



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, 13th JANUARY 2015 at 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL LOUNGE

Present: Cllrs. Godfrey (Chairman) (PG), Caulkin (CC), Collins (SC), Craggs (DC), Leake(ML), Lenihan (GL), M^cCubbin (CMcC) and Rathbone (TR)

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

01.15.1. Declaration of Interests – No declarations of interest were received.

01.15.2. Apologies for absence- Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fagan.

01.15.3. Minutes: To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of 9th December 2014.

Resolved: *The minutes of the meetings of 9th December 2014 were approved unanimously.*

01.15.4. Cheshire East Council

Cllr Kolker (AK) mentioned the Saltersford and the Bloor Homes access enquiries. He said that the decision to approve the Bloor Homes access application at the enquiry was a travesty and felt let down by the poor support from the planning officer at CEC. He is putting forward a case for judicial review. The decision to go ahead with this is pending.

AK has received a suggestion from a resident at Twemlow Parish Council meeting that a sign is put up at Goostrey Station to indicate which way to turn when leaving the train for Twemlow and for Goostrey as it is not clear.

The AP club in Holmes Chapel (HC) closed some time ago and is listed as a community asset. However, the owners will be negotiating with HC Parish Council regarding the future of the leisure facility.

01.15.5. Committee Matters

Village Hall Management Committee Meeting: 25th November 2014. CMcC reported that the Village Hall lettings figure in the budget for 2015/16 relied on an increase of 10% in hourly hire rates for the Village Hall as the rate had not been increased for 3 years. In future the rate would be reviewed annually.

Resolved: *The Parish Council (PC) resolved unanimously to support the recommendation of the VHMC to increase the hourly hire rates for the Village Hall by 10% from 1st April 2015.*

Additionally the VHMC recommended the purchase of floor scrubber/dryer machine for the village hall floor at a cost of £1,500.00 plus VAT. The machine would enable faster more thorough cleaning of the Village Hall Floor and also quicker drying times.

Resolved: *The Parish Council (PC) resolved unanimously to support the recommendation of the VHMC to purchase of floor scrubber/dryer machine for the village hall floor at a cost of £1500.00 plus VAT.*

CMcC announced that as she had been voted Chairman of the Finance Committee she had asked GL to Chair the Village Hall Committee for the remainder of the term of the Council.

Finance Committee Budget Meeting: 6th January 2015 - CMcC reviewed the budget that had been discussed at Finance Committee Meeting. It was proposed that the budget for next year – and precept amount for 2015/16 be approved by the PC.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved unanimously to support the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the budget for 2015/16 and the precept of £43,088 with the provision that there was no % increase in the Parish Council element of the Council Tax for residents. If there is any increase for residents the precept should be reduced to achieve a zero increase.*

01.15.6. Planning Matters: Meeting of 13th January 2015 – DC reported that there were no objections to the planning application 14/5616C - Holly Cottage, Main Road and the Clerk was to arrange a site visit for application 14/5621N - 1 Mill Stream Close for Saturday 17th January at 11.30am.

The Planning Committee recommended that the Parish Council should object to application 14/5579C - 119 houses off Main Road – Gladman Developments Ltd, and that a working party be formed to write the objection on behalf of the Parish Council.

Gladman Developments Ltd – Proposed Development: Report from Public Meeting on 9th January 2015 and to agree Parish Council comments to send to CEC Planning – The Chairman reported that 211 signed in at the meeting at the exit poll 201 people were not in favour and 2 residents were in favour. PG had been given personal feedback from the meeting that the presenters were defeatist and expected to lose, however, he felt it was unrealistic to lead residents to expect defeating Gladman would be a walk in the park. CMcC had also received feedback that it was a good meeting and CC had heard from residents that they were clear on the need to send in their comments urgently and the types of reasons which would be considered by the Planning Department at CEC.

DC said he was concerned that residents were having difficulty using the CEC Planning web site to make comments.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved unanimously to object to application 14/5579C and to form a working party to write the objection. The working party to comprise of DC, GL, TR and CC.*

Bloor Homes Access Inquiry Outcome– PG said it was very upsetting that the application had been approved and the actions of CEC planning officers had contributed to the failure of the original verdict of the CEC Southern Planning Committee to be upheld. This type of unprofessionalism was unacceptable and caused residents to suspect that planners are making deals with developers behind closed doors. If the request for judicial review were to fail, someone must be held to account. AK and Ian O’Donaghue had worked very hard on the defence of this application. PG added that planning officers and work very closely with the developers before applications are submitted and, by time local comments are requested, compromises have already been made with the developer which put the planning committee and local residents are at a disadvantage.

AK had heard that planning officers have been embarrassed at planning committee because the committee will not take officers recommendations and that the inspector had said at the inquiry that the Southern Planning Committee had bowed to public pressure.

The timescale for judicial review is 6 weeks. CMcC congratulated the Southern Planning Committee for their decision to object to the application.

Action: Clerk to ask for a recording of the CW&C Planning Committee meeting at which the housing was approved.

The Dromedary Lodge Application was refused at the Northern Planning Committee on 17th December because of the objections from Jodrell Bank and the impact on the landscape. However, there may be an appeal by the developer.

Neighbourhood Planning (NP) Seminar – Feedback from the seminar with representatives from Tattenhall Parish Council and Tom Evans at CEC was that the timescale and costs for producing a NP was high. The Tattenhall Parish Council had made a lot of concessions on housing developments. A NP would only help with developments in 12-18 months time but should provide some protection up to 2030. An NP is a plan for development. Brereton is about to have a plan made and since the CEC Local plan was suspended about 32 out of 113 parishes have started NP's.

It is envisaged that site allocations will be made via NP's. TR said he felt that the PC were caught out by Cllr M E Jones original comments that NP's were not the way to go. PG commented that a NP was more than a protection from developers, more about getting a community to have common goals, and a vision for the village, and leading the community to realise the vision. Any plan developed could be vetoed by Jodrell Bank (JB). JB needs to be on board and there is also a risk of legal challenge for not following due process.

TR suggested that the PC voted for a NP and the new council could reconsider this decision when elected so long as it is more than six months since the original resolution.

Cllrs TR, DC, GL, ML and CC expressed an interest in being on the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood plan but this would depend on time commitments. CMcC pointed out that there needed to be a budget for the NP project and that the Clerk is not part of the team. It is a project and a project member needs to be assigned admin role.

Need to decide to do a NP, then engage with DCLG and JB.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to adopt the development of a Neighbourhood Plan – 6 in favour, 2 abstentions.*

The PC agreed to appoint a Neighbourhood Plan Committee comprising initially DC, TR, GL – it will be a committee of the Parish Council but would probably need to set up a Steering Group which would include other interested parties in the Parish.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved unanimously to seek input from JB both via central government (DCLG) and via the NP Steering Group .*

01.15.7. Financial Payments

Resolved: *The PC resolved unanimously to approve the payments in Schedule 01/15.*

01.15.8. Clerk's Report

Actions from the last Meeting

- a. Clerk to send letters of thanks to the Brownies, Scouts and the School for their assistance with the Seniors Lunch.
- b. Clerk to contact CEC Planning to request further details regarding the works requested to the tree on Main Road which was subject to a TPO.
- c. Clerk to arrange a Neighbourhood Planning seminar for the PC and invite Tom Evans and Cllr Weaver and Cllr Spencer from Tattenhall to attend.
- d. Clerk to place order for SDU.
- e. Clerk to pass on thanks to the Goostrey School from FOGS for the art work at the Station.
- f. Clerk to follow up with Scouts regarding Litter Picking.
- g. ML to contact CEC Highways regarding lighting on Bank View.

Correspondence Received

As listed in the agenda

Chairman: Cllr Peter Godfrey

Clerk: Sharon Jones

- 01.15.9. Highways & Speedwatch-** ML reported that two SDU's have been removed and the batteries put on charge. The SDU on New Platt Lane will be moved.

Lighting Bank View – **Action:** ML to contact CEC Highways about the inadequate lighting on Bank View.

Station bridge - Traffic lights have been requested but there has been no reply. ML has asked the question again and CEC Highways have estimated that the costs of installing the traffic lights was outside of their budget. ML requested that should CEC Planning be minded to approve the Gladman Planning application that it should be subject to S106 agreement which should include the cost of installation of the traffic lights.

Action: Clerk to place order for SDU.

- 01.15.10. Local Policing.**

TR reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner was asking for comments on their price increases of 2% - the PC decided not to make a comment.

- 01.15.11 Youth Facility Working Party:** CMcC commented that the YFWP needs to meet to discuss the response from the solicitor and the valuation later this week. PG said he was disappointed that progress had been slowed down by our solicitors.

- 01.15.12. Friends of Goostrey Station** – CC thanked the volunteers for 1500 hour of work at the Station. He has arranged a stone mason to have a look at the key stone with a view to cleaning it up. There will be a Meeting with Fiona Bruce MP and Representatives of Northern Rail on Friday 16th January. The estimate for the renovation for the 3 sides of the ticket office on the platform, has been quoted at less than £5000.

- 01.15.13. Goostrey Archive Group**

The next meeting will be in the Crown at 1.30pm on 26th January 2015

Tremendous response from seniors lunch, lots of stories, and Roger Burgess interviewing residents.

- 01.15.14. Community Emergency Plan**

TR introduced the plan and the draft that he has created using the template provided by CEC.

PG thought that the test of the document should be - would we respond better to an emergency with the plan or without the plan? His view was that we definitely be better off with the plan even in its current state.

Next steps to obtain permission and to verify information with contacts. It is proposed that the information will be updated at APM each year.

Members of the PC praised TR on an excellent Community Resilience Plan. Once completed it will be put on web site and a copy held in the Parish Office.

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved unanimously to adopt the Community Resilience Plan.

- 01.15.15. Resignation of Councillor:** PG mentioned the tribute from AK at last meeting to Gordon Salmon. He went on to express gratitude on behalf of the PC for Gordon's service over many years, and he would be sadly missed.

Notice needs to be sent to Elections department and put on the notice board.

The PC discussed the possibility of co-opting someone onto the PC to fill the vacancy but felt that with the election in May it would not be beneficial.

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved unanimously not to fill the vacancy created by Cllr Salmon's resignation by co-option.

- 01.15.16. Quality Status** – The Clerk advised that free automatic retention of the basic status has been retained until January 2016.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved unanimously to delay and decisions on Quality to new council.*

01.15.17. Minor Items & Items for the Next Agenda

GL asked about the status of the repairs to the footway on Manor Avenue – AK agreed to check with CEC.

CC- Shear Brook Lane pot holes and some others around the village have been repaired. However the surface on Booth Bed Lane is still terrible. Action: *Clerk to ask CEC if it can be repaired.*

01.15.18. Date of Next Meeting: To confirm the date of the next Meeting (10th February 2015)

01.15.19. Closure of Meeting – the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Public Session

A member of Twemlow Parish Council asked for the PC's support for a complaint about the new bus time table. He explained that the last bus on the new timetable is half an hour earlier. Action: *Clerk to write to Cheshire East Transport, Delemere, Crewe about this issue which was implemented on 1st January 2015.*

There was a query about the public footpath via Swanwick Hall. A member of the Footpaths Group confirmed that the new permissive path is currently additional to the original route. However, an application has been lodged to re-route the footpath via the permissive path and close the traditional route. This has not yet been considered by CEC. It is likely to be considered in the next few months and if there are not sufficient grounds to keep it open it will be closed and the permissive route will become the official path. This means that a footpath will be maintained but not through the farmyard. Goostrey Footpaths Group and the ramblers will keep an eye on this, however it is normal for applications of this type to be approved.

A resident thanked the PC for organising the meeting on 9th January, and indicated that there would be a new leaflet drop regarding the proposed Gladman development later in the week. He also indicated that a number of complaints had been received regarding difficulties using the CEC web site to lodge objections to the application.

These minutes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting. Until then they are draft minutes.