



# Goostrey Parish Council

The Village Hall  
Goostrey  
Cheshire  
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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29th APRIL 2021 at 7.30pm via ZOOM

Present: Cllrs Morris (KM)(Chairman), Rathbone (TR)(Vice Chairman) Beckham (NB), Lord (SL), Morgan (PM), Roberts (DR), Ross (CR), Sulej (JS) and Williams (EW)

In attendance: Cheshire East Cllr. L Gilbert, Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Council, 14 Members of the Public

1. **Welcome & Introduction** - The Chairman welcomed residents and Cllr Gilbert (CEC) to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr O’Donoghue.
3. **Minutes:** To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Resolved:** *The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were accepted as true record of the meeting.*

4. **Chairman’s Report 2020-2021** - Cllr Ken Morris, Chairman of the Parish Council, delivered his report for 2020/21.

The Chairman acknowledged that many of the planned activities were prevented by the Covid-19 lockdown and the Village Hall was forced to remain closed by Government legislation. The Council was fortunate to obtain grants to cover the lost income and overhead costs for the Village Hall and 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.

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.

As restrictions are lifted, the Village Hall will be re-opened, and we hope to return to more ‘normal’ activities.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors, who are all volunteer residents, for all their time and effort freely given during the year, and the Parish Clerk who runs Council activities. He also thanked all those who supported others in need during the lockdown periods, praising their wonderful village community spirit.

He confirmed that the Parish Council would resume face to face in September, which are open to anyone who wishes to attend, all members of the public are most welcome.

The full report can be viewed at <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/GPC-Annual-Report-2020-to-2021.pdf>

5. **Statement of Accounts** – Cllr Paul Morgan, Chairman of the Finance Committee, delivered his report on the statement of accounts for 2020/21.

Cllr Morgan summarised the statement of accounts for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and compared this with the previous year's account.

Income from Village Hall Lettings was less than 10% of the previous year and this was mainly taken up with payments made for invoices issues prior to the pandemic. However, we were able to obtain grant funding to cover the shortfall and our expenses for the Village Hall.

There has been an increase in the council funds due to the grant funding for the Village Hall however, these funds are held in reserve to support the Village Hall when it re-opens as the likelihood of receiving further grant funding due to COVID-19 not promising.

All budgets and expenditure reports are published on our website at <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk>

The Annual Accounts for 2020/21 is published at <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/accounts-for-apm-2021-v1.pdf>

6. **Close the meeting** - The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

#### **Public Forum**

The following questions and comments were received from residents at the meeting:

- A member of the Goostrey Footpaths Group asked if there had been any progress on the repairs to the bridge on Mill Lane – The Chairman explained that the section of road where the bridge is located is not owned by CEC Highways and we have tried to identify ownership on various maps. CEC Highways are still investigating the ownership of the bridge was ongoing. Cllr Gilbert re-iterated that the nominated contact at CEC Highways to investigate the matter has been successful in previous investigations in identifying ownership. **Action:** Clerk to progress with CEC Highways.
- A Trustee of the VHPFF – Reiterated her thanks to the Clerk for her support during the pandemic relaying COVID-19 guidance for public buildings.
- Two residents thanked the Council and the Clerk for their efforts for the village.
- A resident asked when the Village Hall will be re-opening. The chairman commented that it would not open before the Government restrictions are removed on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. He went on to say that the Council may need to implement restrictions on use of the facility for example the Committee Room may not be used as it is too small to socially distance. Cllr Beckham confirmed that we would be following ACRE guidance on when to open and what restrictions to put in place when we reopen. A Zoom meeting will be arranged with Hirers after 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to discuss when hirers would like to resume bookings and what procedures will need to be put in place.
- A resident raised a concern that if groups had to move into the hall could anything be done to make it more like the lounge. The Clerk indicated that there was new soft lighting in the Hall which could be used, but it would be difficult to accommodate any additional equipment or partitioning as there is no storage space.
- A resident asked if there had been any progress on re-organisation of the storage in the Village Hall – The Clerk responded that access to the hall has been limited as the school has been using it, however, the Council has plans to reduce the amount of documentation stored in the loft and is investigating ways to improve access but, in the meantime a new and sturdier ladder may be purchased. All of the larger heavy items in the loft would need to be moved to ground level.
- Residents asked why the Zoom meetings had to stop - The Chairman explained that the temporary legislation would expire on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and the English Government has not made provision to renew it. In the meantime, the Council will operate under delegated authority until September 2021.