

Minutes of the meeting of Griston Parish Council held at Angelica Place on Tuesday 7th July 2015.

Attending: Malcolm Bellingham (Chairman), David Barnett, Stephanie Merritt-Morling, Malcolm Newby, Stewart Southgate, Paula Gilluley (Police Prison Liason Officer), Tracey Johnson and Andrew Merritt-Morling and one member of the public.

1. Apologies: Stan Hebburn (County Councillor) and PCSO Tonya Winsley
2. Declarations of interest: Mrs Merritt-Morling and Mr Newby declared an interest in item 3 and left the room.
3. Co-option to fill two vacancies: Three applications had been received and all the applicants had been invited to attend the meeting but only two were present. The Chairman said that as the third applicant had not attended or sent an apology he proposed that Tracey Johnson and Andrew Merritt-Morling be co-opted, seconded Mr Barnett. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were signed and the Pecuniary Interest forms were handed to the new members.
4. Minutes of the meeting of 3rd March and the AGM held on 12th May. Mrs Merritt-Morling pointed out her name was spelled wrong on the AGM minutes. The minutes were otherwise confirmed as correct and signed
5. Matters arising:
 - a) Damage to gravestones – the Clerk said Mr Pask had offered to speak to the contractors when they began the grass cutting but she had not heard from him. She pointed out it had been Mr Pask who had complained about damage.
 - b) Street lights – Mr Barnett said he had received a letter pointing out that during the discussions on the street lights there had been no mention of safety, the priority appeared to be money not safety. While on the subject the Chairman said that the light near Thorp House had not been working for some time. The Clerk pointed out she cannot report outages if she is not informed of them.
 - c) Website – Mr Barnett reported there were now over 50 people on the mailing list.
 - d) Clerk – Due to the length of time arranging interviews both clerks who had offered locum services were no longer available.
 - e) Former MOD land – when the Clerk had contacted the solicitor she was told the letter had not been sent to Mr Chapman as there had been a delay in the paper work being passed from the Attleborough office to Watton.
 - f) Dog waste bins – Mr Merritt-Morling offered to paint the dog waste bins.
 - g) The Clerk had found the article about the lady, Fiona Davies, who restores village signs. She would contact her to obtain details of charges.
 - h) Litter picking equipment – Mr Pask had contacted the Clerk to say the Griston Community Committee would not provide funding to purchase the equipment. However the Committee has decided to close the GCC and hand over the funds to the Parish Council with the proviso that these are ring fenced “to be spent only for the good of the village”. The GCC also has a large marquee for which they have received an offer from a group outside the village but Mr Pask asked if the Parish Council wished to take ownership of the marquee for use in the village, if so he would go back to the committee. It was unanimously felt the marquee should remain in the village.
 - i) Former Quantrill steelworks – SCWS had written to say a fence would be installed to try to stop some of the problems and work would be starting to clear

- the concrete. The nettles along the pavement would also be cut back.
6. Police – There were 9 crimes in May 5 of which were at the prison. Paula Gilluley informed the meeting that due to the number of “throw over’s” of prohibited items at the prison particularly in the Manor Road area she was looking at ways to target harden the perimeter fence. One of these was to close the footpath from Manor Road. It was pointed out that many parishioners used the footpath as part of a circular walk but Paula said the footpath was on prison property and not a public footpath. Mr Newby said if this had not been enforced and the public had used it since the prison had been opened it had become common access. Mr Barnett asked why the footpath could not be re-routed away from the prison fence. It was agreed this could be a solution.
 7. Recreation ground:
 - a) Replacement of safety mats with bark - Playdale had told the Chairman that the safety mats were the preferred option under the zip wire as bark will not stay in place.
 - b) Fence – The Clerk thought that Mr Hall had re-tensioned the top of the fence by the cycleway. She had received a call that the bottom of the fence had been lifted up to gain access. This had now been staked down.
 - c) Football posts – The Clerk had been contacted by the new owners of the house adjacent to the old playing field to ask if the goal posts could be moved as there was a problem with footballs hitting their fence or landing in their garden. Mr Newby pointed out the goal posts were in place long before the house was built.
 8. Highways:
 - a) Damaged verge – this had been reported to Highways but they had not replied, it may be that they are waiting for BT to complete their work.
 - b) Road closure – BT’s agents had been contacted regarding the proposed road closure for five Sundays from 12th July to ask if the closure on Sunday 12th July could be delayed and an extra one added at the end if needed. The response was that the work had already been completed and so no closure would be required.
 9. Correspondence:
 - a) J Hulyer – a letter sent by Mr Hulyer, with a request that the points included be made available to members at the next meeting, was read out.
 10. Planning:
 - a) Permission had been granted for Mrs Fisher’s application for a new vehicular access at The Bluff
 - b) Prior approval of proposed change of use of an agricultural building to dwelling house – Mr Ulrych had made an application for the building to the rear of the park home site. Breckland is not seeking the views of the Parish Council at this stage.
 11. To consider a policy for payment of councillors expenses – the Clerk explained that Mrs Merritt-Morling had requested a mileage claim form. As she had never had a request for one before she made enquiries of NALC who had advised that it depended on council policy but could be paid. The recommended rate was 45p per mile which is below the taxable limit. Mr Barnett said he thought the council should have a policy to pay mileage claims but councillors would have a choice to claim or not. This was agreed.
 12. Financial:
 - a) Berryman – glass recycling £1.75
 - b) Manorcourt Day Centre – hire of room £8

- c) RG Maintenance – churchyard grass cutting £144 + £144
- d) Breckland Council – Chairmanship training £50
- e) B Park ¼ salary to 30th June £407.12
- f) HMRC – PAYE £101.60

Mr Barnett proposed the accounts be paid seconded Mrs Merritt-Morling.

- 13. Standing orders – The Clerk will email a copy of new Standing Orders to members before the next meeting.

14. AOB:

- a) Speed limit on Caston Road - Stefan Drury said he had previously spoken to Jon Hall about a possible speed limit for Caston Road. It was explained that Highways had agreed to extend the speed limit to beyond Little London but would not take it further due to the lack of houses. However due to financial constraints they were not able to fund this yet. The Clerk was asked to speak to the police to ask for a speed check on Caston Road and to obtain details of how to set up a Community Speedwatch scheme and to contact Stan Hebburn regarding the extension to the speed limit.
- b) Neighbourhood Watch – Mrs Merritt-Morling would like to explore the possibility of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. .
- c) Cycle ride – Mrs Johnson said there would be a charity cycle ride starting and finishing at The Waggon and Horses on August Bank Holiday.
- d) There being no further business the meeting closed with the date of the next meeting set for Tuesday 1st September