

The meeting began at 7.30pm

Attending: David Barnett (Chairman), Takis Zachariades (Vice-Chairman), Nicky Hornsey, Tracey Johnson, Marie McGuinness, Rose Woolhouse, Margaret Parker (Clerk), Claire Bowes (County Councillor) and six members of the public.

1. Public participation - There were two queries from members of the public.
The first concerned the previously agreed removal of the old goalposts from the recreation ground. The Chairman explained that this would be done but had yet to be organised.
The second was concerning the agreed purchase of the village gates. The resident was concerned that a large amount of money was to be spent on these with little, or no, perceived benefit. He did not believe that they will alter the speed of vehicles in the village. He felt that there were more effective ways of dealing with the problem.
The Chairman explained that the gates would remind people that they were entering a village and that they should slow down and drive more carefully.
2. Apologies received from: PCSO Tonya Winsley.
3. Declarations of interest: All Parish Councillors had previously declared an interest in item 9 (ii) on the agenda. Dispensations were requested and granted.
4. Minutes of the meeting of 1st November 2016 were approved without amendment.
5. Co-option of Parish Councillors
One application had been received in relation to the vacancy that is currently open for co-option. The application received from Peter Ginger had been considered by the Councillors prior to the meeting.
Mr Ginger was co-opted to the Parish Council by means of a vote. He signed the necessary declaration of acceptance of office form and was then invited to join the other Councillors to take part in the meeting.
The decision was made that Mr Peter Ginger be co-opted to the Parish Council.
6. Items for information:
 - a) Village gates funding application – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the bid for 50% of the cost of the Village gates had now been submitted to the Parish Partnership fund at NCC. The total cost of the gates before funding currently stands at £5550. The bid had been acknowledged by NCC and a decision is due in mid-March.
 - b) Land purchase – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that contact had finally been made with the current owner of the land that they had agreed to purchase. He was still agreeable to sell the piece of land for the original asking price of £12,000. The Clerk explained to the Councillors that a planning application will be required at a cost of £192.50 for change of use from agricultural to recreational. The legal costs for the purchase were likely to be in excess of £1000. As the Parish Council's solicitor had retired just before Xmas there was currently a slight delay in the purchase procedure whilst the files were being transferred to his successor.
 - c) Removal of tree – The professional removal of the dead tree in the recreation area has been organised to take place on 13th February.
 - d) Breckland Play & Sport fund – Breckland Council have again invited Parish Councils in their area to apply for a share of the funding pot available for play and sports projects. Griston has been grouped with Merton, Thompson and Caston and the amount available to this group is £17080. In order to make an application for this funding the Parish Council would need to supply a fully formulated plan, three quotes for the suggested project and evidence that the community had been properly consulted on the matter. Any necessary permissions would also need to be in place. This funding was previously offered in May but the Parish Council was unable to apply at that time due to the lack of ideas for any suitable projects. There was a fairly short deadline for applications to be made. Breckland Council indicated that any remaining unclaimed money from this fund would be made available again at some point. The Clerk advised, at that time, that if the Council wanted

to apply for funding in the future then plans would need to be developed and consultations carried out in advance of any offer. There have been no ideas put forward or any further discussion on the matter in the last eight months so the Parish Council is, again, not in a position to put forward an application. This was the last offer of a share of this funding from Breckland Council. This fund consisted of monies paid by developers as a condition of their planning permissions. Any unclaimed monies from this round of funding will be returned to the developers.

7. Police/SNAP – The most recent available crime figures were for October and November. October's figures showed a total of 19 crimes for Griston, 16 of these were prison related. November's figures showed a total of 29 crimes for Griston, 27 of these were prison related. The meeting was informed that the next SNAP meeting would be held at Watton Fire Station on 18th January at 2pm. An invitation had been received for Councillors to attend a 'Policing Breckland' presentation on 19th January. Councillor Hornsey agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
8. Planning – The Clerk reported that all applications received were now being published on the PC website as agreed at the previous meeting. Interest had already been shown in this and contact had been made by a resident regarding one of the applications.

Applications received and distributed for comments since last meeting:

a) Carbrooke Road	3PL/2016/1358	Comments submitted
b) Manor House	3PL/2016/1403	Comments submitted
c) Caston Road	3PL/2016/1415	Comments submitted

9. Financial:

- i. The Clerk requested that a reserve be created to cover the PC share of the cost of the village gateways. This reserve would be created by the re-allocation of £2347 from the land purchase reserve and £653 which is the remainder of the currently unallocated reserve.

A decision was made to create a reserve of £3000 to cover the cost of the village gateways.

- ii. The Clerk had produced the proposed budget for 2017/18. The Councillors had each been given a copy of the proposed budget and proposed allocation of the reserves prior to the meeting for their consideration. This budget will mean an increase in the required precept for the year of £58. The last increase was in 2015 (£488).

The decision was made to agree the proposed budget and the proposal for the allocation of reserves for 2017/18.

A further decision was made that a precept amount of £8196 be requested from Breckland Council for 2017/18.

iii.

To **approve** payment of accounts:

a) Berryman	£19.80
b) Norse	£1,071.16
c) M Parker - Expenses to 31st December 2016	£51.67
d) EON - November & December	£54.34
	£1,196.97

Receipts

a) Proceeds of marquee sale	£300.00
b) Donation to Parish Council	£12,000.00
	£12,300.00

All accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

- iv. The Clerk had obtained three quotes for the purchase of a litter bin to be sited on the Recreation ground. Two of the quotes were for £248.95 plus VAT each. The other quote was for £291.73 plus VAT. The Clerk explained that although more expensive, this bin had a bigger capacity, a larger base to make it more stable on such an exposed site and the option of a plastic, rather than a metal liner. It was hoped, this would be longer lasting. The bin was needed to replace the previous wheelie bin that had melted after catching fire when a hot disposable barbeque had been placed in

it. Councillor McGuinness suggested that a metal liner would be more suitable in the event of this happening again. The Clerk pointed out that this was a lidded bin with the main body made of plastic and although a metal liner would not melt in the event of a fire, the rest of the bin would. The Clerk advised that the bin could be purchased without the decorative gold bands for £270.21 plus VAT.

A decision was made to purchase the 'Plaza' litter bin at a cost of £270.21 plus VAT. It was agreed that the payment will be authorised before the next meeting if necessary.

10. Litter Pick – Councillor Barnett was concerned that since the resignation of Councillor Stephanie Merritt-Morling, who had previously organised and carried out the regular litter picks, the village was becoming untidy. He proposed that the litter picks should be re-instated and asked the Councillors if any of them would take on the task of organising and carrying them out. He had suggested that the Parish Council should purchase the necessary equipment. The Clerk advised that no allowance had been made in the budget for this as when this had been requested by Mrs Merritt-Morling previously, the Parish Council had decided against it. The equipment was available, on loan, free of charge from Breckland Council.

A decision was made that Councillor Hornsey and Councillor McGuinness would organise the reinstatement of regular litter picks.

11. Village Appraisal – A discussion took place regarding the need for a properly organised village appraisal to be carried out. This would enable the Parish Council to be better understand the views, wishes and future needs of the residents of the village that they represent. The Clerk informed the meeting that this exercise is usually carried out approximately every five years. The last appraisal in Griston was seventeen years ago. In order for this to be useful it would need to include questions designed to gather information about the age ranges (particularly of the children), lifestyles, leisure pursuits, car use, use of public transport etc. Although the Parish Council would not necessarily be in a position to provide solutions to everything that this may bring to light, it is hoped that it may suggest at least some achievable future aims.

A decision was made that a Village Appraisal should take place. The Clerk will organise this and compose a suitable questionnaire for approval by the Parish Council.

12. Village website – Following the clarification by the Chairman and the Councillors at the meeting in July that the village website is run totally independently by the Chairman as a private individual and not in his role as a Councillor, the Clerk had advised him that the Parish Council should not continue to pay the entire running costs of this website. Any future payment to him should only be a contribution towards the cost and the VAT element was not reclaimable by the Parish Council. This is the same situation that was discussed at the meeting in November with regard to the grass cutting in the Churchyard when it was decided that the Parish Council could no longer pay the entire cost of the grass cutting but only a contribution towards it. Due to the obligation for the Parish Council to publish certain legally required documents online it had previously used a page on the village website for this purpose. It now has its own website that is provided free of charge so there is no longer any necessity for this arrangement. The Chairman informed the Council that his annual cost for running the village website was £45 and he felt that the Parish Council should reimburse him for the full cost. It was suggested by the Vice-Chairman that the Parish Council should pay a contribution towards this but after some discussion by the Chairman and the other Councillors the majority decided that they wanted the Council to pay the entire £45. The Clerk pointed out that should any other residents in the future decide to set up a similar website, then they would also be entitled, in the interest of fairness, to expect the entire costs to be met by the Parish Council. The Clerk reminded the Council that they had earlier in this meeting agreed the budget for 2017/18 that had included only a £30 contribution to the village website. The extra cost would now need to be found from somewhere else.

A decision was made that the Parish Council will continue to pay the entire costs for the privately run village website.

The next meeting will be held on at 7.30pm on 2nd March 2017 at Caston Village Hall.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.35pm.