

Gressingham Parish Council

Unconfirmed Minutes of the of the 407th
meeting held on 29th September 2025

A meeting of Gressingham Parish Council was held on 29th September 2025 at which the following people were present: Martin Brooks (MB) (Chair), Neil Read (NR), Sally Riley (SR) Grant Parker (GP) and the Clerk, Lesley Lee (LL).

407/1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Michele Luxon.

407/2 Declarations of Interest

There were no initial declarations of interest.

407/3 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th July 2025 were approved for signature by the Chair.

407/4 Matters arising from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere)

No matters were raised.

407/5 Finance and Governance

- a) 2025/26 in-year financial statement and budget monitoring as at 29th September 2025 and discussion of expenditure all for approval . Also, financial statement for July 2025 for approval.**

It was noted that the bank balance at the end of September was £8167.44
The budget monitoring sheet was discussed by LL showing expenditure to date and the remaining estimated expenditure for the current financial year.

It was suggested that we should check how the funds we donate to the OSR are actually spent as it is Council money.

It was noted that the agreed donation of £1000 to Gressingham Village Trust for the new roof will be required sometime next month. LL will action.

RESOLVED (proposed MB, seconded SR):

- i) to approve the 2025/26 financial statement to 29th September 2025 and that the chair should sign the accounts;***
ii) to agree expenditure as set out above. Action: LL

b) Monitoring against Annual Governance Cycle

It was noted that all actions had been carried out at the required times and included in relevant agendas and minutes.

We have now been issued with a Notification of Exemption Statement for our accounts ended 31st March 2025. LL showed to the committee.

407/6 Gressingham and Eskrigge Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

NR commented that the Annual Review would be due November.

407/7 Police and Crime/Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing of significance had been reported since the July meeting.

407/8 Planning and Tree Works

- a) **25/00811/FUL** - This application had been supported by PC but with a comment that the boundaries and access to Walnut Tree Cottage are agreed and respected.
This has now been approved.
- b) **25/00970/AD**– Deer Beck Farm. A reply to this application was sent to LCC planning by MB and ML, with contributions from other councillors and village residents. In this reply the PC expressed its concerns over the size, location and intended purpose of the proposed building. The PC also highlighted that errors and inconsistencies had been made within the application form and accompanying documents. A discussion followed between MB, GP and SR.
This has now been rejected.
- c) **25/00980/AD. Far Barn.** This application was supported by the PC.
No decision yet.

407/9 Road maintenance and traffic

a) Traffic issues and road safety concerns (including SpID update)

NR reported that following the visit of Councillor Crimmins at the last meeting he had again approached Lancashire County Council regarding a 20mph speed limit through the village. He had also copied Mr Crimmins into the email. No new arguments had been put forward as to why we cannot have one.

b) Road fault reports

NR also has again reported the tree problem opposite the OSR through the Love Clean Streets app and had the report closed immediately after issuing it twice!

SR reported that the water problem on the road at Fallkirk is still an issue with water pouring from the field through the wall alongside the water coming up through the road.

Also, the water problem on Rabbit Lane is still there even though pipes had been replaced so far along the road but not up to the main problem.

It was suggested that LL send an email regarding the above problems directly to the Highways at LCC to see if we can get anything further done. **LL to action.**

SR noted that a tree on private land at the junction between Sandbeds Lane and Eskrigge Lane is looking quite dangerous. MB will talk to the land owner.

407/10 Amenities and facilities

a) Defibrillator

It was noted that the device is regularly checked and its status updated on The Circuit website by SR. The current battery level is 69%.

a) White bridges path

It was agreed that a working party would be held on Saturday 1st November 9.30am. to 12.00.

SR will contact John to ask him to put information on the village newsletter. **Action: SR**

c) Gressingham Village Archive

NR has carried out a huge amount of work on this. It is now working well. Lesley and Frank Wareing are very involved too. SR has some photos she can upload. Roy Blanchfield has offered to load things on too.

d) GVT update

The next meeting is in November. The new roof is due to be completed in October along with the installation of Solar Panels.

407/11 Any correspondence received (not covered elsewhere)

SR has looked at an email which was sent out by the Local Authority regarding reorganisation to become more efficient. There are 5 different models suggested. SR then gave a detailed summary of the different models and which LA area each would cover.

SR has responded by the deadline stating that she thinks 3 Unitary Authorities would be best for the Lancaster area.

At the moment, Reform who control Lancashire CC do not wish to reorganise.

407/11 Date of next meeting

Monday 24th November 2025 was agreed as the date of next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Lesley Lee - Clerk to Gressingham Parish Council

*Note: these minutes are unconfirmed until ratified by the next meeting of **Gressingham PC***