



Goostrey Parish Council

The Village Hall
Goostrey
Cheshire
CW4 8PE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

**HELD ON TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2013 at 7.30pm IN THE PAVILION,
 BOOTHBED LANE**

Present: Cllrs. M^cCubbin (Chairman) (CM^cC), Godfrey (Vice Chairman)(PG), Caulkin (CC), Collins (SC), Craggs (DC), Fagan (VF), Leake (ML), Lenihan (GL), Rathbone (TR), & Salmon (GS)

In attendance: Cheshire East Cllr. A Kolker (AK)
 Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Council
 15 Members of the Public

10.13.1. Declaration of Interests - None declared.

10.13.2. Apologies for absence – None received.

10.13.3. Approval of Minutes

The Chairman had received a request that R Brown be removed from Item 09.13.3 Apologies for absence. The Clerk explained this was inserted in error, however, should a member of the public sends apologies in future this will be mentioned under Correspondence in the Clerk's Report.

GS asked for item 09.13.12 to be amended to say "GS replied that in the past PC had approached the Church to ask if a charge of £100 per burial could be added to the burial fees to help pay for the maintenance of the graveyard. The Church consulted the Diocese who refused the request".

Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting of 10th September 2013 were accepted as a true record of the meeting with the inclusion of the amendments requested above.

10.13.4. Cheshire East Matters:

AK reported that the local plan has been taking up a lot of time at the moment. CM^cC mentioned that the PC was trying contact Adrian Fisher to speak to him with regard to "small sites". The PC has already contacted M E Jones to ask for a meeting. AK went on to say that the core strategy publication has been delayed by six weeks to allow for further consultation. PG asked if there was anything the PC should be aware of, other than the main issue, that the Parish Council does not want Goostrey to be classified as a local service centre. AK indicated that there was not.

AK also reported that CEC has formed a company to look after leisure centres, Everybody Sport & Recreation Limited. There have been advertisements for a director and the company will become a trust/charity. The effect of the new leisure trust will be to protect our leisure centres. CEC is not required to provide leisure centres.

Being a charitable trust provides financial advantages as it will not be bound by purchase obligations, and can be more business-like in acquiring revenue. There is

no possibility of leisure centres closing in the foreseeable future. PG asked AK who owns the freehold for the leisure centre buildings. AK replied that CEC owns the freehold and will continue to do so. If a school shares services with a leisure centre, the agreement will be between the school and CEC. AK said that village halls are not included in this restructuring and he was not aware of any plans to change the way village halls are run for the time being.

10.13.5. **Committee Meeting Reports**

Finance Meeting 1st October - GS presented the half year accounts to 30th September 2013.

Receipts - £56,445.16

The precept for the year had been received and the Village Hall lettings were at 72% of the budget figure. GS was confident that they would meet the budget by the end of the year.

Payments

Parish Council - Spent £7097.97 - Budget £22,935.00

Amenities – Spent £2479.03 – Budget £11,150.00

Village Hall – Spent £6397.09 - Budget £26,097.00

Reserves - £29,737.36

In summary the actual amount paid out against the budget are on target.

Clerk's Salary Increase – NALC pay scales increase of 1%

The NALC (1%) increase for Clerk's is back dated until 1st April 2013. The Finance Committee agreed to increase the Clerk's Salary by 3% back dated to July 2013, when the Clerk was taken on permanently.

Recharge Account

The PC agreed previously to pay the revised amount for 2011/12 but cannot do so until the invoice is sent from CEC. The Clerk has tried to contact CEC regarding this issue and will continue to pursue a response.

Village Hall

Car Park – PC Contribution

CM^cC reported that the car park needs resurfacing and that the School has had quotes ranging from £16,000 - £53,000. The School have applied to Tesco for a grant, which has been declined. CEC has no budget to put forward.

GS said that if the PC agrees the costs would need to be added to the Precept. **Action:** Clerk to write to Peter Hall at CEC to find out who is responsible for the maintenance of the car park.

VF asked AK what CEC would do if people do injure themselves by tripping or falling as a result of the state of the car park. AK said it unlikely that CEC would be liable as it is not possible determine if the person was being careless or if it was as a result of the state of repair of the car park.

Annual Cleaning Bill

At the Village Hall a cleaner, provided by CEC, cleans for 5 hours a week. This is currently very expensive as there are management fees added to the bill. CM^cC is currently looking at the possibility of cancelling the current arrangement and employing a cleaner direct for the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk also to ask for an invoice for 6 months and for that to be put on the recharge account.

Servery Kitchen – Refit/Extension

After some discussion the PC agreed there is no case to extend the servery kitchen.

Bad debts - None

CBJ Digital – Web Site Invoice £400 + VAT from 2010/11

Resolved: PC accepted finance minutes. The PC also agreed that the Finance Chairman and Vice Chairman should sign the NS&I form, to allow the Clerk to deposit money into the account on behalf of the PC.

Amenities Meeting 18th September – SC summarised the minutes of the Amenities meeting. **Action:** Clerk to contact K Tomkinson to find out if the Scouts want to borrow the Sleigh from Holmes Chapel Rotary Club and the Santa suit owned by the PC.

Senior Citizens Lunch - SC confirmed that the arrangements were in place and the event would be held on 24th November in the Village Hall. SC asked if PC would approve an increase in ticket price from £5.00 to £6.00. GS commented that he did not feel this was not justified as there was sufficient money in the budget to cover the full cost of the event. SC stated that the PC had agreed in previous years to charge for tickets to avoid people not turning up at the last minute. SC confirmed that there would be enough experienced help for waiting on the tables. GS suggested that the event should be fully costed, which would include hire of the Village Hall, cleaning services, sweets for children etc.

PC agreed to keep cost at £5 and reviewed on an annual basis. The tickets would be distributed as follows: 30 tickets to SC, 30 to GS and 40 to Mrs Kettle. Tickets to go on sale from 1st November.

TR asked if the vicar could have a number of tickets to give to extreme hardship cases who are over 65 and live in the village. VF volunteered to approach the Vicar. Need to know by next meeting on 15th October.

VHMC 18th September – CM^C stated that all items from this meeting had already been covered in the Finance Committee report.

10.13.6. Planning Matters

At the planning meeting on 8th October, there had only been one planning application which was for The Grange Livery Stables, 27 Station Road – Siting of mobile home for rural worker extension for a further 3 years.

Decision: No objections.

10.13.7. Financial Payments:

Resolved: To accept Payment Schedule 10/13.

10.13.8. Clerk's Report:

Actions from the last Meeting

- a) Clerk to put up notices regarding PC Meeting on 8th October in the Pavilion, Boothbed Lane.
- b) Clerk to create signs instructing hirers not to drag tables and chairs across the Hall floor before the floor is resurfaced.
- c) Clerk to add Ashley Flooring to the list of approved contractors.
- d) Clerk to look at bookings and revenue for projector, to see if it is possible to increase this to pay for a new projector – completed.
- e) Google calendar setup to be completed by the end of the year.
- f) Clerk to arrange for CEC Highways to meet members of the Parish Council regarding options for improving Goostrey Station Bridge – meeting arranged for 27th September.
- g) Clerk to contact PCSO to find out if the police can take any action against drivers of large tractors in the village – PCSO indicated that residents should

- call 101 to register a complaint and give details of the incident and identification of the vehicle.
- h) Clerk to write to Lower Withington Parish Council to ask them to remove the Lower Withington sign on A535 – Completed. Lower Withington PC has replied and has agreed to remove the sign.
 - i) CC to create a business plan for the letting of the Goostrey Station Ticket office. To include the Parish Council's responsibilities for maintenance and safety should the PC decide to take this on as a project.
 - j) DC to find out if planning permission is required for the garden of remembrance and graves.
 - k) DC to speak to Planning regarding the possibility of building a youth centre on the play area on Boothbed Lane.
 - l) CM^c to contact Ben Haywood in Planning regarding the Bloor Homes Planning Application.
 - m) Clerk to arrange for the Parish Council to visit the Bio Digester site at Reaseheath College – dates to be confirmed.

Correspondence Received

- a) Royal British Legion Poppy Support – Invitation for Chairman to the Annual Service of Remembrance on 10th November 2013.
- b) Consultation on future plans for Cheshire Fire and Rescue service - reply by 16th December.
- c) E-Mail from the Clerk at Lower Withington stating that the Lower Withington Sign on the A535 will be removed.
- d) E-mail from Jane Stubbs from Goostrey Guides asking if they can have a cake stall at the Christmas Lights event on 1st December.
- e) E-mail from G Hollinshead about street lights.
- f) G Hollinshead regarding low cost evening train tickets
- g) E-mail from Holmes Chapel Parish Council regarding SID's
- h) CEC – Mail from Cllr D Brown regarding cancellation of Core Strategy Event At Crewe.

- 10.13.9. Highways Matters:** Station Bridge – PG summarised meeting with CEC. Stuart Batemen from CEC Highways sympathised with the safety issues associated with the current layout and design of the bridge and will provide a draft of a plan for the proposed changes. Any work will have to be approved at the Congleton LAP and will have to wait to next year.

The suggestion was for traffic lights, and the marking of a pavement. SC suggested a person activated device for the lights.

Weight restrictions – PG said that survey of vehicle types and number was needed and surveys for all the lanes.

- 10.13.10. Speed Reduction Measures:** ML has instigated the next round of sessions with the speed gun, which will include weekends as well as the week days. CM^c mentioned that a resident had organised hi-viz vests printed with 30mph for mums to wear. A resident had reported an Interlink driver speeding has received a response from Interlink saying they has spoken to the driver.

Holmes Chapel Sid's – ML reported that the SID's are higher and need a platform to move them around. They are really too high and not so visible, the units are smaller and from TWM in Winsford. ML has replied to HC.

AK reported that the Sid on New Platt Lane is obscured by the hedge, ML to talk to householder.

- 10.13.11. FOGS –** CC reported that a survey is required in order to complete the ticket office business plan. Current maintenance tasks are for the waiting rooms and ticket office to be repainted. Fogs have a working party ever 2nd Sunday of each month between

10 and 1pm. More volunteers are needed as the extent of work is more than the current volunteers can cope with.

10.13.12. Graveyard – Update - DC reported that the cost would be £380 to apply for change of use when PC is ready to do so. DC to check that we are charged a discounted rate for Parish Councils. PG suggested that pc needs a group to discuss this in more detail. PG has checked to see if the PC is required to provide a graveyard, and the PC is not obliged to do so. The group will be PG, GS and DC and will have a more detailed look at the graveyard and report back in the new year.

10.13.13. Visit to Reaseheath College Bio-Digester – The Clerk reported that Reaseheath were happy for the PC to visit. **Action:** Clerk to circulate suggested dates.

10.13.14. Youth Facilities Update – Mail for CEC. Maintenance is £5300k per year. Grass, hedges, etc. The play area has not been inspected this year but is due to be inspected in October. Last year there wasn't much work carried out. The PC could do the work for considerably less. Currently it needs the grass and hedges cutting.

A resident mentioned that one of the pieces of equipment (spring rocker) has been replaced recently.

Need to go back to CEC and ask for breakdown of charges and find out how much the insurance would be from the PC's insurer. Also find out if CEC would give the PC some maintenance money.

Holmes Chapel replaced a lot of equipment at a cost of approx £73k. CEC own the land and HC had to fund the equipment. PC cannot assume that if CEC retain the land that they will replace the equipment.

VF mentioned that the cost of the equipment could be very high.

DC reported that he had enquired with CEC planning and the likelihood of planning permission for a youth centre being granted on the area is low, as it is in greenbelt and designated as open countryside.

PC needs to decide if it will want to go ahead if a youth facility cannot be built on the land.

GS suggested we would get M E Jones support. MEJ had commented that he was not keen on setting a precedent for building on the land behind the play area, however he may be supportive of the Youth Centre as it would be a community building.

AK suggested that the PC asks CEC to for the extend the deadline and then apply for outline planning permission to ascertain if planning would be granted for the youth centre.

PC agreed they would ask DC's company to act on its behalf.

DC to advise MEJ of the PC's plans. CM^c to notify MEJ also.

10.13.15. General power of competence (GPC) – The Clerk and DC attended a workshop in September on this subject. They gave the PC an outline of the GPC. **Action:** Clerk to circulate the slides from the workshop to all councillors.

10.13.16. Bloor Homes Planning Applications – Bloor Homes Planning Application – AK asked CEC planning were hoping to go to 16th October Planning Committee but still have highways concerns as do CW&C. Still no date set.

Chair said that this is due to the work by the residents of New Platt lane and Lea Avenue.

AK mentioned that Highways do not consider speeding drivers an issue for not granting planning

- 10.13.17 Newsletter** – The Clerk asked for items for the next quarterly Newsletter which will be sent out by the end of October.

Items suggested were:

- core strategy, let people know they can contact Cheshire East, this had a significant impact when we did it first time,.
- Amenities –
- Hedges – ask residents to ensure they cut back their hedge. Ask not to park on the pavement.
- Station bridge – mentioned that PC has consulted CEC and awaiting a plan.

- 10.13.18 Dates for PC Surgeries** – The suggested dates are 9th Nov SC & CM^cC, 14th December, CC & PG, 2nd Sat in 11th Jan GL & GS look at it again in January. One hour.

- 10.13.19. Minor Items & Items for the Next Agenda:**

DC mentioned that he had reported that two street lights were not working and CEC fixed on different days.

CC asked if PC can write to the mobile phone companies to get a better signal – Countryside Alliance had advised this may help. However, it was felt that this would have little impact as we are so near to Jodrell Bank.

- 10.13.20. Date of Next Meeting:** The date of the next Meeting (12th November)

- 10.13.21. Closure of Meeting:** The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Public Forum

Resident stated that O2 was off for two days last week. When he asked when it would be back on he was told it would be off for minimum of 24 hours. O2 said that since mast went up, first time it's been off in seven years.

A resident highlighted the informal public consultation drop in regarding the planning application for 38, Brooklands Drive at Jay Ashall's in Holmes Chapel on Monday 14th October 4.30 to 6.30pm. The meeting will be used as a consultation as part of the planning process.

Another resident mentioned that the Planning Committee meeting for the Bloor Homes development has been moved to 13th November.

Resident asked A Kolker if he knew the former ICI works at Winnington will be closing with the loss of 250 jobs. All the products that the company produces will be imported from America as they have not signed up to the green energy agreement and can therefore produce the goods much cheaper. He asked should we not be fighting to keep manufacturing in this country rather than importing.

AK explained that CEC cannot directly intervene in commercial business. He was not sure about all the regulations but he agreed the resident had made a valid point and would mail Parliament about it. He commented that we are being disadvantaged by the cost of fuel. A resident spoke regarding the fencing around the play area on Boothbed Lane. She said there is barbed wire separating the play area from the field behind, and that the children are crawling under the wire and a child cut his head. CM^cC responded saying that PC have not yet taken over the playing field. PG suggested that the PC talk to CEC. If there is a fault with the boundary fence at the playground CEC needs to fix the boundary. AK will take this up with CEC to see if they can fence the playing field so that the children do not come into contact with the barbed wire. A resident suggested a sheep net to keep children away from the hedge whilst it grows.

Owner of Bio-Digester reported that the Odour Management Plan is now completed. The Environment Agency has asked for two extensions to review the document, which is approx 500 pages long.

PG asked about the height and location of the chimney. Owner confirmed it has been taken further from the houses in Twemlow, but this makes it nearer to the Goostrey end of the site, it is 13.2 m high and near to the station end. It is higher than it was before. It is an odour control stack not a flare stack. Air will have gone through two bio filters by the time it is emitted. It could also be put through a carbon filter if necessary. The response from EA could be before Christmas but there has been no confirmation of a response date from EA. The owner has received initial thoughts from EA and there were no real concerns highlighted.

TR said it is not a chimney it is only to release air. If air is foul it can go through a carbon filter. This will disperse the air towards Goostrey rather than Twemlow in its new location.

PART TWO

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO RETIRE.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as extended by the Local Government Act of 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the discussion of the undermentioned items on the grounds that the publication of the matters would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

These minutes are considered to be a draft until they are approved at the next Parish Council Meeting.