gGressingham Parish Council

Unconfirmed Minutes of the of the 413th
meeting held on 28th September 2026

A meeting of Gressingham Parish Council was held on 28th September 2026 at which the following people were present: Martin Brooks (MB) (Chair), Michele Luxon (ML) (Vice-Chair) Neil Read (NR), Sally Riley (SR) County Councillor Crimmins and the Clerk, Lesley Lee (LL).

413/1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Grant Parker and James Somerville.

413/2 Declarations of Interest

There were no initial declarations of interest.

413/3 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th July 2026 were approved for signature by the Chair. A discussion followed re the non re-organisation of the County Council. Cllr. Crimmins suggested it would need to go ahead in stages next time.

413/4 Matters arising from previous minutes (not covered elsewhere)

No matters were raised.

413/5 Finance and Governance

a) 2026/27 in-year financial statement and budget monitoring as at 28th September 2026 and discussion of expenditure all for approval.

It was noted that the bank balance at the end of September was £9818.36
The budget monitoring sheet was discussed by LL showing expenditure to date and the remaining estimated expenditure for the current financial year.
The monitoring sheet now shows the Village History Website, Orchard and Swifts expenditure.

RESOLVED (proposed MB, seconded ML/NR):
i) to approve the 2026/27 financial statement to 28th September 2026 and that the chair and another 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 2026. LL showed to the committee.

413/6 Gressingham and Eskrigge Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

No changes until the next review.

413/7 Police and Crime/Neighbourhood Watch

MB reported that there had been some house burglaries in Nether/Over Kellet over the last weekend and to be aware. Also two quad bikes had been stolen from Roeburndale, one had been found in Skerton and people had been arrested.

413/8 Planning and Tree Works

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a) **26/08490/FUL. Straights Head Farm.** This application was supported by the PC.
No decision yet.

b) No updates from the City Council

413/9 Road maintenance and traffic

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

The potholes left by United Utilities at the top of Fall Kirk have now been filled in by the County Council also a large pothole outside Herst Cottage. Cllr Crimmins informed the meeting that there was a large amount of funding this year for repairs to potholes from savings from other depts.

b) Road fault reports

None to report.

413/10 Amenities and facilities

a) Defibrillator
It was noted that the device is regularly checked and its status updated by SR. The current battery level is 42%. The battery will need replacing before to long at a cost of approx. £450 and the pads next August which will cost £150 to replace.

c) White bridges path

It was agreed that a working party would be held on Saturday14th November from 9.30am. Some areas need to be left for Greener Gressingham to explore for wild planting.
SR will contact John to ask him to put information on Gress. ***Action: SR***

A discussion followed about the neglected cottage and gardens next to the White Bridges. The property needs to be made safe We need to contact the owners to see what their plans are. LL to contact Jane Paxman as we think she has their details. Also James Somerville City Councillor to ask him to contact the Empty Homes Officer. **Action: LL**

c) Gressingham Village Archive

SR discussed the launch of the website was well received and successful. Further offers of support were received. Kelly Wiseman scanned in just over a week all the documents needed for the website. There are now copies of the Wagtail dating back which will also need scanning. The volunteers are now pacing themselves after a follow up meeting. More scanning will be required and MB agreed that £300 could be given from the PC to fund this when required. Make other villages in the Lune Valley aware of this resource. There are 3 boxes of documents that need housing, suggested maybe Lancaster Museum could do that.

The next meeting is on Friday 13th November in the OSR. A reminder to be put out to the village.

d) Greener Gressingham

SR informed the PC that a grant has been applied for and been accepted for £5000 plus an extra £2000 towards the Orchard project and Swift Reintroduction.
Rosie, Jane and Michele alongside Leonard are working together on a parcel of land for the benefit of the community. They want to try and introduce at risk species such as bog plants.
The Swift reintroduction will be a good village project. Some boxes will need to be made and some will be purchased ready-made. We will need 25 boxes and 2 caller stations. The boxes will be made of marine ply and the wood needs to be cut to size first before boxes can be put together.
We need a steering group with an Awareness meeting in November. February make boxes, March place boxes with the help of our experts in the village, April/May encourage the Swifts to nest. They are an endangered species and have suffered from a loss of habitat.
Both grants must be spent by 31st March 2027, otherwise funds have to be returned.
If there is any money left over form the Swift project this can be given to the Orchard project to buy more trees.
Good work being done by many people.

e) GVT update

The flat above the OSR is still being renovated. Nearly ready for volunteers to help with decoration. Making good progress now and hoping to have it ready for rental before Christmas.

413/11 Any correspondence received (not covered elsewhere)

LL informed the PC of various emails she had received recently which needed to be passed on to all.

407/12 Any Other Business

Nothing to discuss.

407/13 Date of next meeting

Monday 30th November 2026 was agreed as the date of next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Lesley Lee

Clerk to Gressingham Parish Council

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