



# GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



## Ever Thought of Becoming a Parish Councillor?

You may not realise it but, as a member of the community in Goostrey, you are perfectly placed to represent the needs and aspirations of the village. Goostrey Parish Council delivers a range of local services and is consulted by Cheshire East Council on important issues that affect the village and its residents.

Being a parish councillor isn't always easy but it is hugely rewarding. You don't get paid but you will have the opportunity to

make a difference to the people in your community and to influence how local issues are dealt with.

The next local election will take place on 4th May 2023, however, we currently have a vacancy on the council which can be filled before the election, this could be a good way to see if being a councillor is for you.

If you're interested in becoming one of Goostrey's 10 Parish Councillors then read on to find out what's involved.

## Edited by

**Cllr. I O'Donoghue  
& E Bambrook**

**The Parish Office,  
Village Hall,  
Goostrey**

## In this issue:

## What does a Parish Councillor do?

They represent the community by:

- meeting with residents, individually or in groups,
- attending meetings of local organisations,
- attending meetings where issues affecting the village are discussed,
- promoting issues or projects on behalf of the community.

Take part in the decision making process by attending council and committee meetings and helping to decide:

- which initiatives to progress and services to deliver for the benefit of the community,
- how and where money should be spent,
- monitoring and reviewing decisions by assessing the effectiveness of policies, services and projects.

## How much time will it take?

It varies! Parish Councillors have to attend council meetings as well as meetings for any committees on which they serve and give apologies if they are unable to attend. The reality is that many councillors go above

and beyond simply attending meetings which does require more time and effort. They do however find that being part of a committed Parish Council team and working at the very heart of their community is worth the extra effort.

## Who Can Be a Parish Councillor?

You can become a councillor if you're a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union and at least 18 years old. You must also be at least one of the following; registered to vote in the area, been an owner or tenant of any land or premises in Goostrey for the whole of the 12 months prior to the election, your main/only place of work has been here for those 12 months, you have lived in or within 3 miles of Goostrey during that period. You can't be a councillor if you are disqualified. Further information on the range of disqualifications and council elections can be found at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

## Still interested?

Why not attend a council or committee meeting? Members of the public are welcome to attend and it's a great way to see the council in action. You can also contact the Clerk or speak to one of our current councillors for an informal chat and we have a lot more information on the work of the Goostrey Parish Council in this edition of the newsletter.

If you do decide to get involved then you will find that support is available to get you underway. There are training courses and you will be supported by your colleagues as well as the Parish Clerk. On the following pages we have more information about the work of the council's committees, projects and results.

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## Planning Committee

Planning Applications in Goostrey are determined by Cheshire East Council, either by a Committee of Ward Councillors, or by delegation to a Planning Officer. The Parish Council is one of the organisations that is consulted on every application. Our comments are directed by the Policies in our Neighbourhood Plan which is a statutory document, formally approved in a public referendum open to all Goostrey residents on 17 August 2017 (it can be found on Cheshire East's website). There are policies relating to the number, type and density of buildings, as well as any impact on Jodrell Bank, amongst other things. Comments submitted by the Parish Council must meet both the Neighbourhood Plan and be approved by a majority vote of Councillors at its meetings, which are open for anyone to attend. If necessary, we will also input to appeals undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate. Planning Law is set by the UK Government and the Secretary of State is currently proposing a number of changes which we are keeping under review.

## Tree Outside 77 Main Road

The Parish Council is very much in favour of trees and has donated money to tree planting schemes in the village, as well as facilitating new tree planting for commemorative occasions. Unfortunately from time to time safety issues do arise with mature trees which endanger lives. Such is the case with the tree at 77 Main Road which is uplifting the narrow pavement. A resident on a mobile scooter was tipped into the path of oncoming traffic on Main Road and a similar incident has occurred involving a young child in a pushchair. The situation is entirely under the control of Cheshire East Council as Highways are the only department that can make changes to the footpath and road, and a different Cheshire East department controls the TPO on the tree. Our repeated attempts to get these departments to work together on a solution have so far been unsuccessful. However a positive outcome of our recent application to replace the existing tree with new trees is at least a clear written acceptance of the issue which we intend to continue to pursue with Highways as far as we can.

## Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)

As well as being a Parish Councillor, I am the Chairman of the VHMC which meets quarterly, along with representatives from the Primary School and Village Hall Playing Fields Foundation (VHPFF) as the Village Hall is a shared facility. The VHMC seeks to maximize the use of the Village Hall as a community venue, and to ensure that the hirers have the best experience possible. Over the last few years the VHMC has invested in the Village Hall by providing a new bar servery, new windows and re-landscaping at the front of the hall.

The committee is responsible for ensuring that the hall is a safe environment and much of this work is done by the school e.g. electrical testing and fire equipment checks. Part of the role of the VHMC is ensuring good communication between all parties to ensure the smooth running of the Village Hall, this includes reviewing financial performance and budgeting. This year the VHMC had to make the decision to increase hire costs; this wasn't a popular decision, and we accept that it did have a negative impact on hirers but was needed as hire charges had remained fixed for many years. It is worth bearing in mind that the Village Hall makes a loss every year and for the financial year 2023/24 it is budgeted to make a loss of £9500. To put this into perspective the Precept raised through Council Tax paid by the residents of Goostrey will be £50,680 which means that approximately 19% of the precept will be subsidising the Village Hall.

I am also the Parish Council representative on the VHPFF and worked with other councillors to support a Parish Council grant of £10,000 to support the building of the new Bowling Pavilion, which has now been completed. The Council has led work with local churches and other groups to open up the Village Hall to support the Warm Welcome initiative to provide a warm space and friendly faces for Goostrey residents. Please see the Parish Council noticeboards and website for details.

*Cllr. Neil Beckham*

## Annual Parish Meeting—Date for your Diary

The Annual Parish Meeting is hosted by the Council on behalf of the community and is an important opportunity for residents to hear about the Council's activities over the last year and to comment or ask questions on local matters. This year the meeting will be held on Thursday 27th April. The council can only truly represent the community with your input so please consider attending the meeting and taking part.

Further information will be available in the next edition of the newsletter.



## Finance Committee

Every year the Parish Council is asked to submit a Precept for the next financial year. This is the amount that Cheshire East Council will collect via the Council Tax and pass on to the Parish Council. Like everyone else, the Parish Council is being affected by the large rise in inflation and going forward we expect to see large rises in the oil and electricity bills for heating and lighting of the Village Hall. However we have decided to limit the total Precept increase to 4.34%, which is equivalent to an increase for a D band property of £1.95 for the whole year. Annual accounts are published in our newsletter, but please bear in mind that a large part of the money shown in the bank is already committed. In particular we are required to keep 12 months precept as a reserve, together with an amount to cover election costs. In addition to that there is a large reserve which is for monies owed to Cheshire East Council (the landlord of the village hall) but where invoices have not yet been received going back a number of years.

## Amenities Committee

This committee, in consultation with the community, identifies community assets, services or events which will enhance the quality of life for its residents. It looks after specific grassed areas in the village, planters and planting, graveyard maintenance and village assets to ensure that these are maintained for the benefit of the community. The committee organises events like the Seniors' Christmas Lunch and also liaises with the Archive Group, Goostrey Footpaths Group and Tree Warden. Projects this year include the environmental hedging on Shearbrook

Bank which has just been completed and improvements to the village entrance at Booth Bed Lane where work is due to commence in January.

The committee also made funding available to improve the Christmas lighting on the Bogbean following complaints last year. The larch tree has grown over the years since the lighting was first installed and foliage now covers many of the lights, with around half of them now broken.

Whilst the new lighting didn't meet with universal acclaim, the infrastructure and work provided by Dutton Contractors Ltd, free of charge, is extremely good and provides a firm

foundation for future work. The offer of assistance was an opportunity too good to miss and was always intended to be a first stage in refreshing the lighting, which could have been better communicated to the public.

The committee will now look to obtain quotes from specialist companies to design, supply and install new/additional lighting for next year.

In addition to this, the council continues to provide financial support to the Scouts Group to run the Christmas Lights Switch On event, this year totalling £600.

## Boothbed Lane Play Area Survey

The community of Goostrey has received nearly £40,000 to spend on play and amenity space within the village. The area that could best benefit from this money is the Boothbed Lane Play Area. This funding sets the project up to be able to develop a larger scheme. As a first step the Parish Council asked Ansa Environmental Services to draw up a scheme to utilise the money. This design would see the installation of a hardcore track around the play area field where youngsters could ride bicycles safely and provide a path for toddlers. To provide new play equipment and facilities would need in excess of £100,000. This will require serious fundraising and a project team to develop a scheme, publicise it, fundraise, write grant applications and oversee delivery of the project. The Parish Council doesn't have the resources or capacity

to do this on its own. This would be a community project so it makes sense for parents to be members of that project team over approximately 12 months. If a suitable project team can't be established then the backstop design will be installed. So, to start to understand what the community would like to see we have created a survey. As the project develops there will be the opportunity for more input. If you have children please ask them what they think too. We need to also recognise that without dedicated and passionate volunteers anything other than the path around the play area field will not be possible. Please do complete the enclosed survey or go to <https://goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk/documents/development-of-boothbed-lane-play-area-survey/> complete the survey online. The closing date is 28th February 2023. Thank you.

## Farewell & Welcome

In December we bid a fond farewell to Dave Roberts and Emma Williams. The Parish Council thanks them for their hard work over the years and wishes them the very best for the future.

We welcome David Craggs; our newest member was co-opted in December. David was a Goostrey Parish

Councillor for 13 years and Chairman for part of that time. He is returning after a well earned break and brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge.

We still have a vacancy on the council, please see the co-option notice on the website and noticeboards for further information.

**Mrs Kettle** — The Council were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Goostrey stalwart, Margaret Kettle shortly after reaching the grand age of 100, and sends heartfelt condolences to her family and many friends. She will be missed.

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

### Phone Numbers for Local Services

<b>Bus Services to Holmes Chapel/Sandbach</b>	0871 200 22 33
<b>Cheshire East Council</b>	0300 123 55 00
<b>Cheshire Police Non-Emergency</b>	101
<b>Cheshire Police - PCSO</b>	101
<b>Chelford GP Surgery</b>	01625 861316
<b>Citizen's Advice Bureau, Congleton</b>	03444 111 444
<b>Goostrey Community Primary School</b>	01270 685658
<b>Goostrey Pharmacy</b>	01477 549481
<b>Goostrey Post Office</b>	01477 549241

<b>Goostrey Tree Warden - Thelma Carter</b>	01477 533760
<b>Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School</b>	01477 534513
<b>Holmes Chapel Health Centre</b>	01477 533100
<b>Holmes Chapel Library</b>	01477 689550
<b>Member of Parliament - Fiona Bruce</b>	01260 274044
<b>Mobile Library Service</b>	01270 375325
<b>Parish Council (Clerk)</b>	01477 535825
<b>Rail Services</b>	0800 528 0200
<b>Village Hall Supervisor - Bookings &amp; Caretaker Arrangements</b>	07425 511680

### Parish Councillors

### Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr I O'Donoghue - Chairman  
 Cllr P Morgan - Vice Chairman  
 Cllr K Morris  
 Cllr T Rathbone  
 Cllr N Beckham  
 Cllr A Freeman  
 Cllr D Craggs  
 Cllr C Ross  
 Cllr J Sulej  
 Vacancy

Cllr A Kolker  
 Cllr L Gilbert

### Council Information:

Contact Councillors via email or speak to the Clerk.

- **Parish Office Hours:** Mon, Wed & Fri 1pm to 4pm
- **E-mail:** [clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- **Phone:** 01477 535825 Answer phone out of hours
- **Website:** [www.goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- **Social Media:** Twitter @GoostreyPC

**Police Surgeries**—PCSO Chadwick will be holding beat surgeries in the Village Hall from 10.30am to 11.30am on the following Saturdays:

- 28th January
- 18th February
- 11th March

Please come along to see PCSO Chadwick if you have any concerns you would like to discuss.

**Everyone welcome!**

### Cheshire East Borough Council Services

In Goostrey, many of the services are provided by the Borough Council rather than the Parish Council and are paid for by your Council Tax. 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'.

**Bins, waste and recycling** – Google for 'Cheshire East Waste'.

**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](mailto: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**.