

25. Items for the next Agenda. Approval of updated policies

27. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7:30pm. This was agreed by all present.

The meeting closed at 9:36pm

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

