



Goostrey Parish Council

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Rathbone (TR)(Chairman), Morgan (PM) (Vice Chairman), Beckham (NB), Craggs (DC)

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk

1. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest made.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Freeman

3. **Minutes of the Meeting on 11th January 2023:**

Resolved: *The minutes of the meeting on 11th January 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.*

4. **Tree Report:** The Clerk had spoken to the Tree Warden and there was nothing to report.

5. **Actions from the Amenities Meeting on 11th January 2023**

- a) SDU on New Platt Lane: To consider investigating a mains electrical supply to the unit. **To be kept under review.**
- b) Keep Britain Tidy Campaign: **Information posted on website.**
- c) Annual Equipment Inspection: **PM confirmed that this is in progress.**
- d) Replacement Bench for The Bogbean: **Work is being progressed with contractor.**

6. **To note the dates and arrangements for the following events in 2023:**

Rose Day: This has been confirmed with the organisers as 24/06/2023. No stall this year.

The Coronation: Presentation of Commemorative mugs to Pre-School, and Primary school children on 5th May.

Christmas Lights Switch On: The Scouts have confirmed that this will take place on 26/11/2023.

Seniors' Christmas Lunch: It was agreed that the lunch would be organised for 03/12/2023, the Clerk will make the arrangements.

7. **Budget Review and Monitoring:** The document was scrutinised by the committee and no issues of concern were highlighted.

8. **Community Resilience Plan:** The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to take part in a discussion based exercise where everyone who is named in the plan would be invited to discuss a scenario and how they would deal with the situation. It was agreed that this should take place after the election.

9. **Village Maintenance contract for 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024:** Only one quote had been received for this contract and this was from the current contractor, Northwich Town Council. Whilst it was unfortunate that other companies had declined to quote, the committee agreed that Northwich have done a good job over the past year. Grass cutting at the village entrance on Main Road/Boothbed Lane was discussed and it was felt that this should be kept under review and additional grass cutting considered if necessary.

Resolved: *The committee agreed to award the Village Maintenance Contract for 2023 – 2024 Northwich Town Council.*

10. **Boothbed Lane Play Area Project:** A progress report including the results of the survey was provided by PM. **See Appendix 1 on page 3.** PM was asked to establish what types of play equipment Ansa would be prepared to accept as, even if they were not chosen as the contractor for the installation, they would continue to be responsible for maintenance, inspection and insurance. The contents of the report and recommendations were accepted by the committee. It was agreed that the Working Group should report to the Amenities Committee in the first instance but could also report to the Parish Council in months where there was no Amenities Committee meeting. The Working Group should be aware of these meeting dates so that approval for phases of the project aren't unnecessarily delayed. A short monthly report on progress was also requested. PM agreed to circulate some further information on Working Group governance to the Clerk and TR and will convene another meeting of the Working Group. It was agreed that progress on the project would be advertised to the public on a regular basis.

- 11. Environmental Improvements Project:** The monitoring report was reviewed and progress noted. **See Appendix 2 on page 6.** Further projects will be progressed as resources and time allow. The options for replacement bollards at Church Bank were discussed and it was agreed to accept Goostrey Community Shed's offer to provide a quote for making replacement oak bollards and for installation to be arranged by the Parish Council.
- 12. Tree on Main Road:** This was discussed in detail at the Parish Council meeting where it was decided that the Highways Department would be asked for their formal comments on this as the Tree Officer commented in her reported that she had not seen this. The Clerk confirmed that this information had been sent to Highways.
- 13. Christmas Tree Lighting:** The Clerk had previously met with a lighting company on the Bogbean who had provided a number of options for Christmas lights on the Bogbean. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate what the costs would be to purchase the lighting and would also arrange for members of the Amenities Committee to meet with the company on site. Following this it will be important to look at what budget would be available for this Christmas and whether further budget would be required to continue to improve the offering over perhaps 3 – 5 years. It was also noted that it would be important to engage with residents so they were fully appraised of the plan.
- 14. Correspondence** – None, other than that already discussed.
- 15. Minor items and matters for the next meeting:** No additional items were requested.
- 16. Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 24th May 2023.
- 17. Meeting closed at 8.30pm**

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE 8th MARCH 2023

BOOTHBED LANE PLAY AREA – CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

Introduction

The PC's consultation on how to spend the s106 funding closed at the end of February and it sought opinions on whether an upgrade of the Boothbed Lane Play Area was support and suggestions on how the money could be spent.

The consultation received 79 responses – 6% said we should do nothing and 19% were happy with the idea of the path around the field (the 'plan a' suggestion) as the means of spending the money.

Comments against investing in Boothbed Lane Play Area

Notable comments from respondents not in favour of investing in improving in the Play Area include:

- "It's lovely as it is. Waste of money for a small village."
- "...there is already a perfectly adequate playing field! The money should be spent on improving the state of local roads and, in particular, address the problem of daily traffic congestion (and danger) caused by users of The Trading Post on both Booth Bed Lane and Meadow Avenue. A classic case of lack of common sense at a time when budgets are tight!!"
- "...as a good proportion of the Goostrey population are 40+, maybe a better use of the money would be to improve facilities at the village hall, such as social classes, choir and educational info. Great we have got it, would it be put to the best uses."

Although these demonstrate a (perhaps understandable) misunderstanding of the funds and purpose of the project these comments do point to what some residents see as priorities and issues.

Alternative suggestions

A further comment noted the lack of play facilities in the east of the village suggesting a "play area at end of school field open to residents as is the Boothbed Lane play area. That is too far away to walk with young children from east end of village. Could be just a multi-function play frame - can add more later."

Analysis of suggestions

As was expected a large and diverse range of improvements were suggested and the resultant analysis was a challenge. Below is a count of mentions of each type of equipment.

Climbing equipment/frame	11	Smaller slide	2
Zip line	9	Roundabout	2
Flooring	8	Fireman's pole	2
Larger slide	6	Table tennis	2

Skate board ramp etc	6	Puzzles	2
Playhouse/ship/castle type thing	5	Parking	1
Adult exercise machines	5	Musical instruments	1
Football area	5	Disabled friendly	1
Adventure playground/net	5	Tunnels	1
Toddler friendly	4	Kicking wall	1
Upgrade swings	4	Basketball post	1
See saw	4	Path/walkway	5
Increase wildlife value	4	Rope bridge	1
Picnic tables/seating	3	Shelter	1
Monkey bars	3	Hockey practice facilities	1
General refurb	2	Cricket practice facilities	1

Highlights to note:

- Desire for climbing and adventure equipment as well as a structure (e.g. pirate ship or castle) and a zip wire (in this is includes monkey bars, rope bridge, fireman's pole etc.)
- The need for all age groups and abilities to be covered – toddlers, 8+, adults and disabled
- The need for a slide – both large and small
- Upgrade/improvement to swings
- Skateboard/scooter facilities
- Fitness equipment and a table tennis table
- Seating and picnic benches
- Wildlife area
- Facilities for ball games (football, basketball particularly)
- Path

Next steps

With the approval of the Committee it is suggested that:

- The group that has met once reconvenes to:
 - Consider these findings and compare how they fit with previous idea gathering
 - Look at those who volunteered to help and cross reference with an existing list of volunteers to:
 - Draw up a list to form an enlarged working group
 - To inform invitations to a further meeting
 - Draw up an outline timetable for delivery and the key milestones
- A meeting convened to 'constitute' a larger working group to get the project going

Governance

The Parish Council is/has to be the 'anchor body' for this project as it is already formally constituted and has robust governance arrangements. However, the PC is not directly delivering the project. It is suggested that the core

project team reports directly to the PC via the Amenities Committee and the Committee provides the authorisation for commencement of stages of the project. However, there is a risk that timings required for decisions may not align with Committee meetings so will need to be well planned or an alternative approvals process put in place.

Appendix 2

GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

PROPOSALS PREPARED BY WORKING GROUP FOR CONSIDERATION BY

AMENITIES COMMITTEE 11th JANUARY 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Working Group held a meeting on 12th October 2021, considered the responses to the Questionnaire and produced the following proposals for consideration by the Amenities Committee. The locations are listed in the order of priority decided by the Amenities Working Group at the meeting on 2nd June 2021. The estimated costs given are believed to be realistic but quotations will need to be invited from three contractors before projects may be considered for approval for construction by the Council.

Works proposed by the Working Group at Boothbed Lane (Village Entrance) and Shearbrook Bank (Environmental hedge planting) have previously been approved by the Amenities Committee and Parish Council and are now being implemented.

1. Church Bank (Village Entrance)

Phase 1 works completed. Previously approved provision of two Gabion Planters no longer provide value for money. Propose:-

- (i) Replace ten existing wooden bollards with Glasdon Manchester Pattern 1005mm high Durapol bollards with 63mm wide coloured bands (red/white) purchase price £176 each. Estimated cost per bollard:- Purchase bollard £176, Remove and dispose of existing wooden bollard £20, Purchase postcrete (two bags per bollard) £14, Install bollard £35. Total £245 per bollard. Total estimate for 10 bollards **£2,500 +VAT**



- (ii) Make single, raised bed planting area approximately 2.4m x 1.2m located adjacent to existing stone wall and between existing electricity pole and bench (clear of shade from oak tree branches). Use either oak sleepers or recycled plastic. Fill raised bed with topsoil and plant with seasonal bedding. Estimated cost:- Purchase three 160mm x 240mm x 2.5m long plastic sleepers @ £154 per sleeper

(oak sleepers approximately half this cost). Estimated cost:- Purchase sleepers £462, Level base, assemble and position raised bed £250, Purchase 1tonne bag topsoil £100. Fill raised bed cultivate provide bedding plants and plant out £200. Total for raised bed **£1,000 + VAT**

- (iii) Edge both sides of existing bitmac footpath (length approximately 25m and dispose of turf arisings off site. Estimate **£150 + VAT**
- (iv) Form year round approximately 500mm wide well-maintained turf margin to perimeter of main verge area by regular mowing. Continue existing maintenance by Contractor Estimate **£700 + VATpa**

TOTAL Estimated Cost For Church Bank £3,650 + VAT + £700pa ongoing maintenance.

2. Primrose Chase

- (i) Prune four existing spindle shrubs and dispose of prunings, Prune two deciduous trees to make access to trunks available for mowing surrounding grass and dispose of prunings, generally tidy area of fallen dead branches and leave area fit to mow. Estimate £750.

TOTAL Estimated Cost for Primrose Chase £750 + VAT

3. Station Area

- (i) Following consultation with FOGS Representative No action required by PC at present time. FOGS may apply to PC for donations or grants in future as the need arises eg cutting of Hawthorn hedge on Station Road and other future projects.

4. Boothbed Lane Green

- (i) The Working Group reviewed the Questionnaire responses and considers that the new seat and higher standard of maintenance of the area by the Parish Council has transformed this area into an attractive open space. The Group proposes no further works at the present time. A further review may take place as part of any Phase 2 Environmental Improvements Project.

5. Main Road Outside Newsagents

- (i) The Working Group is concerned that changes eg additional planting etc may impede visibility or create danger here by causing distraction at this busy location. The Group therefore proposed removal of the four redundant Pre-cast concrete flags and soiling and seeding the area revealed at an estimated cost of £75.

TOTAL Estimated Cost for Main Road Outside Newsagents £75 + VAT

6. Bogbean

- (i) The existing bench seat adjacent to Mill Lane is approaching end of useful life. It is proposed that seat be replaced with a new seat of the same pattern as that provided by the PC at Boothbed Lane Green in 2021. Estimated cost £900. No other changes proposed. Continue with existing maintenance by volunteer.
- (ii) **TOTAL Estimated Cost for Bogbean £900 + VAT**