



**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013-2014 (Cllr. Cath M<sup>c</sup>Cubbin)**

**Parish Council**

The Chairman reported that for the Parish Council it had been a very busy and challenging year. The council operates 4 standing committees: Finance, Amenities, Village Hall Management and Planning along with a working party that is looking into the provision of Youth Facilities for the village.

All committee meetings and Parish Council meetings are open to the public along with the Parish Council surgeries that are held on the second Saturday of the month. All residents are encouraged to attend any of these meetings and to use the surgeries to raise issues with councillors.

**Village Events**

Sponsorship of village events including Rose Day, Goosefest, and the Senior Lunch continues along with sponsorship of FOGS and the Archive Group.

Our thanks go to 1st Goostrey Scouts who took over the running and organisation of the Christmas Lights Switch-on, on the Bogbean with Roasted Chestnuts, BBQ, a Brass band playing popular carols and of course Father Christmas switched on the lights.



It was a great success and they have agreed to run the event again this year, so make a date in your diary for 30th November.

The Amenities Committee organised a very successful showing of the film "Warhorse" in the Village Hall, on 9<sup>th</sup> May. The following day the Cheshire Villages Great War Society held their exhibition in the Village Hall. The exhibition featured details of the lives of men listed on the Goostrey War Memorial along with other Memorials in the area. The Royal British Legion supplied refreshments. Both events were well attended.

**Local Plan**

Needless to say the main issues this last year have been the categorisation of Goostrey as a Local Service Centre in the CE Local Plan, planning issues and the provision of a Youth Facility in the village.

The Local Plan consultation result was published and then went back to CEC to be reviewed. We had a number of meetings with CEC and in December the whole council met with Cllr David Brown and Adrian Fisher, Head of Strategic Planning. By the time they had left the meeting they had agreed to change the incorrect numbers used in the plan and would look seriously into the objections we had

to be a local service centre. After a wait until the New Year and the publication of the reviewed plan, we were given the information that despite all the objections we were still a Local Service Centre but that and I quote " In the case of Goostrey which adjoins Holmes Chapel, a larger local service centre, it is anticipated that development needs will largely be provided by Holmes Chapel"....

The latest stage of the plan which has been the "representations stage" has now closed and we again have indicated that we are still unhappy with our classification and believe it to be incorrect.

The details of such are available to view on the CEC website.

Planning itself has been a very thorny subject, primarily due CEC being unable to prove a 5 yr housing land supply. Twice now we have been assured by CEC and Council Leader Jones that the matter has been dealt with, even to the point where they are taking 500 homes on behalf of High Peak Council!

But... as it is tested with the planning inspectorate it is disproved. This leaves the village very vulnerable to predatory development. We are not on our own in this situation and we are in a better position than some small villages.

The Parish Council does not have the power to stop development! We can object with in the same parameters as every resident, we can speak out against planning applications at Borough Planning Meetings but nothing more.

All the talk last year by the government and CE about neighbourhood planning and how it can lead development in villages, is just not the case. It only works if you want MORE development than you have been allocated, it does not allow you to stop development. Goostrey has not opted to follow this line as have number of other villages. These plans cost tens of thousands of pounds and until the CEC Local Plan is put in place they are irrelevant. The plan may not even be in place before next years government and local council elections.....

The only way there will NOT be development on a large scale is if landowners do not sell the land to prospective developers. But... if you personally have a small field and are offered a very large sum of money for it that would set you up nicely for your retirement or buy your children homes in their home village would you say NO?.....

I could stand here and discuss this all evening, and we as a PC have, along with the residents groups that have sprung up in an effort to try to protect their little patches of village life. We need to be careful that we, and I am calling upon residents and the PC here, we need to be careful that we do not become anything more than self interested NIMBYS!

### [Goostrey Parish Council - Housing Policy](#)

Prior to the latest declaration of 5 year housing land supply, we took the initiative and held a village event to look at "site allocations" something CEC requires us to do. They have tentatively agreed that we need to have 50 homes built over the life of the CEC Local Plan.

The result of this was for the Council to jump ahead of CEC, give them our view of the village needs for the future and set out a housing policy. We hope that this will be taken into account by planning officers and the planning committees when looking at applications.

The full details of the policy are available on our website.

### [Bio-Digester](#)

The Bio Digester has continued to rumble on in the background and was brought to the fore a couple of weeks ago when Council Leader Jones, was quoted in a Waste Management Magazine as stating that CE we building a power plant in Twemlow/Goostrey.

This was news to the owner Ray Brown as he is still waiting for environmental reports. It is also possibly a case of predetermination?

### Youth Facilities for the Village

The working party took 3 options for further discussion to the council at the April meeting.

1. Sell existing site and build on Boothbed playing field. Extra Funding of up to £125k may be needed and it may have to be a loan over 25yrs and this would increase the precept by approx 4-8K depending upon saving that could be made from other areas. Deliverability is at least 2-3 years
2. Extend the pavillion – awaiting a meeting with the VHPFF trustees and details of pipeline placement and building areas. The deliverability could be 2 years.
3. Sell half the site and use funds for village projects and donate the remaining half to the scouts who will fund, build and manage a facility. Making sure it is available for all youth groups. Deliverability approx 12 – 18 months.

After discussions with the Scouts the Parish Council is exploring option 3 with the Scouts. The details are still under discussion, but the council is aware that action is needed NOW, the young people in the village have waited far too long for somewhere to go.

There is no solution that is perfect and we have to accept that doing something to provide a facility is better than nothing for the next 10 years.

This year has as I said at the beginning of my report been challenging, councillors have spent hours at meetings and delivering by hand newsletters to every household. I would like to thank them for their support and their extraordinary efforts in trying to achieve what they believe is the best for this village.

I would also like to thank as I did last year, our regular meeting attendees, and my husband for his infinite patience and support.

This time next year we will be preparing for elections, local borough council and possibly Parish Council. If you feel you can look at things objectively to help the village into the future then you may wish to consider standing for Parish Council.

### **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS – Currently Serving**

Cllr. Peter Godfrey	533745 (Chairman)		
Cllr. Cath McCubbin	535139 (Vice Chairman)		
Cllr. Cyril Caulkin	533492	Cllr. Martin Leake	537864
Cllr. Shirley Collins	534656	Cllr. Graham Lenihan	535180
Cllr. David Craggs	534314	Cllr. Terence Rathbone	537461
Cllr. Vicky Fagan	534767	Cllr. Gordon Salmon	537182
Sharon Jones Parish Clerk	535825/07834 230351	also available at the Parish Office Monday 9.30am – 12.30pm Wednesday 1.00pm – 4.00pm Friday 1.00pm – 4.00pm	

### **Cheshire East Councillors**

Cllr. Les Gilbert 544307

Cllr. Andrew Kolker 544513

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Precept	£42,696.00	VAT Paid	£1,143.24
Council Tax Relief Payment	£1,884.00	Administration	£4,780.74
V Hall Lettings (incl.VAT)	£18,291.93	Audit	£480.00
VAT Refund	£1208.66	Donations/Sponsorship	£5500.00
Bank Interest	£184.79	Maintenance in Village	£4,148.05
Senior Citizens Lunch	£450.00	Misc. items	£60.37
Wayleave	£1.15	Parish Projects	£1,685.92
	_____	Salaries & Exp. – PC	£6,087.20
	<b><u>£64,716.53</u></b>	Village Hall Expenses	£18,085.69
		Salaries & Exp. –V Hall	<b><u>£7,184.36</u></b>
			<b><u>£49,205.57</u></b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	<b><u>£15,510.96</u></b>		
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013			
Excess	£60,477.21	Current Account	£27,493.50
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	<b><u>£15,510.96</u></b>	Deposit Account	<b><u>£48,494.67</u></b>
	<b><u>£75,988.17</u></b>		<b><u>£75,988.17</u></b>

The Chairman of the Finance Committee (Cllr Salmon) explained the he had provisionally checked the accounts but as yet they were unaudited. The next stage would be to ask the Internal Auditor to check them before sending them to the External Auditor. Cllr Salmon then reviewed the Receipts and explained the origin of the 'Council Tax Relief Payment'. Lettings from the Village Hall (VH) had increased by £520 and have been increasing every year. The payments, donations, sponsorships are similar to last year however the VH expenses are £18,085.69 for 2013/14 compared with £2,567.96 in 2012/13, this is because the recharge cost for 2011/12 amounting to £13,520.01 has been paid and is included in the VH expenses figure.

*Published by: Cllr. Cath McCubbin, Goostrey Parish Council*

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