

**GARVESTONE, REYMERSTON & THUXTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting on Monday 14th September 2020 virtually by Zoom at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Mr M Garrod, Mrs T Garrod, Mrs C Harris, Mr G Smith, Mr S Smith and Mr L Smith.
Also present: District Councillor I Martin and P Claussen, County Councillor E Connolly, residents and the clerk.

20/113 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Reade.

20/114 To receive declarations of interest and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

20/115 To agree the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 10th August 2020

The minutes of the meeting were signed as a true record.

20/116 To receive matters arising from last Parish Council meeting

None.

20/117 To receive clerk's report

19/87 The village gateways are now in place. They have been added to the insurance schedule at no additional cost for this year. Mr Garrod has spoken to the landowner of the hedge impeding view of one of the gateways and it is hoped the hedge will be trimmed back. Mr Garrod said he had received very pleasant comments from members of the public about the new gateways. Mrs Garrod said she had also received positive feedback.

20/66 The clerk has received an email from Mrs Reade about bird scarers being used again and has passed on information about how to report this to Breckland Council.

20/99 The clerk has asked the Reymerston churchwarden for clarification of the amount spent on grass cutting of Reymerston Remembrance space this year. This will be provided for the next meeting.

20/100 Due to the new rule of six, it will not be possible to arrange a parish footpath walk at present.

20/102 Mr Martin has been told that officers are minded to refuse 3PL/2020/0861/O Reymerston Road.

The clerk asked whether a new defibrillator battery should be ordered at a cost of £160. The existing battery was bought in October 2014. It was agreed to order a new battery.

20/118 To receive correspondence

- Member of the public – information about the history of plans for a railway halt at Garvestone and the triangle of land leased by the Parish Council.
- Garvestone Village Hall will be taking some bookings from 1 October 2020. The kitchen and meeting room will remain off-limits, and a one-way system will be in place.
- Mr Gooch – the new private road at The Lings has been named Tolvers Loke.
- Member of the public – complaint about obstructions on highways verges – the clerk will suggest the issues be reported to NCC Highways.

20/119 To receive members' items

Mr Garrod thanked Mr Martin very much for his support and work in relation to the Reymerston Road planning application 3PL/2020/0861/O, and the appeal of the planning application on Dereham Road 3PL/2020/0328/O.

Mr S Smith said he has not been receiving electoral register updates from Breckland Council. Other councillors are having the same issue. The clerk will contact Breckland about this.

Mr S Smith said he was concerned about bright lights on the fronts of houses, particularly now it is getting darker and asked whether the Parish Council should adopt the CPRE light pollution guidelines for existing homes. It was agreed the clerk will look into whether there is any action the Parish Council can take in relation to enforcing light pollution guidelines and this will be put on the next agenda.

Mr S Smith reported that the Garvestone play area is closed whilst awaiting repairs.

Mr G Smith reported that the bench on North Green is in disrepair and may be unsafe. Mr Garrod said he would have a look at it and this will be an item on the next agenda.

Mrs T Garrod asked if there could be access to the lefthand side of the Garvestone noticeboard. The clerk will try to find out who has the key.

It was suggested that socially distanced litter pick be arranged. Mrs Harris will arrange this.

20/120 To receive items for the next agenda

Remembrance project

20/121 To agree comments to Breckland Council on any new planning applications

3PL/2020/0824/F

Mr & Mrs Williams
Oak Leaves, Mattishall Road
NR9 4QN

Proposed single storey rear extension
to existing holiday let/granny flat
No objections

20/122 To note results of planning application

None.

20/123 To receive an update on the licensing application for Reymerton Hall

The clerk gave an update. After the clerk had made a representation objecting strongly to the conditions, the licensing officer notified the clerk that the applicant had agreed to revise the licensing application to include a list of conditions to comply with the planning conditions including limiting the number of events to 30 weddings per year and the number of guests to 130 and noise control measures. These agreed conditions form part of the licence and as such are enforceable. The licensing officer asked whether in the light of this, the Parish Council wished to withdraw its representation. The clerk consulted with councillors who agreed to withdraw the Parish Council representation as the objections had been resolved. Mr I Martin said that this application had been a learning curve and that the different statutory systems to which planning and licensing work has made this difficult. Mr Martin said that he understood that the owners of Reymerton Hall may apply for changes to the planning permission.

20/124 To note that the mobile Post Office is restarting on Mondays 12.15 pm to 1.15 pm

The clerk reported that Mr Williams has informed her that he will not be able to start the service this week due to the van not being released, but will start next Monday 21 September.

20/125 To receive an update on the Remembrance project

Mr G Smith gave an update. It is now hoped to have the trees and shelter in place for this November. There has had to be a slight redesign of the siting of the trees due to the diocese's views in relation to the land retaining its possible future use as a churchyard, and the trees will now be planted at the edge of the space. There are a group of people planning to carry out the practical work during October. Help with erecting the shelter was requested and Mr L Smith agreed to help. Mrs T Garrod suggested that the wording on the signage could include reference to other people who suffered in WW1 including women.

Mr Garrod requested that a system be agreed to allow signing of cheques for the Remembrance project between meetings so that the ordering and delivery will not be held up. The following was proposed: the clerk will circulate the spreadsheet showing the Remembrance project budget, invoices for items on the spreadsheet received between meetings will be forwarded to councillors for them to agree payment and the clerk will then arrange for cheques to be written and signed. This was seconded by Mrs T Garrod and all agreed.

20/126 To consider the government consultation on “Changes to the current planning system” and decide any response

Cllr I Martin presented some notes of the consultation with his views. Breckland’s current Local Plan is based on delivering 612 new dwellings per year. The new figure courtesy of the changes to the planning system” algorithm would be 1,070 dwellings. Councillors agreed with Mr Martin’s views. It was agreed the clerk will write in response to the consultation opposing the proposals and copying in Cllrs Martin and Claussen and George Freeman MP. Mr Martin said that there would be a briefing of Breckland Council members on 15 September and he hoped that Breckland would be objecting.

20/127 To note the government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and decide whether to investigate its suitability for parish residents/businesses

It was agreed to look further into this. The clerk will circulate information and ask residents to get in touch if they are interested so that the level of interest can be gauged.

20/128 To discuss moving the Garvestone phone box to outside Garvestone village hall

There was a general discussion about the desirability and feasibility of moving the Garvestone phone box. The clerk has contacted BT who have said moving it would cost several thousands and have given a contact for requesting a move. The box is listed. It was agreed that the clerk will investigate the likelihood of being able to move it, and the process for getting permission. Mr S Smith and Mr Garrod will have a look at the box to assess the practicalities of moving it and whether this could be done by volunteers.

20/129 To discuss a halt for MNR at Garvestone

Mr S Smith said that new stations need planning permission from the Office of Rail Regulation as well as from Breckland Council. A platform would need to be north of the signal and would need to take the longest expected train of 6 coaches. The cost would be tens of thousands of pounds. The Polar Express has been cancelled this year, and Mid-Norfolk Railway would not be able to afford this. It was agreed to take no further action.

20/130 To discuss obstructions to highways in the parish and decide on any action

The clerk has put information explaining the extent of the highway – from boundary to boundary as including any verge – on the website. NCC do not seem to publicise their stance on obstructions on verges. It was agreed that any issues with obstructions on verges should be directed to NCC as they are the body with powers to take action, information on the legalities etc. The clerk will put a note to this effect on the website.

20/131 To agree changes to the Financial Regulations to allow electronic payments

The changes to the Financial Regulations to allow electronic payments were agreed. Mr S Smith proposed that a rota of councillor signatories be set up to generate and authorise electronic payments, on a three-monthly basis, seconded by Mr G Smith and all agreed. Mr S Smith will contact Barclays to find out how signatories can get internet banking access.

20/132 Financial report

a. To approve receipts and payments

Payments			Net	VAT	Total
Frances Needham	Clerk's pay September 2020	1495	£280.66		£280.66
Frances Needham	Norfolk Pension Fund pension contributions September 2020 (reimbursed to clerk who has paid)	1496	£84.65		£84.65
Frances Needham	Clerk's expenses Jun – Sept 2020	1497	£71.24		£71.24
George Tufts & Son Ltd	Posts and bark – Remembrance Project	1498	£121.24	£24.25	£145.49
Dunster House Ltd	Shelter – Remembrance Project	1499	£2072.48	£414.49	£2486.97
Total			£2630.27	£438.74	£3069.01

Mrs T Garrod asked for a breakdown of the clerk's expenses. The expenses were Zoom subscriptions £43.17, printing £15.40, stationary £11.34, telephone £0.50, stamps £0.83.

b. To receive an update on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and Public Rights

The clerk reported that the AGAR and Notice of Public Rights have been put on the website.

20/133 To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public and press for the following confidential item:

a. To consider increasing the clerk's pay in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Salary Award

Mr S Smith proposed that members of the public and press be excluded for this item, seconded by Mrs T Garrod and all agreed. The NJC has agreed new pay scales from 1st April 2020. The clerk is on SCP11 which increases from £11.00 to £11.27 per hour. Mr S Smith proposed to increase the clerk's pay in line with the new pay scales, seconded by Mrs T Garrod and all agreed.

Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by Mrs T Garrod, seconded by Mr G Smith, all agreed.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 12 October 2020 virtually by Zoom. The Chair thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....
Date.....