

Minutes of the meeting of Griston Parish Council held at Angelica Place on Tuesday 3rd November 2015.

Attending: Malcolm Bellingham (Chairman), David Barnett, Tracey Johnson, Stephanie Merritt-Morling, Andrew Merritt-Morling, Malcolm Newby and two members of the public.

1. Public Participation: There were no questions.
2. Apologies received from: Stewart Southgate, PCSO Tonya Winsley, Philip Cowen.
3. Declarations of interest: None
4. Minutes of the meeting of 1st September were approved
5. Matters Arising:
 - a) Village sign – Mr Barnett reported that funding was available from Breckland Council’s Pride grant, to a maximum of £1000. This would still leave a considerable sum to raise if it was decided to go with the resin option. However he was prepared to ask local businesses for sponsorship. He asked members for their views on the options for replacement of the existing sign, metal, produced by inmates at Wayland prison, the cheapest option or resin produced by Fiona Davies from a mould, made by her, of the existing sign. Mr Newby suggested the resin and to keep the original sign to display somewhere in the village, possibly the church. Mrs Johnson said that Fiona had said this was an option, as the original would not be damaged, by making the mould. The consensus was for the resin option. Mr Barnett said the only problem was that funding would not be in place in time to get the new sign made before the spring. Mr Newby proposed that council funds could be used. Mr Barnett proposed that Fiona Davies be asked to make a re-usable mould and to produce a resin copy. This was agreed.
 - b) Clerk – The Chairman reported that there had been an application for the vacancy and an interview would take place.
 - c) Former MOD land – The Clerk had sent an email to Jill Iles at Mitchelmores, the former solicitor for the MOD, who had agreed to pass this on to the new solicitor. As there had been no response the clerk had asked for a contact but there was only had a general email address no specific contact. Jill Iles would however chase the enquiry. The Clerk would ask Spire solicitors if they had a new contact.
 - d) Griston Community Committee funds – A cheque for £1200 had been received and banked.
 - e) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Mrs Merritt-Morling asked if Angelica Place could be booked for a meeting on Saturday 28th November at 5pm.
 - f) Speed Watch Scheme – The Clerk reported only two people had expressed an interest. She suggested Speed Watch could be mentioned at the Neighbourhood Watch meeting.
 - g) Bank change of mandate – The form had not yet been sent as two councillors forms were still awaited.
6. Police – The September crime figures showed seven crimes five of which were at the prison. Mr Merritt-Morling asked why the crimes at the prison were included in the village statistics. The Chairman explained the Council had tried to get this changed without success the only concession being that the council is

now informed of the number occurring at the prison.

7. Recreation ground:

- a) Annual inspection report repairs: The Clerk had obtained a quote for Cushionfall – 30 20kg bags including delivery £147 Plus VAT. She was asked to get a further quote for a larger quantity. She asked if The Play Inspection Company be booked to carry out the inspection next year. Mr Newby said they were the cheapest so proposed they be booked.
- b) No Barbecue sign – The Clerk asked if she should get a quote for signs. The Chairman suggested three signs would be needed one for each entrance.
- c) Nettles – The Chairman said the nettles were dead when he checked.
- d) Gate – The Clerk had asked Griston Engineering if they could quote for the new entrance gate. The owner is to phone to arrange a site meeting. Highways had no objections and Breckland had confirmed planning permission would not be needed.

8. Highways:

- a) Parking on verges – There is no bylaw to restrict parking on verges. It was agreed to put an item on the website and in The Waylander asking people not to park on the verges. Mrs Parker asked who was responsible for the grass at the Carbrooke Road entrance to the recreation ground as this does not get cut. Mr Newby thought this would be Highways. The Clerk to contact Highways.

9. Correspondence:

- a) BT Phone box – The Clerk had made enquiries and the BT phone box is available to adopt. However as this appears to be on private land the only person who can adopt is the landowner or they can give permission for the council to adopt. The Clerk would try to ascertain who the owner of the property is.

10. Planning:

- a) Net Matters Ltd – Outline permission for 2 residential properties. Plans had been passed round between meetings and objections made. The Clerk had received new plans showing different layout. There were no objections to the revised plans.
- b) A Garner – Single storey side extension to existing straw barn. These plans had been received after the agenda had been compiled. Mr Newby declared an interest. There were no objections to the plans.

11. Financial:

- a) Berryman – glass recycling £9.18
- b) Manorcourt – hire of room £8
- c) RG Maintenance Services Ltd – churchyard grass cutting £144 (2 invoices)
- d) The Play Inspection Company Ltd – play equipment inspection £71.94
- e) Citizens Advice Bureau – appeal £50
- f) Wayland Partnership – appeal £450
- g) B Park - ¼ salary to 30th September £406.92
- h) HMRC – PAYE £101.80

Mr Bellingham proposed the accounts be paid.

12. Transparency Code Funding – The Clerk explained that funding is available to help with the costs of compliance with the new Transparency Code including the purchase of laptop and scanner. She explained the current laptop is quite old and does not have internet connection. She had obtained a quote of £399 for a Lenovo B50 with Windows 7 and Microsoft Office Starter (Word &

Excel). Funding for a laptop is available to £350. Mr Merritt-Morling and Mr Barnett thought cheaper options were available.

13. Precept:

The Clerk had prepared a budget for 2016/17, which she distributed to members, as she had received no notification of when Breckland would require the Precept figure. However the date had now been received and does not have to be with Breckland until 31st January. This would give time for the proposals to be considered and any adjustments made.

14. AOB:

- a) Village Plan – The Chairman said this would be put on the January agenda. The Clerk gave Mr Merritt- Morling a copy of the previous Village Appraisal and said Wayland Partnership had looked into costs of online surveys which would be around £300 and they could help with hard copy versions.
- b) Mr Barnett asked if a letter could be sent to Myhills head office at Wymondham asking if they would sponsor some daffodil bulbs to be planted on the grass area at Thompson Road.
- c) Mr Merritt-Morling said he was willing to attend the Community Action Norfolk meeting at Garboldisham. Mr Bellingham would also attend.
- d) The Clerk said it had been suggested at a previous meeting that the noticeboard by the former shop should be moved to near the recreation ground. The building was now on the market and perhaps the noticeboard should be moved before the building was sold.
- e) The date of the next meeting set for Tuesday 12th January 2016.

Following the departure of the public the applicant for the post of Clerk, Margaret Parker, was interviewed. She confirmed she was willing to undertake training and that she had previous experience of minute taking. The Chairman proposed Mrs Parker be appointed to the post seconded Mr Merritt-Morling. A start date of 1st December was agreed.