



## **Goostrey Parish Council**

**The Village Hall  
Goostrey  
Cheshire  
CW4 8PE**

**01477 535825/07834 230351**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 at 7.30pm IN VILLAGE HALL  
LOUNGE**

**Present:** Cllrs. M<sup>c</sup>Cubbin (Chairman) (CM<sup>c</sup>C), Godfrey (Vice Chairman)(PG), Caulkin (CC), Craggs (DC), Lenihan (GL), Rathbone (TR), & Salmon (GS)

**In attendance:** Cheshire East Cllr. L Gilbert (LG)  
Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Council  
9 Members of the Public

**11.13.1. Declaration of Interests**

None declared.

**11.13.2. Apologies for absence** – Received from Cllrs Collins, Leake & Fagan.

**11.13.3. Approval of Minutes** – PG asked for ‘not’ to be added the last paragraph of 10.13.16 Bloor Homes Planning application. With this amendment the minutes of the meeting of 8th October were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**11.13.4. Cheshire East Council Matters:** Cllr Les Gilbert (LG) acknowledged the PC position on the classification of Goostrey as an Local Service Centre (LSC) and reassured the PC that he would be taking this up with A Fisher and D Brown. The consultation is going ahead without a change to the “Core Strategy”. LG felt that the PC and residents should keep up the campaign against Goostrey becoming an LSC. He confirmed are 12 criteria which qualify a town or village as a LSC, if 2 – 4 of the criteria are satisfied, your town/ village will qualify as an LSC. A school, parks and supermarkets (rather than shops), are qualifying criteria and a railway station adds weight although it is not on the list but there is some discretion to take this into consideration. LG stated that there are 13 other LSC’s in addition to Goostrey that satisfy the criteria. A resident stated that the other LSC’s have populations in excess of 5000. LG commented that the decision is not carved in stone. The resident went on to say that the reason for Goostrey being listed as a LSC is because in the settlement hierarchy document the population is listed as 3770, however in the most recent survey the population is 2779. He believes that the populations of Swettenham, Twemlow and Cranage have been included in the Goostrey figure in

order to swell the population to 3770. He stated that Holmes Chapel should be the key service centre. Styal is not currently being considered as an LSC, this argument comes in if Holmes Chapel is a key service centre.

LG has asked if CEC can exercise discretion, if an exception is made for Goostrey what will happen with regard to other possible LSC's eg Chelford?

LG posed the question, "Does the classification make any difference" – the answer is "yes", but it does not need to be negative, as the case for improvements with grants would be strengthened. Not for the PC but for Community Groups, and not necessarily with funding from CEC. It would strengthen Goostrey's position. LG asked if possibly the concern from PC and residents is in regard to the number of houses, a total of 2500 across the LSC's. He confirmed the split would not be 2500 divided by 13, the total per LSC will depend on the land available in each town/village. A Fisher (AF) estimated an allocation of 50 new homes in Goostrey up to 2030, with a possibility of 75 at the outside (this is a over generous estimate).

No final decision has been made; any decision needs to be based on evidence. GS mentioned that Goostrey has lost the butchers shop and there is only one general store (the Trading post). The PC needs to make arguments based on the study. CM<sup>c</sup>C confirmed that this had already been carried out at length. LG mentioned that he and AF were not told that the plan was going out without any changes to it. CM<sup>c</sup>C commented that is it by chance that the "Core Strategy", has gone out to consultation again without the change? TR asked if any changes have been made to the "Cores Strategy", at all? CM<sup>c</sup>C stated that sustainable villages have been removed. PG mentioned the definition of the LSC included the names of the villages being proposed, so how can they not be? It is a self fulfilling prophecy. PG also mentioned that there is a lot of strong feeling in the Village against the classification of Goostrey as a LSC. There have been meetings with Cllr M E Jones (MEJ) and A Fisher's deputy but there has been no official response. None of our arguments have not been refuted and no-one has come back to say that we are a local service centre. LG said that in view of this, the PC needs to re-iterate the position, and he and Cllr Kolker will support the PC. CM<sup>c</sup>C stated that the consultation was purporting to be a democratic process in asking for resident's opinions and the PC was led to believe that these opinions would have weight in relation to our future. This has not been the case and the process was in her belief undemocratic.

There is no consistency in the approach; Styal is a case in point. The PC would continue to campaign against Goostrey becoming an LSC.

The PC is querying this because it represents the Village. The Chair suggested that Cllr David Brown is invited to speak at the next PC meeting. PG reaffirmed the point that if the plan goes forward it goes ahead on a false number of residents in Goostrey. Cllr Kolker was present at the open day the PC held to which the whole village was invited. PG went on to say that the Goostrey population has been made up of the Dane area less Holmes Chapel and this number is incorrectly being used as the population number. Another resident agreed that he felt that DB and AF should come to the next PC meeting to explain their decision. LG was asked to take away the question of the 5 year housing supply. LG stated that the goal posts have

been moved, and CEC has now identified more sites which can be demonstrated to prevent any more appeals by developers.

#### 11.13.5. **Committee Matters**

Amenities Committee 15th October – GL – helpers required for 24th Sunday 9am, for laying the table. CC volunteered. Only 20 tickets left, Vicar didn't need any tickets. Scouts are running the lights event. Lights are being tested on Saturday morning at 10am. The Scouts are funding the event.

#### 11.13.6. **Planning Matters** – DC reported on the Planning meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> November. There had been a re-application for 3 houses on the land next to 51 Main Road. The Planning Committee objected to this application on the same grounds as the original application. DC believes that the lack of 5 year plan has led to this application being resubmitted. There were no objections to the application for 156 Main Road.

The Planning Committee had no objections to the application for a riding arena at Swanwick Hall, however DC would talk to highways regarding the issue of a pull in, as the entrance is very narrow and there may be a conflict with the entrance to the play area on Booth Bed Lane.

The application for 38 Brooklands Drive is redesign of the previous application. This has addressed most of the issues but there a few concerns – majority of the councillors were in favour of the application, however there are concerns about the access which will be raised with CEC Planning.

#### 11.13.7. **Financial Payments – Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the payments in schedule 11.13.7. GS also mentioned the recharge – letter and reply from Peter Stubbs, which stated that CEC will provide the revised invoices before the end of the week.

#### 11.13.8. **Clerk's Report**

##### **Actions from the last meeting**

- a) Clerk to circulate slides from General Power Of Competence course to all councillors
- b) CM<sup>c</sup> to notify Cllr M E Jones, CEC of PC Plans re Boothbed Lane Play Area
- c) Clerk to organise trip to Reaseheath College to view Bio-digester
- d) Clerk to cancel existing cleaning contract with CEC and request amended invoice.
- e) PC to notify CEC regarding danger of barbed wire at Boothbed Play area.

##### **Correspondence Received**

- a) Mail from Cllr Brown CEC cancelling Core Strategy Meeting at Crewe
- b) Letter – J Ashall – invitation to consultation on 38 Brooklands Drive
- c) Mail from CVS Cheshire East regarding training events
- d) Mail from CBJ Digital regarding £250 + VAT for work done in 2010
- e) Mail from Goostrey Guides, thanking PC for £100 donation
- f) Mail from J Tickle CEC Highways regarding cutting back of hedge on Main Road
- g) Mail regarding toy donations from Astra Zenica
- h) Mail regarding Discos for People with Disabilities

- i) Photos of Goostrey – K Hulme
- j) Mail from S Harper regarding vacancies at GPC
- k) Mails from K Morris regarding Boothbed Play Area
- l) Mail from C Dixon regarding hole in road at entrance to Station Car Park
- m) Mails from T Shepherd regarding Planning Application for Outdoor arena at Swanwick Hall
- n) Letter from R Bennett regarding the minutes of the September Meeting re Burial Levy
- o) Mail from D Brown CEC regarding Local Plan Consultation
- p) Mail from G Brown regarding classification of Goostrey as LSC in Local Plan

**11.13.9. Highways Matters** – PG reported that CEC had located and dug out the buried gully on Church Bank and the water is flowing again. A new grate has been installed and it is in good working order.

Gully emptying – The Chair mentioned that there is a cycle for emptying the gulleys but CEC are trying to empty the ones that fill quickly more regularly. There is flooding at the White House there, and at Shearbrook Bridge, this is tied in with water coming off the field. **Action:** PG will report this to CEC. GL has reported potholes in the footpath on Manor Avenue as someone has tripped and fallen over. The lights at the bottom of Manor Avenue need to be fixed and at the top of Bank View (near notice board). The light was replaced, but it is in the wrong place. **Action:** Clerk to contact CEC regarding the pavement and lights. TR reported that the horse chestnut tree outside 79 Main Road, is badly diseased and it is likely that CEC Highways will have it felled.

**11.13.10. Speed Reduction measures** – CC reported that Cllr Leake has a plan to move to move the SID's in the next few weeks and will run a few speed watch sessions in the rush hours. Two residents have put their names forward to join speed watch. CM<sup>o</sup>C reported that a resident who had attended the PC surgery had mentioned seeing someone speeding at 50mph through the Village in school time and a dog had been knocked down when it stepped off the pavement. The car stopped initially and then drove off.

The resident said they had seen a number of people driving at over 50mph through the village and the cars have children in them going to school.

**11.13.11 Local Plan Consultation** – PG highlighted that there were not many changes to the plan and there is a statement of what housing should be in an LSC and other areas. PG mentioned that a meeting has been arranged between Cllr A Kolker (AK), Cllr Michael E Jones (Leader CEC)(MEJ) and A Fisher (Head of Strategic Planning)(AF). The Chair has asked if the PC is invited to this meeting. GL suggested that the PC remind MEJ of his agreement, at the Annual Parish Meeting in April this year, not classify Goostrey as an LSC. TR stated that time was short and the PC should ask MEJ if the previous objections can stand or do we have to submit them again. CC suggested the PC write to Eric Pickles to say that the PC and residents comments have been ignored (Copy to MP and to the PM). Fiona Bruce has responded to a resident saying she will write to support him in his objection to the classification of Goostrey as a Local Service Centre.

The PC will use their Newsletter to communicate the consultation dates and how to submit their comments again.

**11.13.12 Town & Parish Conference** - PG reported that this was the third Town and Parish Conference that he had attended and was the least satisfactory. The Meeting was introduced by Cllr M E Jones (Leader of CEC), who introduced the new CEO Mike Suarez, who said very little, and didn't lead the discussion. PG has passed the precept setting information to GS. Cllr David Brown, made a very hurried presentation of busy slides which were not readable from the back and a lot of the meaning was lost. He tried to define what the change was all about. The bulk of the time was devoted to "Resilient Local Communities". The essence was that thriving communities which are confident, have a voice, have good joined up services. The slides showed there are currently gaps in the services but these need to be joined up. See slides. GS suggested that PC referred to this presentation when we send back our objections to core strategy.

- There was a Workshop – looking at how do we
  - Develop joint community leadership & accountability
  - Come together for mutual benefit
  - Grow skills & capacity

This was the most interesting part of the event – sharing experience with other Town & Parish Cllrs

- CEC has embarked on a very aggressive and ambitious Change Programme – it implies major change OUTSIDE the Council itself – it has big implications for the Parish Council and the Community
- It requires better communication and much more involvement of all those affected – and hence MORE TIME
- We must await more communication from CEC about any specific actions they require us to take
- In the meantime, many of the things we are doing and would like to do can be seen to be consistent with the Resilient Community model eg. taking over local services, more influence over decisions which affect us. **Action:** Clerk to circulate the relevant slides to all Cllrs

The PC would like to take over some local services, cleaning etc as we think we can do it at a more reasonable cost. GS mentioned that they this needs to be auctioned quickly as there is an election in 2015.

The wider community needs to be involved. The Chair mentioned HC and their partnership group, which consists of local residents. HC don't have a monthly meeting now, and the committees meet in between and the partnership group feed information to the PC.

PG mentioned that this does have added value but it is on a voluntary basis and the members are not elected so they have no powers they have to work with the PC.

HC are a town council (GS) perhaps Parish Councils are to be phased out, and what would happen to ward councillors? Getting the balance right is key.

Chair mentioned that in 18 months the PC elections take place and are there people in the community willing to become PC's knowing that their role will have a greater responsibility than the current role?

**11.13.13 FOGS** – CC reported on the meeting last week. Planning all 2014 actions/projects. Over 800 man hours of effort. Have managed to get Network Rail to carry out painting at the station. The maintenance on the planting is quite high, will putting in some ground cover to stop the weeds coming through. A core of 20 people who work one Sunday a month to keep all this up to scratch. There are two potential tenants for the ticket office. Network rail have failed to come up with an estimate of the costs of renovation. They have said that FOGS need to commission a building, electrical and water survey. There has been some vandalism on a Saturday evening. The transport police have been informed and have a presence at the station but they have not caught anyone. There will be some artwork appearing at the station in the new future, keep your eyes peeled.

PG the new painting makes the ticket office stand out as being very shabby.

There is a plan to remark the car park, to provide more parking spaces. TR asked about the ACORP awards that FOGS entered. CC commented that ACORP are national awards, and unfortunately the station didn't win any prizes this year but hopefully FOGS have a better understanding of what is required to win an ACORP award in the future.

**11.13.14 Youth Facilities Update** – The Chair mentioned Cllr Kolker's suggestion that the PC submit an application for outline planning permission for a youth centre on the Booth Bed Lane play area. She explained that this was purely an exploratory exercise to see if CEC Planning would be in favour of such a building on the land. She also stressed that there were no plans to go ahead with a full application without public consultation. The Chair mentioned that Cllr Fagan was not able to attend the working party meetings for the time being. The working party will look at site allocations in relation to the core strategy as well as the Youth Facilities as the two are tentatively linked. It was agreed that the current working party would remain unaltered.

**11.13.15 Bloor Homes Planning Application-** DC stated that the affordable houses have been distributed around the site which was a change requested by the planners. The number of houses has gone back to 38. AK will ask the planning committee to make a site visit before they make any decision. AK feels that CW&C want CE to make a decision regarding the access to the development first.

**11.13.16 Minor Items for the next Agenda**

PG mentioned Broad Band and the Connecting Cheshire project. 121 properties in Goostrey are not yet able to get faster broad band already and the project will connect 70 residences at the east of the village. The properties to the north of the village will not be connected (50 properties). The earliest time for connection will be Q1 2014. A report is on the website. Attempts will be made to sort out the rest of the people but it will be after summer 2015. 89% of Goostrey will be connected by the end of the project.

GS mentioned that the pews have been removed from the chancel at the Church, and replaced with chairs. Members of the congregation and the village have been invited to donate these chairs at a cost of £80 each. GS suggested to the Vicar that the PC might like to donate a chair, each chair has a plaque saying who donated the chair. GS asked if PC would be in favour of donating a chair. The Chair suggested that the question was deferred to next Parish Council meeting so that councillors can view the chairs. **Action:** Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the December Meeting.

A couple of residents are not happy about the new gate and path, the path is very slippery, and some elderly residents have been climbing through the fence to avoid the slippery path. They have asked if PC can put down some new stones. **Action:** Clerk to contact CEC regarding the footpath and the gate catch which is very difficult to open.

There was a request for a tap to be placed at the gate end of the graveyard. **Action:** Clerk to send the request to the church.

Chair asked the Clerk to contact the Dog Warden again regarding dog fouling in the Village.

A resident mentioned that residents from Mount Pleasant are struggling to get to the bus stop on the other side of the road as the road is busy and asked if it is possible for the bus to pull in at Mount Pleasant for people to get on the bus rather than people crossing the road. A crossing at this location was declined on a previous occasion. **Action:** PC to ask Mr & Mrs Roberts if bus can pull in. GS asked what would happen regarding insurance if anyone falls on private land whilst boarding or alighting the bus.

PG asked if the PC would put some money in the budget for 2014/15 for some kind of commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWI. CC has details of funds available for WW1 Commemorations.

GS requested that if Parish Councillors have any conversations with people and make some agreement that the conversation should be written up and sent to the Clerk to ensure a record is kept. Parish Councillors agreed to this suggestion.

**11.13.17 Date of Next Meeting** 10th December, Finance Meeting on 3rd December.

**11.13.18 Closure of Meeting** at 9.40pm

## PUBLIC SESSION

A resident asked if there could be a gap in the hedge into the car park, rather than having to use the gate. The Chair mentioned that Church is intending to plant a beech hedge in the spring.

Another resident asked if the planning app for Swanwick Hall affects the route of the footpath, DC stated that it did not and explained the location the riding area would be built.

Conditions were applied to granting of planning permission for the previous development at Swanwick Hall, ie the swimming pool was for private use. The PC feels that current application poses highways issues with regard to traffic on Booth Bed Lane, if large vehicles have to reverse out onto the road.

A further resident commented that PC will have a say in development sites if they are LSC.

There was a comment from a resident that the affordable houses on the Bloor Homes development have not been pepper potted around the site, and there is fence screening the affordable houses from other houses on the site.

Wayfairer tickets £11 for a day pass, family ticket £24

A resident mentioned that if you are travelling within Greater Manchester and parts of Cheshire, the GMPTE Wayfarer Ticket is the ticket to consider.

It is the Ticket that lets you travel far and wide by bus, train and Metrolink Tram.

The Wayfarer gives you all day travel after 9.30am on weekdays and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Seniors and Children £6; Adults £11 ; Family of 4 £21.

Note the ticket has strict boundaries into Cheshire but covers area extremities outside Greater Manchester including Northwich, Holmes Chapel, Macclesfield, Buxton and Warrington.

More information can be found at <http://www.cheshirebytrain.co.uk/goostrey/travel-offers/gmte-wayfarer/>

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