

Minutes of meeting of Griston Parish Council held at the church of St. Peter & St Paul, Griston on Monday 27th November 2017.

The meeting began at 7.30pm.

In attendance: Tracey Johnson (Vice-Chairman), Nicky Hornsey, Peter Ginger, David Barnett, Marie McGuinness, Claire Bowes (County Councillor), Phillip Saunders (Head of Residence and Safety HMP Wayland) and eight members of the public.

1. Appointment of Chairman: David Barnett was unanimously appointed as Chairman.
2. No apologies received.
3. Declaration of interest: There were no declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.
4. Minutes of the meeting held 4th September 2017 confirmed and approved without amendment.
5. To discuss any matters arising from the September minutes (not on the agenda)
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD – No contributions from the public at this point.
6. Discussion of proposals from HMP Wayland to install a gate at the end of Manor Road deferred until the arrival of Mr Philip Saunders (HMP Wayland) at which point the Public will be further invited to discuss the proposals.

Councillor Claire Bowes arrived.

7. The Chairman briefed the public on the matter of current Parish Councillor vacancies informing them that no candidates had been forthcoming therefore the Parish Council would continue as they are with five members, pending further applications.
8. The public were informed that there is now a vacancy for a Parish Clerk. The last meeting had to be cancelled due to circumstances which meant that the locum Parish Clerk had to be released from their responsibilities to the Council. A brief summary of what the role of a Parish Clerk would entail followed – if anyone is interested in the role please e-mail gristonclerk@gmail.com and full details can be forwarded to you.
9. The Chairman gave an update on work to be done on the recreation ground and on purchases of materials. Heavy duty membrane has been purchased for fitting under the climbing frame once the cushion fall in the same area has been removed and replaced. A

working party needs to be put together to carry out such works and any maintenance required in the Spring. All offers of help from volunteers gratefully appreciated – please e-mail gristonclerk@gmail.com if interested in helping in this regard.

10. The Chairman gave an update of correspondence received – We have been informed that Mazars will no longer audit our books, this will be taken over by PKF Littlejohn. It is believed that this will not incur a charge due to the size of our income – this will be clarified once the proposed budget for 2018/19 had been finalised.

11. Update regarding weeds/nettles within the village – The Chairman informed the meeting that there had been a clean up of the weeds and nettles that had been imposing upon parts of Stan's Walk therefore making part of it almost impassable, Gilman's Drift which is located at the Watton end of the Walk had a similar problem and this has been resolved also. Councillor Bowes was instrumental in getting the work done and thanks was given in this regard. The Chairman said that he will endeavour to contact the landowners of the two other sites (the old Quantrills site and the area opposite The Hollies on Church Road), identified as problem areas within the village.

12. Litter Pick – Councillor McGuinness updated the meeting with regards to the village litter pick which took place in October. Turnout was very poor with only five households contributing to the pick. Thanks and appreciation was expressed to those who helped and an invitation to participate was issued to others to participate in the next one which should take place in the Spring, notification of which will appear on the village website and in the Waylander.

Mr Philip Sanders (HMP Wayland) arrived and the meeting returned to discuss item 6 (Proposal by HMP Wayland to install a gate at the end of Manor Road) on the agenda.

6. Mr Saunders was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman and invited to inform those present of the proposals.

Mr Sanders said that the current proposals were to install a key code controlled gate at the Manor Road entrance to the prison that residents of the village would remain to have access through thus enabling them to continue to use the path that passed by the prison. The gate would be installed in order to prevent people having unauthorised access to the site via the Manor Road entrance – it is a deterrent, one of many that are being looked at by the prison at the moment. He had come to the meeting to get the views of the villagers on the proposals. It was ascertained that the key code would be changed regularly and that the gate would enable pram access. The Chairman said that people were pleased that we have been consulted but that there were worries about the code being secure. A resident asked whether there would be extra security at the Thompson Road entrance to the establishment to prevent unauthorised access there to which Mr Saunders could not offer an answer.

Worries were voiced that in the event that the gate didn't work to prevent unauthorised access then the gate would be closed and access to the residents would be rescinded – Mr Saunders replied that that was not in the Governors thoughts.

Mr Saunders informed the meeting that he would return to HMP Wayland with the feedback from the meeting. Staff at the prison will also be consulted about their thoughts on the proposals.

13. Planning – none to report.

14. SAM2 sign funding update – Councillor Bowes enquired of the Parish Council whether they intended to proceed with their intention to install a SAM2. The Chairman responded that they did, in which case Councillor Bowes advised that Ben Raynor is the Highways Engineer the PC needs to contact. She also said that she will contribute £1,000 towards funding of the project from her own personal fund for small villages. Councillor Bowes was thanked for her generous contribution to the fund and the meeting was informed that a couple of sites for the SAM2 have already been identified. The Chairman said that he hoped to give a lead time update on the implementation at the next meeting.

The meeting was informed that the 30mph sign at the top of Church Road had been knocked down but plans were in hand to have it re-erected – Councillor Bowes advised that Ben Raynor, Highways Engineer could help with this also.

15. Skate park – Councillor Johnson enquired as to whether any information had been found out with regards to whether having a skate park in the village would be viable. The Chairman said that he would investigate.

16. Land purchase – Councillor Johnson gave an update to the meeting. Due to the recent changes within the Parish Council i.e. change of Chairman, it could be well into December before paperwork for the purchase of the land (located adjacent to the recreation ground opposite Carbrooke Road) would be finalised. The Chairman will pay a visit to the solicitors (Spire in Watton) for a further update.

17. SNAP - no crime figures available at this time.

18. Financial payments:

To approve payment of accounts

URM (glass recycling)	£ 9.00
Pearce and Kemp Ltd (Lighting maintenance)	£ 100.80
Norse (Grass cutting – recreation ground)	£1,071.16

G Hubbard - expenses

£ 103.44

£1,284.40

19. Bank account signatories – Councillors Barnett, Johnson and McGuinness were confirmed as bank account signatories.

20. Village appraisal – The Chairman informed the meeting that the Village Appraisal process was progressing well, and the working group now comprised of Councillors Barnett, Hornsey and McGuinness since the resignation of Rose Woolhouse.

21. Parish Room – Councillors Barnett (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Hornsey (Chairman of the Griston Festival Committee) are to attend the next PCC meeting to discuss the situation with regards to moving forward with an update on what is happening with the Parish room with the feedback to be given and the next Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting to be held on the 8th of January 2018 at 7.30pm in Griston Church.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.