

Gressingham Parish Council

Unconfirmed Minutes of the 408th meeting Held on Monday 24th November 2025

A meeting of Gressingham Parish Council was held on 24th November 2025 at which the following people were present. Martin Brooks (MB) (Chair), Michele Luxon (ML) (VC), Sally Riley (SR), Neil Read (NR), Grant Parker (GP), Lesley Lee (LL). County Councillor Crimmins was in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of interest

There were no initial declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th September 2025 were approved for signature by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

GVT – at the last meeting it was queried how our donation of £400 was used. MB explained that the expenditure up to the end of December 2024 was £3222, there were 68 events costing £47 each. The income generated to the end of £2023 was £5000+ leaving reserves of £2000. Capital expenditure is not included in these figures. The GVT annual accounts and list of trustees is available online here [The Charity Commission - GOV.UK](#)

5. Finance and Governance

a) Guidance on PC spending and adoption of Model Financial Regulations.

The Model Policy has been looked at by MB/LL and they are going through amending as necessary. It is hoped it will be nearer completion by our next meeting.

b) The current Unity Trust account balance is £8155.44.

c) 2025/26 in-year financial statement to 24th November 2025 was discussed.

The budget monitoring sheet shows what has been spent to date and known and estimated expenditure during the remainder of the financial year to 31st March 2026.

Reminder to all Councillors to log into Unity Trust account regularly to keep your login active.

d) Assets Register was reviewed.

e) Insurance Policy.

The renewal is due in February and, dependent upon everyone agreeing with the premium, we will stay with Zurich Insurance.

f) Internal Auditor.

MB has been to see Andrea Lumb the auditor who has confirmed that she no longer wishes to continue.

We, as a committee, would like to express our sincere thanks to Andrea for her support over many years. A small gift will be purchased to show our appreciation. MB.

g) **2026/2027 draft budget for discussion.**

An initial discussion took place. The Clerk's remuneration, as has previously been agreed, should be increased each year. NR will look at other small PC's to see how much they pay. The matter will be finalised at the January meeting before the precept has to be set on 1st February.

h) **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.

i) **Authority for £1000 grant to GVT**

The committee agreed that this grant can now be paid to GVT. Documentation will be required from GVT for accounting purposes and a receipt.

6. Gressingham and Eskrigge Community Emergency Plan update

NR will look at before January meeting

7. Police and crime/Neighbourhood Watch update

Nothing to report in the Gressingham area.

8. Planning and Tree Works Applications

a) New applications not previously considered – Nothing to report since the last meeting.

b) Update on applications previously considered by the PC – to date nothing has been received.

c) Tree works opposite OSR.

The trees leaning over GVT land opposite OSR. Jane Paxman on behalf of GVT has written to the owners of the trees and they have agreed to get a tree surgeon involved. The cherry tree in GVT land needs a tree surgeon to look at. MB ongoing with this.

9. Road Maintenance and Traffic

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

Both SpID's are working well. NR asked Councillor Crimmins about a 20mph speed limit again and he responded that there is no easy way round this as there are no funds available at present. Apparently, there was a meeting in Whittington, which Gressingham had no notification of, to discuss rural village speed limits. Apparently, the Hornby Contact newsletter advertised a meeting regarding the misuse of roads in the area. There followed a discussion with County Councillor Crimmins regarding speeding through the village.

b) Road fault reports update.

The water on the road in Fallkirk opposite the Church. No action from the Highways yet after an email from the PC..

Two reports in October regarding leaf fall blocking drains submitted but, as yet, no

response via the Love Clean Street app.

10. Amenities, facilities and environment

a) Defibrillator update.

SR reported that it is working well, Battery is at 61%. The defibrillator was donated by Lancashire County Council and North West Ambulance Service and is monitored through the British Heart Foundation and all updates and maintenance are recorded on their website.

b) White Bridges path update.

SR reported that a successful white bridges clean-up working party was held on 1st November with 20-25 residents helping at various times through the morning. GP will power wash shortly.

c) OSR/GVT update.

MB reported that the contractor is making good progress, one half of the roof is completed. The chimney has been repointed, Just one timber needed replacing. New gutters have been installed and the eaves are being repainted by MB, John Hamlett, Jon Laughton and Alex Philips. Jane and Louise have removed ivy from the side of the building.

The PC wishes to acknowledge their grateful thanks to all who have helped on this project. NR will pen a word or two to put in the Gress.

Another grant maybe needed from the PC when all the insulation of the walls and other various improvements of the OSR have commenced.

11. Any correspondence received (not covered elsewhere)

MB had received a letter from a volunteer from the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) regarding the paths along the River Lune asking the PC to look at repairing them. MB replied saying that the PC has had grants in the past to improve the paths and has been active in trying to keep the paths clear. MB also noted in his reply that the County Council is responsible for the public rights of way and not the Parish Council.

12. Any Other Business

NB Anything raised – either by PC members or by any Gressingham residents joining the meeting – can be discussed but no major decisions can be taken given that prior consideration will not have been possible.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 19th January 2026 was agreed as the date of the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Lesley Lee

Clerk to Gressingham PC

24th November 2025.

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