



# Goostrey Parish Council

## AMENITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING

MEETING on WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022

at 7.30PM via Zoom

### DOCUMENT PACK

1. **Declarations of Interest**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Minutes of the Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021** – See minutes at <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Amenities-Committee-03112021-Minutes-Draft-v2-plus-appendices.pdf>
4. **Tree Report** - To receive a report from the Goostrey Tree Warden
5. **Actions from the Amenities Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**
  - a. **“Remembrance” crocuses** - Clerk to purchase a plaque to the value of £50.00 (using wording provided by Rev Buckley).
  - b. Revised Community Resilience Plan **Action:** Clerk to contact the people named in the plan to ensure they are still willing to be named in the plan and that their contact details are correct. Additionally, contact with person who organized the Covid-19 volunteers.
  - c. Seniors Lunch - Clerk to work with Cllr Williams regarding table decorations. PM to look at festive music. **Completed:** A pianist was hired to play Christmas music at a cost of £70 (approved by PC in
  - d. December 2021).
  - e. Audit of Village Assets – To carry out an audit of the assets listed on the report. Cllr Morgan will be carrying out the audit of the assets and will report back on progress at the meeting in January 2022.
  - f. Budget 2022/23 – To consider the following items for inclusion in the budget.
    - Christmas lights On the Bogbean - £2,000
    - Cost for Seniors Lunch Tickets - £10.00
    - The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee - £1,000**Action:** Clerk to add these items to the draft budget for Amenities Committee for 2022/23 – **Completed**
  - g. Cheshire Wildlife - The Amenities Committee resolved to recommend the Council make a donation of £500.00 – **Completed.**
6. **Events in 2022** - To set provisional dates for the events to take place in 2022.
  - i. **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** - To consider what date the event should take place. Suggested dates are 3, 4 or 5 June 2022 (provisionally booked in the Village Hall). There are currently bookings on the late May bank holiday which has been moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.
  - ii. **Seniors Lunch November 2022** - To set two provisional dates for the event this year. Suggest dates are 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The final choice is dependent on the caterer being available and when the Christmas Lights Switch On is to take place so that the events are not on the same day. Consideration as to when Christingle takes place at St Luke’s Church should also be made.
7. **Annual Plan** - To review progress on the items in the Annual Plan – See report on **page 3-4.**
8. **Highways Update** – To receive a report from the Clerk on Highways Matters.
9. **SDU on New Platt Lane** – To consider investigating a mains electrical supply to the unit
10. **Budget Update 2021/22** – To consider the current status of the budget and to consider if any additional purchases or works should be carried out before the end of the financial year. To be provided separately.
11. **Keep Britain Tidy Campaign 2022** – To consider participating this year (see report on **page 5**).

12. **Bogbean Christmas Lights** – To consider a replacement lighting scheme (see report in on **page 6-7**).
13. **Village Environmental Improvements Working Group** – Report from 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (Deferred from November meeting) see report sent as a separate attachment.
14. **Correspondence:**
  - Email from resident regarding Speeding Vehicles – see **page 8**
  - Email from resident regarding collapsing bridge in the Bongs – see **page 9**
  - Email requesting updating of Christmas Lights on the Bogbean – see **page 9**
  - Email from Trees East regarding Footway on Main Road – see **page 10**
15. **Minor items and matters for the next meeting**
16. **Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting** – The date of the next meeting will be 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022.
17. **Close Meeting**

Zoom Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81572969707?pwd=L0pnOHArNkVDM2U5Zk9uazNTNXU5UT09>

Meeting ID: 815 7296 9707

Passcode: 068767

## Goostrey Parish Council Plan for 2020-21

### Presented by Responsibility

#### Amenities Committee

- A) Revise the Resilience Plan to take account of learnings from the Covid-19 situation Including an emergency network of support for any purpose** (e.g., extreme weather event recovery), with appropriate training (e.g., on PPE, CPR) with a mechanism to keep lists up to date. To include any learnings from Holmes Chapel and surrounding villages resilience plans.

SL and PM volunteered to undertake the review/update with support from the Clerk with a view to them producing a first revised draft by end of December 2020.

**Action:** PM to provide an updated before the next Amenities Meeting in June 2021.

**PM has finished reviewing the plan and will be sharing the updated document with SL shortly.**

- B) Get feedback from villagers on their views on what they want to see in the village for the future.**

Publish a plan to improve every area of the village. To include Church Bank/Main Road, Main Road/Booth Bed Lane, Booth Bed Lane Green, Primrose Chase, outside Main Road Newsagent and Station area.

A questionnaire will be produced by NB & TR by end February 2021

Distribution of the Questionnaire both physically and via Survey Monkey and analyse results to take place in 21/22. ***Distribution to take place wc 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.***

**Survey complete. Working Groups set up to review the output, members of the group will be DR, NB, and TR.**

**Anonymous survey results to be posted on the website with TR summary report.**

- C) Create a Plan to implement the Environmental Policy utilising the Environmental group as well as deciding what a longer-term strategy would look like.**

PM to liaise with the Environmental Group to confirm membership and to arrange a joint meeting of Amenities Committee and Environmental Group in January 2021 to consider development of plan.

**Action:** PM to arrange a meeting of the Environmental group before the Amenities Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

**PM has not had time to progress this, action outstanding.**

- D) Implement the plans outlined in A, B & C (above) and make a positive difference to the village commencing 2021-22**, potentially using a village volunteer network and the owners of commercial premises for feedback and implementation.

Pending actions from items A, B & C.

- E) Define and implement visual speeding deterrents, including resolution on the proposal to install village 'gates'.**

Progressing following decision by PC at meeting on 22/09/20 to accept recommendations of report to that meeting. KM has written to CEC asking them to consider funding and implementing works.

**Action:** Clerk to chase CEC Highways regarding funding status.

**TR reported that KM was trying to secure the trial extra works money to fund this as well as the some of the Ward Councillors' budget.**

**F) Consider the potential to provide electric car/van charging points (environmental improvement) at the village hall?**

After some initial investigation there appears to be no appetite for this at the present time.

**Action:** .Review in January 2022.

**G) Investigate and implement improvements to the Booth bed Lane play area.**

- a. S106 Monies for the Booth Bed Lane Play Area** – The amount of funding has been confirmed by ANSA and is now available to be spent. The Council has agreed that the Amenities Committee will lead this project and that any contact or correspondence from ANSA and other stakeholders, should be directed to the Clerk.

**Update:** PM has written to the resident co-ordinating the project to request an update on the project status.

**PM has received a response from the co-ordinator, and they will be meeting to review the results of the last consultation. PM will review potential additional funding sources and will work with the co-ordinator to plan the way ahead. A further consultation with residents will be required once a plan of suitable options is available.**

## **11. Keep Britain Tidy Campaign 2022**

1. The Great British Spring Clean for the 2022 Keep Britain Tidy Campaign is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April.
2. Members may remember how last year the Parish Council received formal notification of the 2021 date far too late for the PC to consider doing more than to provide passive support for the event.
3. The most obvious support to the 2022 campaign would be for the PC to promote litter picking sessions at various designated locations in Goostrey, However, the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman have discussed this and agree that from what they see they do not think that Goostrey has a huge litter problem and any areas with litter issues are generally on the faster stretches of road or roads without verges or footpaths where for highway safety reasons the PC could not promote litter picking by volunteers especially as that may include children.
4. The Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman therefore recommend that the PC publicises the 2022 Campaign using the PC website, Newsletter and Parish Magazine and further recommend that the PC considers providing direct support to any local organisation that asks for help to enable participation in the Great British Spring Clean 2022.
5. The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign offers single adult or child litter picking kits priced £34.99 each as part of their commercial activities. It is not recommended that any purchases be made from this source.
6. Decision required – Motion to support the recommendations in bullet 4.

## **12. Bogbean Christmas Lights**

1. At the Amenities Committee Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 Members confirmed that, following a viewing of the Christmas Lights on 21<sup>st</sup> September, that there should be no change to the lights for 2021 but a new project to look at lighting options should be considered and put in place before the 2022 Switch On event.
2. The 2021 Switch On event was well attended with a number of young children possibly attending for the first time. There was a warm supportive feel to the event, despite the cold, wet, late afternoon and there were many favourable comments.
3. The existing lights have been in position for about five years and no longer present any sort of spectacle due to growth of the tree reducing apparent coverage and some failed lights reducing cover at the top and bottom of the tree, as shown in the image below.



4. Clr. O'Donohue has previously suggested that the Astbury cum Moreton PC illumination of their Village Green Beech Tree may form a suitable model.(below)



5. There are many possible options available and selection is largely a matter of personal preference and the amount that the PC is prepared to invest.
6. It is necessary for a number of issues to be determined before a scope of works and specification may be prepared on which quotations from contractors may be invited.
  - (i) Confirmation that “do nothing” is not an option.
  - (ii) Determine if the display must include a traditional style Christmas tree. Previous consideration of replacement of the existing Larch tree with a Traditional Christmas tree (with or without removal of the existing large Sycamore tree has not progressed as CEC would not consider removal of the healthy Sycamore tree and there is no location on the Bogbean suitable for nurturing a new illuminated Christmas tree which would not detrimentally impact on the open space currently available for the Christmas Lights Switch On and other similar village events. It would be possible to illuminate the existing large Beech Tree, in a similar manner to Astbury if a traditional style Christmas tree is not required. The disadvantages of this option are that the existing electricity supply would require alteration and the display lights would need to be installed and removed each Christmas season.
  - (iii) There are currently a number of outstanding issues regarding the Bogbean and an interim solution to the Christmas lights for 2022 and possibly a few years thereafter may be to replace the lights on the Larch tree with a full set of similar lights supported on new catenary wire installed after removing some two metres of recent lead growth from the top of the tree.
7. Recommendation - That quotations be invited for two options:- a) Illuminate existing Beech tree; b) replace existing lights on Larch tree. On receipt of quotations, Committee to consider implementation of:- Option a) or Option b) or Options a) + b). A budget of £2,000 (2022/23 year) is in place for this project.

TR 27/12/21

## 14. Correspondence

- Letter from resident regarding Speeding Vehicles received 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Clerk at Goostrey Parish,

Please can we consider moving the village speed checks from its very obviously visible (over the hedges) and very predictably scheduled location (always during the school run period - targeting a specific demographic) and to the built up areas of New platt lane and Goostrey Lane where the roads change from national speed limit to 30mph.

Vehicles are charging through the 30mph signs way above the speed limit as they use new platt lane to blackberry gardens and Goostrey lane and main road to booth bed to slow down. I'd estimate easily some vehicles are travelling at over 40-50mph before blackberry gardens and the speed monitor, meaning that data from the monitor is invalid. If the monitor even registers the vehicle - which on a consistent basis it doesn't appear to? Flat battery/tree covered solar panel?

It has been on occasion untenable to use the pavement unless pressed against the hedges as trucks, vans, and cars charge down the roads maintaining momentum.

As someone with young children it makes it considerably dangerous to use these pavements, especially main road with its lowered curb.

I hope you reconsider your deployment strategy to be more effective.

### **Reply sent at the request of TR on 10<sup>th</sup> January –**

Dear (residents name removed),

Further to my reply yesterday please find below our response to your e-mail dated 9th January 2022 concerning vehicles speeding through Goostrey.

The Parish Council (PC) recognises that speeding is one of the highest priority issues for residents and therefore applies significant effort and resource in trying to improve the situation.

The setting of speed limits is the responsibility of the Highway Authority - Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Constabulary is responsible for speed limit enforcement. The PC liaises with these bodies to try to encourage progress on reduction of speeding. The PC has applied to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Goostrey to be included in his pilot project for installation of Average Speed Cameras.

In addition, the PC has installed and maintains five fixed Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) located through the village and these serve as a useful reminder to drivers that they should be complying with the speed limit. The SIDs identify that over the last twelve months approximately 70% of vehicles exceed 30mph with one vehicle travelling at an astonishing speed of 88.3 mph.

Referring specifically to your comments about the activities of the Speedwatch team. Speedwatch does not involve any direct enforcement. The purpose of Speedwatch is intended to be part of the proactive education of drivers with every effort being continuously made to safeguard the interests and safety of all road users, with the benefit of any doubt always on the side of drivers/riders. The locations available to the Speedwatch team are approved by the Police. It is a requirement for the team to wear High Visibility Vests and be fully visible to road users (ie no hiding in gateways etc).

An important factor is that the team members are volunteers and despite regular appeals for additional members none has been forthcoming. The small number of existing volunteers find the present

arrangements to be personally convenient and are not intended to target any particular demographic. The local Police are supportive of this approach and suggest that it is more important for the team to be active than where and when it operates. Speed limit compliance is improved just by the presence of the team but this can only happen for a tiny percentage of the total daylight hours.

Kind regards

Sharon Jones  
Clerk to Goostrey Parish Council

- Letter from resident regarding collapsing bridge in the Bongs (see below) – This matter has been referred to the Goostrey Footpaths Group, and has now been passed to the Rights of Way team at Cheshire East for resolution. The resident has been informed of the action.

Dear Sharon,

At the top of the feeder stream which runs down through the woods to the stream at the bottom of Spinney Avenue there is a bridge on the footpath that has been damaged by overflowing water. Would you be able to pass on the information to the correct land owner/council please?

With the heavy rain last week I thought it a good time to check on the route from the Bongs up to the field and clear out any debris. On arriving at the bridge I could see that the carrier pipe underneath was all blocked up and water overflowing the footpath as a result. This has caused some severe erosion which needs addressing by the owners fairly urgently. I cleared the pipe out so it's running free and did what I could to secure the stone at the bridge but it looks like it needs a proper bridge installing at this point - part of the retaining timber is loose and its lost a post due to the erosion too. There are 3 tributaries feeding into the pipe and a lot of branches/leaves building up so I can only see it becoming an ongoing issue and the current solution looks inadequate given the projected rainfall events with Global warming.

The attached pictures show the bridge after the pipe was cleared out but you can see the path of the water over the surface. It must be said that there was a lot of water running off the fields.

- Letter requesting updating of Christmas Lights on the Bogbean

Hi Sharon,

I went down to inspect the Christmas tree lights and supply box a couple of weeks ago and notice that the top set were faulty.

Today I have had a look to see if the fault was accessible but unfortunately not. The remaining lights are very dim most probably due to discoloration of the plastic over the period they have been in, now six years which is a good life span but they have come to the end of the road. Six years without fault is pretty good going.

It is recommended that the lights and the junction box at the base of the tree is be replaced for next year and the electrics are inspected and tested back to the supply box.

The actual tree itself is not looking in the best of conditions ... so as a suggestion for future generations it may be worth considering planting a younger tree which will mature before the current one has had its day, there appears to be plenty of room available.

- Letter from Trees East about footway on Main Road

Good morning and thank you for your email. Application 21/1043T was submitted last year however I understand that it was returned as invalid and there isn't presently a live application on the system proposing removal of the tree awaiting determination. We have been involved in discussions that have taken place with highways regards the tree and the lift to the pavement but at present I am not in receipt of an application to fell this tree which I'm able to consider and provide a Decision on.

In terms of additional information that could be submitted in support of any new application, the incident numbers and dates of any reports to CE Highways as well as responses received would be useful

Kind regards

Arboricultural Officer  
Cheshire East Council