



GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021



Parish Council Attains “Quality” Status

The Local Council Award Scheme provides accreditation to councils that demonstrate good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.

The Parish Council achieved the Foundation Award in 2019 and we are now delighted to announce that in July we received the

Quality Award. This is a great achievement for the Council, and we hope it is an indication of the continuing commitment of the Council to achieve the best we can for the residents of Goostrey.

Ken Morris, Chairman

Safety of Crossroads at Main Road/Booth Bed Lane/ Hermitage Lane

The Parish Council is very much aware of the potential safety issues at this junction. Two years ago the Parish Council commissioned an upgrade of all the signage, lighting and white lining. However there was another accident in June of this year. CCTV footage on Booth Bed lane and analysis of accident data shows that most of the recent accidents are caused by drivers going straight across from Booth Bed and Hermitage Lanes without stopping. Therefore the Parish Council has decided to fund further changes including vehicle activated signs on all four approaches to try to make the junction more obvious and to reduce speeding. This will be subject to

permission and costings from Cheshire East Highways who have the responsibility and sole authority to allow changes on their roads. Changing the road layout would be prohibitively expensive for us and Cheshire East take the view that there are significantly more dangerous places in the Borough which consume their limited budget. It should be noted that the Speed Indicator Devices in the village, which now record every vehicle that passes, show that almost 80% of drivers are exceeding the speed limit – this of course includes Goostrey residents. Please slow down for your own and others safety!

Ken Morris, Chairman

Change of Email and Website Address from 23rd August 2021

Since early last year we have experienced a number of issues with emails from the Clerk being filtered into the junk/spam folders of the recipients.

After taking some professional advice, we have discovered that most email providers and large organisations have increased the vigilance of their spam filters, which means more incoming mail goes into junk/spam folders. A contributing factor to this for the Parish Council is that the “.info” part of the email address could be a reason for our mails being put in junk/spam folders.

In an attempt to improve the success of our emails reaching their intended destination, we have purchased a .GOV.UK domain name, specifically intended for Government

organisations and Town/Parish Councils, making our emails and website instantly recognisable as belonging to the Parish Council. These changes will take effect:

On 23rd August 2021

The Clerk’s Email Address will change:

From: parishcouncil@goostrey.info
To: clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Website address will change

From: <https://www.goostrey.info>
To: <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk>

We will notify our main contacts and will keep the old email address for a few months to ensure everyone has the new address.

If you have any questions contact the Clerk.

Police Surgeries - PSCO Chadwick will be holding beat surgeries in the Village Hall Lounge from 10.30 to 11.30 am on the following dates: 11th September, 2nd & 23rd October, 13th November & 4th December 2021. Everyone welcome!

Edited by Cllr K Morris & S Jones, The Parish Office, Village Hall, Goostrey

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Points of interest:

- **Parish Council** - You can contact Councillors directly via email or speak to the Clerk.
- **Parish Office Hours** Mon, Wed & Fri 13.00 to 16.00
- **Contact** - E-mail clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk Phone: 01477 535825 Answer phone service out of office hours
- **Web site** <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk>
- **Social Media** - we are on Twitter @GoostreyPC

Annual Report for the year from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

In April this year the Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting to report on activities and finances for the year. A full report, including the accounts, can be found on the Parish Council website.

In summary, as you will know, many of the planned activities were prevented by the Covid-19 lockdown and the Village Hall was forced to remain closed by Government legislation. We were fortunate to obtain grants to cover our lost income and overhead costs.

The opportunity was taken to upgrade the bar servery and the lighting in the hall and to arrange for the flowerbeds to be replanted, thank you again to everyone who made donations for this. In place of the Seniors' Festive Lunch a donation was made to 'The Storehouse' Food Bank' in Congleton and the Christmas lights were still illuminated, but without ceremony.

The Parish Council continued to hold all its meetings using Zoom technology enabling various improvements around the village such as the new bench on Booth Bed Lane, planting at Church Bank as well as giving grants for new trees.

Another improvement at Goostrey railway station

The latest improvement at Goostrey railway station is the installation of two display cabinets in the waiting area on the Manchester to Crewe platform to protect artwork created by pupils at Goostrey Community Primary School exhibited there. The Chair of FOGS, Dave Roberts was enthusiastic and said 'They look really impressive'.

Funding for the purchase and installation of the cabinets has come from Sibelco, Community Rail and Northern Rail.

Our Community Rail officer said that 'the long standing relationship between FOGS and the local Primary School is outstanding' and it has been 'the basis of several awards. FOGS members plan to have small plaques near the cabinets which will acknowledge the generosity of all three donors.

For the last nine years there have been a series of displays of artwork at Goostrey station. Soon after FOGS was formed in 2012, Cyril Caulkin suggested the project to deputy headteacher Becky Cowell and she has always been the driving force behind the exhibitions. FOGS members are delighted that the displays encourage residents, particularly parents, to visit the station. And everyone celebrated when the creativity helped the primary school to achieve Artsmark Gold.

The Parish Council responded to all planning applications and gave input to a number of bodies on behalf of Goostrey including to Cheshire East Borough Council (Highways and Planning in particular) and the Sibelco and Manchester Airport liaison groups.

In view of the difficulties caused to many people by Covid, it was decided that there would be no increase in the Parish Council precept for 2021/22.

Now that restrictions are being lifted, we are reopening the hall and hope to return to more 'normal' activities, details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, who are all volunteer residents, for all their time and effort freely given during the year, also the Parish Clerk who runs our activities.

To all those who have supported others in need during the lockdown periods, your wonderful village community spirit is much appreciated.

Parish Council meetings will be resuming face to face in September, they are open to anyone who wishes to attend and you would be most welcome.



Rainbow Display at Goostrey Station

Themes for the displays have ranged from Going Places to the Queen's 90th birthday.

Comments from passengers include : "Lovely to read whilst waiting for the train", "Top marks for display and presentation", "I wish our school did this".

Have you thought about joining FOGS?

Our monthly working parties have started again and new members are always welcome to join us. Some people sweep, some tend the plants and others bring their DIY skills. There are jobs to be done at home too, such as negotiating the purchase and installation of a bike rack. You can find out more about FOGS from our website friendsofgoostreystation.org. You can also talk to Dave Roberts (Chair) on 01477 544779 or Craig Sidebotham (vice chair) on 07526 704218.

Goostrey Village Hall - Open For Business!

We re-opened the Village Hall on 3rd July 2021, with the help of Yvonne and Chris Duke, our new Village Hall Supervisors.

They will be able to assist you with your booking and caretaking requirements and can be contacted at villagehall.goostreypc@gmail.com or on 07425 511680.

Events at the Village Hall from 19th July 2021 onwards

All legal limits on social contact have been removed. There are no longer restrictions on numbers at events other than those imposed by venues on a voluntary basis or in relation to fire capacity limits. All activities can now take place.

For village and community halls it has been indicated by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) that all community events and activities and private hires will be able to take place, **with risks managed by hirers** e.g., through ventilation, encouraging social distancing, hand washing, use of hand sanitiser and wearing of face coverings in certain circumstances.

To assist you with planning and managing your events

at the Village Hall we have information from ACRE which clearly sets out how you can resume your activities safely. These documents are on the Village Hall section of the Website, however if you prefer to discuss your event on the phone or in person, please contact Yvonne or Chris.

Improvements

Whilst we have been closed we have made a number of improvements to the Village Hall.

There is a new Bar Served with spot lights and under cupboard lights in the kitchen and we have new spot lights in the Lounge and in the Main Hall.

Open Afternoon

We are hosting an open day on Monday 30th August, 2021 to give you the opportunity to come and meet Yvonne and Chris, have a chat and a look around the Village Hall, from 12 noon till 3pm. We will also have classic and performance cars and motorcycles on display in the car park, with tea/coffee and cake too!

We hope to see you there and look forward to welcoming you back to the Village Hall soon.

Meet Our New Village Hall Supervisors

Yvonne and Chris Duke joined us in June and have already made a great start getting the hall re-opened. We will let them introduce themselves, in their own words:



Meet Chris and Yvonne Duke, our new Village Hall Supervisors

“We Moved to Goostrey in 1999 (with, at the time, two cats) from Knutsford, and so have been in the village for over 20 years, but have not been able to spend much time in the village during the day at least as, until recently we both had busy full time jobs.

A bit about us:

Yvonne - Village Hall Supervisor

I am an ex Account Administrator and Office Manager, and have worked in small to medium sized enterprises and local businesses. I have experience of organising events, and finding practical ways to resolve issues.

A keen horse rider, I have my own horse, an old ex-hunter that I have been slowly bringing back into the schooling exercises to compete in dressage. He is showing excellent progress, dressage is a mixture of presentation and correct movement at particular markers and I am now moving into

the next group up.

I hope to continue with my dressage tests, as these were put on hold, both due to Covid and also breaking my leg last December. I'm the one with the limp !

I am also something of a petrol head joining with Chris in his motorcycling activities (I ride my own bike), and we attend many Classic car and Motorbike shows. We both actively enjoy skiing, walking and cycling and the odd beer at the pub !

I hope to bring my practical, administrative and down to earth personality to ensure you have a successful hire of the hall's facilities and want to return to the hall for future events

Chris - Assistant Village Hall Supervisor

I am an ex Aerospace Engineer (1st at BAe then Airbus) who recently parted ways from Airbus as part of their Covid Adaptation plan, but wanted to become more involved in the Village we live in and didn't want to become a full time retiree just yet.

I am also an aging motorcyclist (with aging motorcycles to match) and I try to keep myself fit by walking, cycling and attending a local gym, and now, helping look after the Village hall.

Winter activities used to involve Skiing (badly) but that has been 'on-hold' for a while but with luck will be resumed next year.

I hope to keep the hall in the same condition as my motorcycles (working and clean).”

If you have any needs or requests, please do contact us at villagehall.goostreypc@gmail.com or on 07425 511680.

Yvonne & Chris

Residents Information *(stick this on your fridge or notice board!)*

Phone Numbers for Local Services

Bus Services to Holmes Chapel/Sandbach	0871 200 22 33	Goostrey Tree Warden - Thelma Carter	01477 533760
Cheshire East Council	0300 123 55 00	Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School	01477 534513
Cheshire Police Non-Emergency	101	Holmes Chapel Health Centre	01477 533100
Cheshire Police - PCSO	101	Holmes Chapel Library	01477 535126
Chelford GP Surgery	01625 861316	Member of Parliament - Fiona Bruce	01260 274044
Citizen's Advice Bureau, Congleton	03444 111 444	Mobile Library Service	01270 375325
Goostrey Community Primary School	01270 685658	Parish Council (Clerk)	01477 535825
Goostrey Pharmacy	01477 549481	Rail Services	0800 528 0200
Goostrey Post Office	01477 549241	Village Hall Supervisor - Bookings & Caretaker Arrangements	07424 511680

Parish Councillors	Cheshire East Councillors
Cllr K Morris - Chairman	Cllr A Kolker
Cllr T Rathbone - Vice Chairman	Cllr L Gilbert
Cllr N Beckham	
Cllr S Lord	
Cllr P Morgan	
Cllr I O'Donoghue	
Cllr D Roberts	
Cllr C Ross	
Cllr J Sulej	
Cllr E Williams	

Grant Funding Policy

The Parish Council operates a grant funding policy for local groups. If your group wishes to apply for grant funding please read the policy (on the website) and then speak to the Clerk. Your applications must be submitted to the Clerk by 14th September 2021 to be considered by the Finance Committee and Parish Council in October 2021.

Cheshire East Borough Council Services

In Goostrey, many of the services are provided by the Borough Council, paid for by your Council Tax, and not by the Parish Council, residents can contact the Borough Council online with any issues. Examples are: **Roads** – potholes, white lining, street lighting, gullies, road signs, pavements and other Highways matters. These can be reported by Googling for 'Report IT Cheshire East'.

Grass verges and weed control (Google for 'Cheshire East Grass Verges')

Street Cleansing – fly-tipping, litter, graffiti. Report it by Googling for 'Cheshire East Street Cleansing'.

Environment – noise nuisance (Google 'Cheshire East Noise'), air pollution (email environmentalprotection@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Planning – enforcement issues. Report suspected breaches of planning or damage to protected trees by Googling for 'Cheshire East Planning Enforcement'. If in doubt, the Cheshire East Council general telephone number is: **0300 123 5500**

COMMUNICARE - The Future?

'Communicare' - (Holmes Chapel & Area Christian Communicare) - was founded in 1981 as a Caring & Transport service, and until suspension due to Covid, its Volunteer Drivers carried residents, with no means of travel, to medical and related appointments. In the last full year of operation, its 70 drivers carried out 1300 journeys.

Many of the drivers/organisers are well into their 70s & 80s, and a significant number have underlying health problems. The suspension last year, gave time for reflection, and, after many years of service, some of the key organisers/drivers felt it was time to retire and hand over to the next generation.

Appeals were made last year, for new younger volunteers to come

forward and take over the organisation produced little response.

As a result, the decision was taken to call an **Extraordinary General Meeting**, to formally close the organisation on **Thursday Sept 2nd at 7.30pm in St Luke's Church Hall, Holmes Chapel**. Anyone interested in providing a similar service is welcome and should contact hccommunicare@gmail.com