



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of the Goostrey Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 25th October 2022, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. O'Donoghue (IOD) (Chairman), Morgan (PM) (Vice Chairman), Rathbone (TR) (Sulej (JS), Morris (KM), Beckham

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk to the Council (EB), Cllr. Andrew Kolker, Ward Councillor (AK)

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

There were five members of the public present representing Friends of Goostrey Station, who gave a presentation on their recent achievements. Full details are available as an appendix to the minutes on page 6.

10.22.1 Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

10.22.2 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs. Freeman, Roberts, Ross and Williams.

10.22.3 Minutes of the meeting of 27th September 2022: [View draft minutes.](#)

Resolved: *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 27th September 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

10.22.4 Cheshire East Matters: AK had been asked to speak to the Planning Department about planning application 21/2569C which was approved despite objections from Jodrell Bank. AK spoke to the Head of Southern Planning and the response was that the application was a minor alteration of an existing outbuilding which already provides accommodation in the form of a garage, workshop, games room and en-suite. The proposal added a car port with a store above and despite the objection from Jodrell Bank it was argued that the amount of additional accommodation was minimal and the officer failed to see how it could cause such harm to Jodrell Bank as to warrant a refusal. The officer also did not agree that this application was compatible with the adjacent site which they have successfully defended at appeal on a number of occasions in the past.

The council's concerns still stand in that, the Neighbourhood Plan not referred to at all and that Professor Garrington is more likely to be the authority on radio emissions than CEC. Policy SE14 of the CEC Local Plan states that if Jodrell Bank object or can show an impact then the application should be refused. AK will forward the response to KM and Clerk.

Action: The Clerk will write to the Head of Southern Planning including a copy of the original letter from the Parish Council requesting confirmation of the comments passed to AK and will then escalate the matter depending on the response.

AK has had a meeting with the Senior Highways Officer and the school about alterations to the school steps and he is going away to look at this. The officer expressed surprise at the road safety aspect of the children crossing between sites and is going to look at this as well. The Parish Council were supportive of this.

There is a trial meals on wheels service taking place in Holmes Chapel, Goostrey, Twemlow and Cranage. It isn't a free service but would be valuable to those who can't easily cook for themselves,



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delivering hot meals, which can be reheated, every week day. They do need sufficient numbers to make the service viable. It was confirmed that the council would be happy to promote this through their Warm Welcome sessions and advised that the churches in Goostrey were also aware of the trial. IOD thanked AK for his intervention on the issue of a lack of school buses being available for children travelling from Holmes Chapel; the bus company has apologised and agreed that this shouldn't happen in future.

KM noted that CEC are investigating how to relieve the pressure on Planning Officers in what is one of the busiest planning departments in the country. Recruitment is active as they are chronically short of planning officers.

KM also noted that at the last CEC Highways Committee meeting the earlier stance on the removal of SIDs and have now said that existing devices are unlikely to be removed although they may seek to licence them.

10.22.5 Committee Matters: To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees:

a) Finance Committee Meeting 4th October 2022. View minutes at [Draft Minutes Finance Committee Meeting 4th October 2022](#)

- The funds in the Village Hall Projects reserve for the loft extension and staircase were no longer required but that the total funds should remain in the reserve to fund the new office windows.
- That the Telephone Box Reserve Refurbishment and the Platinum Jubilee Event Reserves should be closed and surplus or deficit balanced.
- Add a reserve for the Village Hall Recharge 2021/22.

Resolved: The committee agreed that JDH Business Services Ltd should be appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2022/23.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee of 4th October 2022 and all the decisions therein.*

b) Staff Committee Meeting 17th October 2022. Minutes draft minutes [Draft Minutes Staff Committee Meeting 17th October 2022](#).

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Staff Committee of 17th October 2022 and all the decisions therein.*

c) Village Hall Management Committee Meeting 18th October 2022. [Draft Minutes VHMC Meeting 18th October 2022](#).

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee of 18th October 2022 and all the decisions therein.*

10.22.6 Planning Matters: To receive and agree a response to the following planning applications:

[22/4023C](#) 2, SWANWICK CLOSE, GOOSTREY, CW4 8NU. Ridge height raised, front atrium and dormers, and rear dormers. Comments deadline 9th November 2022.



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Resolved: The Parish council resolved to object to planning application 22/4023C. The proposed design, in particular the increased footprint and height, conflicts with Goostrey Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Policy HOU7 which restricts developments to a maximum of 2 storeys for the reasons given in the NP page 31. It also conflicts with NP Policy VDLC1 (d) page 34, which concerns the appearance relative to the surrounding area. A similar design was refused by Cheshire East at 11 Willow Lane Goostrey (17/2099C) with the reason given that “its height, bulk and massing would appear incongruous within the street scene and would have a significant detrimental impact on the character of the area” and also refused at appeal 3182679 in which the Inspector wrote in paragraph 11 that “I conclude that this element of the proposed development would be contrary to the design objectives of Policy SE 1 of the CELP and Policy VDLC1 of the Neighbourhood Plan as the increased height of the roof would not be consistent with the wider street scene and would be visually intrusive

[22/4016C](#) Swanwick Hall Barns, BOOTH BED LANE, GOOSTREY, CW4 8NB. Retrospective application for replacement stables. Comments deadline 16th November 2022.

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on planning application 22/4016C.

It was noted that planning application 19/4578W AM Skips Hire, Brookbank Farm, Bridge Lane, Goostrey, Cheshire, CW4 8BX contained two time bound conditions i.e. a scheme landscaping and a drainage strategy. **Action:** The Clerk was asked to send a letter to Planning Enforcement to check that the conditions have been adhered to.

10.22.7 Financial Payments: To approve the payments in schedule 10/22.

Resolved: The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 10/22.

10.22.8 Clerk’s Report: The contents of the Clerk’s report were received and noted. Items of note were highlighted as follows:

- In response to questions about Booth Bed Lane Play Area improvements, this appears on the agenda for the next Amenities Committee on 2nd November and PM will write a report.
- Correspondence has been received about concerns that holly is taking over other native species in the Bongs. It was confirmed that this is private land and therefore the council cannot take any action. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond that residents could form a working group to contact the landowners and offer to undertake the work.

10.22.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The situation remains unchanged in that there are not enough volunteers to run the sessions.



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SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road - Summary Report August 2022: The SDU is currently out of action. This has been reported to TWM who are investigating.

- b) Footpath/Tree on Main Road:** The deadline for comments has now past and the decision target date is 27th October.
- a) Bomish Lane/Cross Lane Crossroads:** The council estimated that we are approximately 5 weeks into the suggested 8 week period for this work to be completed.
- b) Highways Liaison Role:** There were no volunteers for this role and it was agreed that a councillor will be assigned to the role when committees and roles are assigned in May next year.

10.22.10 Police Matters: TR advised that the issue with young people cycling around the bungalows on Sandy Lane had been resolved by the PCSO having spoken to those involved.

10.22.11 Safeguarding Policies: The council reviewed the policies for both adult and child safeguarding. It was suggested that access to appropriate counselling should be made available to the Clerk, as safeguarding lead, should this become necessary due to any difficult or upsetting issues that may arise.

***Resolved:** It was resolved that the adult and child safeguarding policies should be approved subject to the following amendment: The adult safeguarding policy should be include councillors under Policy Statement, Standards, (a), this would then be the same as the child safeguarding policy.*

10.22.12 SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements: To confirm that the Parish Council does not wish to opt out of the central procurement and appointment of external auditors scheme.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to remain opted in to the central procurement and appointment of external auditors scheme*

10.22.13 Conclusion of External Audit: The external audit has been completed with no matters of concern arising. The notices were posted on 30th September as required but there is no statutory period for them to be on the noticeboards so the council were asked by the Clerk to approve the duration of time for which the conclusion of audit notice should be displayed on the council notice boards.

***Resolved:** The Council resolved that the conclusion of audit notice should be displayed on the Council notice boards until 31st October.*

10.22.14 Village Entrance Improvements Project: The council reviewed the report and the agreed to accept Quote 1 from Congleton Town Council. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the contractors were content with their quote, with an invitation to visit site if they hadn't done so already, before asking them to schedule the work.

Action: Clerk to contact the Remembering Nell Foundation to inform them about the work to improve the area and to reassure them that this will be done sensitively.



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Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept Quote 1 from Congleton Town Council following confirmation that they were confident that they had included all elements and a site visit to confirm if required.*

10.22.15 Minor items and items for the next agenda: No items for the next agenda were requested.

- IOD reminded Councillors to put a reminder in their diaries to help with the Seniors' Lunch, either with set up or on the day which is 4th December.
- The Clerk asked councillors to put an out of office on their official email accounts if they are going to be out of contact for a reasonable period of time, such as for holidays.

10.22.16 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 22nd November 2022.

Close meeting – The meeting closed at 9.05pm



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Appendix 1

Goostrey Parish Council meeting 25 October 2022

Thank you for allowing Friends of Goostrey Station to speak to Goostrey Parish Council this evening. We are here because we have exciting news to pass on to you.

On 6 October 2022, at a ceremony held at Manchester Central Convention Centre and attended by over 430 guests, Friends of Goostrey Station was chosen from over 1000 Station Adoption Groups across the country to be presented with an award for our Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail.

We also won the trophy for the Most Enhanced Railway Space, following the renovation and conversion of the Victorian station building into Goostrey Art Studio. And we came second in the competition for a photo to capture the essence of Community Rail; our picture was of FOGS members celebrating a seventh win in the Cheshire Best Kept Station competition. So FOGS took home two glass trophies, two cheques and three certificates! The FOGS members who attended the event were amused to overhear someone asking 'where is this place called Goostrey?'

We've been told that our group is a shining example of what volunteers can achieve if they put their minds to it. But you may not be aware that the story started with Goostrey Parish Council.

Ten years ago, the station building at Goostrey was unmanned and dilapidated. Gavin Hollinshead told me that, as he used the trains each day, he noticed graffiti, vandalism and litter that was not collected for weeks on end. The once award-winning gardens had not been touched since the early 1990s. And the bottle bank and charity bins in the car park made the station look very scruffy. Gavin said 'Initially, I began picking up litter myself and sweeping leaves. I probably shouldn't have done this, but I did.' Then he created a kind of club called Goostrey Rail Users Group and he wrote newsletters to residents who expressed an interest in using the trains. He also became the Station Adopter and reported faults to the Rail Authorities.

The next event was a turning point. Gavin secured £200 from his employer, Royal London Mutual Insurance Society in Wilmslow, and he approached Goostrey Parish Council to suggest that a Friends Group should be formed. The most pressing concern was the protection and ultimate restoration of the station building. And so, on 1 May 2012, Gavin arranged a meeting at Goostrey Station of Crewe - Manchester Community Rail Partnership and Goostrey Parish Council..... and so Friends of Goostrey Station (FoGS) was born!

By meeting on the second Sunday morning of each month, a small group of volunteers gradually improved the overall station environment. But we were determined to bring the building back into community use. Following protracted negotiations with Network Rail, the Rail Heritage Trust and other partners, in 2019 the building was restored and altered to create two large rooms. They proved ideal for local professional artist Debbie Goldsmith to use as a studio.



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Over the last 12 months, the station has become a real creative hub, with Debbie using the building as a studio to paint, create wool rugs and prepare workshop materials. The workshops are designed to promote community cohesion and they have been well-received by local schools and youth groups. A recent successful application to the National Lottery will partially fund the installation of a kitchen and toilets. This will ensure that more ambitious projects can be undertaken.

Jools Townsend, chief executive of Community Rail, said: “We are continually impressed by the breadth of the work delivered by the Friends of Goostrey Station, and their obvious commitment to engaging widely with their community and delivering positive change. Their work developing Goostrey Art Studio is a fantastic example of a historic railway building being lovingly restored and converted into a creative community hub. The group’s innovative endeavours to enhance the local environment for people and wildlife is particularly inspirational. We’re delighted that they have been working enthusiastically with us to share their experience on enhancing biodiversity with other community rail partnerships across Britain. We congratulate them on their achievements. This is a worthy win.”

Two FOGS members, Debbie Goldsmith and Christina Burgess, attended the award ceremony, but this has been a real team effort. A number of local people have worked hard over the last 10 years to improve our village station. Founder members who did a huge amount of work over many years included Cyril Caulkin, Megan & George Dingle, Peter & Sylvia Godfrey, Gavin Hollinshead, Ayleen & Mike Jarvis, Monica & Peter Robson and Jose & Neil Sykes. Others like Paddy Fagan, David Mason, Bill Macdonald, Maggie Sidebotham and Louise Willis joined later and brought new skills. Becky Cowell, deputy headteacher at Goostrey primary school, continues to be the driving force behind the changing displays of artwork in the platform shelter. And recently she worked with Debbie Goldsmith on the Platinum Plaque Project to celebrate Queen Elizabeth’s jubilee. Local groups of Beavers, Cubs and Rainbows have helped by planting bulbs and sweeping; they’ve also attended workshops in the Art Studio. The current chair of FoGS, Dave Roberts, with vice chair and treasurer, Craig Sidebotham, were instrumental in negotiating Debbie Goldsmith’s tenancy; and now they’re working hard to get toilet and kitchen facilities installed. In addition, Craig promotes GIS mapping of biodiversity around the station and this was significant in securing the award for our outstanding contribution to Community Rail.

As you know, we always welcome new members. For more information, there’s plenty to read on our website (which is managed by Gavin Hollinshead). And of course you can speak to any member of FoGS.