

GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Parish Council Budget 2022—2023

The autumn is budget setting time for the Parish Council – a process that involves looking at all of our expenditure now and in the future as well as any external pressures that we have to take into account. 2022/23 has been particularly challenging and resulted in the need to make some difficult decisions. For context, the precept for a Band D property in 2021/22 equated to £40.67 per year or 1.1p per day – a very small proportion of the total council tax bill. The precept has not been increased for a number of years.

So what are the pressures we have had to consider? Inflation on goods and services – estimates for the year range from 4% and 7% and we have settled on 5%; increases to employer NI contributions will add to the costs of staff; a technical change in the way our base budget is calculated means a 2%-3% increase was necessary; and continuing uncertainty around the pandemic has needed

a pragmatic view on income from the letting of the Village Hall. When we looked at these and our plans the precept increase would have needed to have been around 30% which was clearly unacceptable.

The Finance Committee and committee Chairs scrutinised every line of the budget deferring expenditure and covering items from our reserves or other budgets where we could. Working in such an uncertain climate we have had no choice but to pass some increases on to the precept as well as draw from reserves to balance the budget.

The end result is a budget increase of £3,805 or 8.6%. Shown as a percentage the increase does look large but it is on a relatively small amount when compared to the budget of Cheshire East Council – it represents around £4 per year for a Band D property.

Cllr. Paul Morgan Chairman of the Finance Committee

Edited by Cllr K Morris & E Bambrook, The Parish Office, Village Hall, Goostrey

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Meet Our New Councillor



Councillor Arthur Freeman joined the Parish Council at the October Council Meeting. Councillor Freeman has lived with his family in Goostrey for over 40 years. Arthur brings a wealth of experience to the council; now retired, he was Property developer for 35 years and was the Chairman

of the board of trustees for St Luke's Hospice Winsford for 15 years and its President for a further 6 years. He was also Chairman of the board of trustees of Cheshire Hospice Education for 10 years. Currently Councillor Freeman is a trustee of Goostrey Methodist Church and also a trustee of Cheshire East Citizens Advice. Goostrey Parish Council extends a warm welcome to its newest member.



And Introducing Our New Clerk

Emma Bambrook will be our new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer from 10th January. She has

attained the Certificate in Local Council Administration and has experience as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with another Council. She also has experience of working in Local Government at Bollington

Town Council where she was Events and Mayoral Officer since 2014.

There will be a handover between Sharon Jones, our current Clerk, and Emma until the end of February, when Sharon leaves. After the end of February, Emma will become the primary contact for all Goostrey Parish Council matters and will also oversee the operations of the Village Hall. We wish Emma well in her new role.

Council Information:

- **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
- 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

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:

Saturday 5th February

Saturday 26th February

Saturday 19th March

Saturday 9th April

Saturday 30th April

Everyone welcome!

Goostrey Village Hall – Open for Business as Usual

Happy New Year! Despite the remaining Covid threat Goostrey Village Hall is open for business as usual and has seen the return of many regulars and a lot of new faces.

The New Year sees new events at the Hall. We welcome The Stand Strong (falls prevention) weekly sessions for those who have had a hip or knee replacement or are just a bit wobbly on their pins. Designed for older adults, it is a gentle exercise session to improve mobility and takes place every Wednesday, so please do support it. The sessions are free and provided by Cheshire East Council. If you are interested in attending, please contact One You on 0808 1643 202. Our Seniors Lunch in late November was a big success and we also had Folksy Theatre perform “The Little Match Girl” in late December; it was a

brilliant performance and we hope to have them back this year. Look out for their posters around the village or updates on our Facebook page. Other events are in the planning stage, we intend to celebrate Her Majesty’s jubilee year on the extended bank holiday in early June, so watch this space for more information. The Rose Day festival will be back (Covid permitting) We are also welcoming back “A celebration of Simon & Garfunkel on the 18th February, a very popular event.

Do check out our Facebook page “Goostrey Village Hall” for news and upcoming events.

Yvonne and Chris Duke

Goostrey Village Hall Supervisors

Seniors Lunch 2021

We were delighted that the Senior’s Lunch was able to go ahead in November, albeit with reduced numbers.



The event was attended by 48 of our Senior residents, who enjoyed the three course Christmas lunch and were entertained by Hannah Bayley playing festive tunes on the piano. One resident commented “It was lovely to

experience more normality and see familiar faces again after such a trying time”.

Our thanks go to everyone who helped to put on the event and to all those who attended.

We hope that the event can return to its usual format in 2022.

Parish Council Historic Files

We have discovered that in addition to Parish Council Meeting Minutes and Accounts there are numerous documents some of which date back more than 40 years. The Archive Group has kindly agreed to review the documents the Council is not required to keep indefinitely with a view to deciding what should be preserved.

As part of the same exercise the Parish Council is considering sending formal documents (such as Minutes of Meetings) to the Cheshire Archive and disposing of anything that is no longer of value.

Planning and The Cheshire East Local Plan

All planning applications in Goostrey will need to conform to the new Cheshire East Local Plan Part 2 (known as the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document). There are no proposed new sites, or increase in housing, in Goostrey, because Cheshire East already has allocations to meet the housing needs across the Borough. However the document is still in draft form and a report from the Planning Inspectorate will be published during 2022, any major changes will be subject to public consultation.

Speed Management Consultation

There are many consultations carried out by Cheshire East on planning and other matters and these are all published on their website. A consultation on ‘Speed Management’ is currently open until 31 January, this is likely to significantly restrict any measures to control speeding in the village and if you consider this to be a concern, please respond to the consultation by visiting the Cheshire East Website and entering Speed Management Consultation in the search box and completing the survey.

The Great British Spring Clean—Save the Date!

Keep Britain Tidy have announced their seventh annual Great British Spring Clean which will take place from 25th March to 10th April 2022. Further details have not yet been announced but the Parish Council will keep everyone updated via our newsletters and website.

The council would also like to provide support to any local organisation that would like assistance in order to be able to participate in the Great British Spring Clean 2022. So please get in touch.



Telephone Box Refurbishment

The refurbishment of the telephone box housing the defibrillator on Main Road, near Bank View is now complete.



The kiosk, which was looking very shabby (see left), has benefitted from new windows and several fresh coats of paint and now looks much smarter.

Other defibrillators in the village are located at the VHPFF Pavilion, which is also accessible 24/7 and there are

indoor defibrillators at the Village Hall & Trading Post available during opening hours.

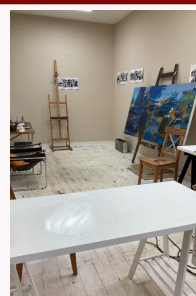


Goostrey Station Studio

Goostrey Beavers and Holmes Chapel Rainbows have booked workshops at the 'not for profit' art studio in the restored building at Goostrey Station during February. They will be using furniture that has been generously donated by the Shopfitting Warehouse

and the Cygnet Club, Congleton. The new art space will host an exciting programme of workshops, exhibitions and artist residences for the local and wider community. If you're interested in attending a workshop or in bringing a group to the art studio, please contact Debbie Goldsmith at deborahgoldsmith@me.com

The Art Studio at the restored Victorian wooden building at Goostrey Station



Goostrees for the Queens Jubilee - Community Tree Planting Day 13th March



A huge thank you to all the volunteers who braved the elements to plant

2,000 trees and hedgerow plants at Bidlea Dairy and Swanwick Hall during November and December. We have a new planting day planned at Hollins Farm to create a new wood, Jubilee Thorns and hedgerow drive which will help to generate a wildlife corridor that runs from Holmes Chapel into Goostrey village.

Please volunteer an hour of your time on Sunday 13th March between 10am - 4pm. Everyone is welcome and light refreshments are provided. Search Holmes Chapel at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) for further details and to register. *Clare Downing*

Goostrey Open Gardens - Sunday 12th June

Please save the date in your diary for a grand tour around the village of fifteen beautiful gardens of all shapes, sizes and styles 11.30am - 5.30pm on Sunday 12th June.



Refreshments and plant sales will be available in some of the gardens. Tickets are £8.50 for Adults and £3.00 for Children and can be purchased online, or at The Trading Post and Goostrey News from April onwards. All ticket sales will benefit the East Cheshire Hospice in Macclesfield and is kindly supported by Goostrey Parish Council.

Contact clare@downing.ltd for more information or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Clare Downing

Friends of Goostrey Station



Could you cycle to Goostrey Station and make use of the new bike rack while you travel by train? This smart storage facility is the result of a grant to FOGS from the Eco Fund of the parcel delivery company DPD

and is now ready for use. FOGS continue to improve the biodiversity at Goostrey Station. Most recently tree saplings donated by The Woodland Trust have been planted on the bank near the car park.

Since FOGS was formed in 2012, Monica Robson and Jose Sykes have tended the tubs to ensure that passengers have a colourful welcome but now they are hanging up their watering cans. Could you spare time to keep the flowering plants at Goostrey Station fed and watered? Just a few hours a month could make a real difference. If you think you could be a volunteer Find more information about FOGS see our website friendsofgoostreystation.org or speak to our chair Dave Roberts on 544779.

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 |
| Cheshire East Council | 0300 123 55 00 |
| Cheshire Police Non-Emergency | 101 |
| Cheshire Police - PCSO | 101 |
| Chelford GP Surgery | 01625 861316 |
| Citizen's Advice Bureau, Congleton | 03444 111 444 |
| Goostrey Community Primary School | 01270 685658 |
| Goostrey Pharmacy | 01477 549481 |
| Goostrey Post Office | 01477 549241 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Goostrey Tree Warden - Thelma Carter | 01477 533760 |
| Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School | 01477 534513 |
| Holmes Chapel Health Centre | 01477 533100 |
| Holmes Chapel Library | 01477 535126 |
| Member of Parliament - Fiona Bruce | 01260 274044 |
| Mobile Library Service | 01270 375325 |
| Parish Council (Clerk) | 01477 535825 |
| Rail Services | 0800 528 0200 |
| Village Hall Supervisor - Bookings & Caretaker Arrangements | 07425 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 A Freeman | |
| CLlr P Morgan | |
| CLlr I O'Donoghue | |
| CLlr D Roberts | |
| CLlr C Ross | |
| CLlr J Sulej | |
| CLlr E Williams | |

SpeedWatch

The SpeedWatch Group continues to run regular SpeedWatch sessions in the village. The data from our regular monthly reports shows that drivers regularly exceed the speed limit when travelling through our village.

To increase the deterrent to speeding drivers we need more people to support SpeedWatch and the Parish Council would like to encourage more residents to join the team.

If you would like to become a member of SpeedWatch please contact the Clerk.

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**.