



# Goostrey Parish Council

## ***Minutes of the Goostrey Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall***

**Present:** Cllrs. O'Donoghue (IOD Chairman), Rathbone (TR), Morris (KM), Ross (CR), Sulej (JS), Craggs (DC) and Beckham (NB)

**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 was one member of the public present who spoke about agenda item 02.23.14 a) a request for the council's support for the Coronation Wall Hanging. The proposal was well received by the council and the Clerk will send the link to the grant application form so that the group can submit this before the next meeting.

**02.23.1 Declarations of Interest:** NB declared an interest in agenda item 02.23.24 b) due to residing on Forest Avenue.

**02.23.2 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Freeman and Morgan

**02.23.3 Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023:**

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

**02.23.4 Cheshire East Matters:** AK advised the meeting of the following:

- Cheshire East Council (CEC) have just held their budget meeting and although no decision has yet been made it looks likely that there will be cuts to services. Subsidies could be withdrawn for bus services, putting the 319 service at risk in Goostrey. Charges at CEC owned car parks in Holmes Chapel may be introduced as well as charges for the brown bin collections. Grass cutting services may also be reduced. AK urged the public and the Parish Council to respond to any consultations they receive.
- AK confirmed that he would speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April but that, due to the pre-election publicity rules, this would be limited to CEC and council services.
- AK was asked whether the parish council could use the same argument used by Alderley Edge Parish Council to have speed reduction measures introduced in Goostrey. The Ward Councillor for Alderley Edge, Craig Brown, is the Deputy Leader of CEC and the Chairman of the Highways Committee. Ward Councillors are allocated approximately £4,000 per year to spend on projects in their wards but in terms of funding highways initiatives this is a very small amount when a pelican crossing can cost approximately £120,000. There is very little safety data to support the measures taken in Alderley Edge. AK was at a loss to explain how this had been approved.
- AK was asked with the Village Hall could be included in the roll out of solar panels to CEC owned buildings for which CEC have received a Government Decarbonisation Scheme Grant. AK agreed that this was something that the Parish Council could request. The Clerk



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was asked to add this to the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) agenda for consideration.

- TR commented that he was pleased that CEC had acted quickly to remove fly tipping on Hermitage Lane.

## **02.23.5 Committee Matters:** To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees:

- a) Staff Committee Minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Staff Committee meeting of 22nd February 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) Report from the VHPFF meeting. NB reported that he had attended the VHPFF meeting in January and requested a plaque or similar to acknowledge the council's grant towards the new bowling pavilion. It was agreed that the council would like its own plaque due to the fact that this was public money. The VHPFF are planning an open day in May to encourage new members and will be having a leaflet in the next Parish Council newsletter. It was also noted that the support from the council is appreciated.
- c) To receive and note the contents of the Environmental Improvements Monitoring Document. The contents of the updated document were received and noted.

## **02.23.6 Planning Matters:**

- a) To receive and agree a response to the following planning applications:

23/0365C Land occupied by telecoms mast and ancillary equipment, Station Road, Goostrey.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to make the following comment on planning application 23/0365C: The Parish Council does not object to a new industrial/commercial unit at the station. However, the Parish Council would like to express disappointment regarding the removal of the telecoms mast. The existing structure was low visual impact, being in a light industrial area next to the railway station and overhead gantries. It is being replaced by a new mast, 800m away in Open Countryside, which the Planning Officer described in their report (21/3936C) as "visually harmful to the character and appearance of the area" and in the revised, approved application (21/5956C) as "would still cause some visual harm".*

23/0616C Cottage in The Field, 18 Main Road, Goostrey

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on planning application 23/0616C.*

- b) Official Complaint to Cheshire East Council (CEC) regarding the erroneous approval of planning application 21/2569C 61A Main Road: A response to this complaint has still not been received. It was agreed that the Clerk would check the date that the formal complaint was sent and that KM would draft a complaint to be sent to the Government Ombudsman.



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In addition, it was agreed that a report should be made to the Enforcement Officer about Holly Bank Farm as a garage is being built on this site which is not part of the planning permission. The Clerk will make the report.

**02.23.7 Financial Payments:** To approve the payments in schedule 02/23.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 02/23.*

**02.23.8 Clerk's Report:** The contents of the Clerk's report were received and noted.

**02.23.9 Highways & Speedwatch**

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The contents of the report were received and noted. The PCSO has been asked to provide training to the 3 new volunteers. The Sim has been topped up meaning that this is costing about £25 per year.
- b) **Footpath Outside 77 Main Road:** The quote received for carrying out a risk assessment was considered to be too high and the potential unintended consequences of the results of such an exercise were discussed.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to make a formal request to CEC Highways Department, as required by the Tree Officer, to seek a highways response to allow the matter to be progressed. The council's suggestion is that the footway is widened and the road narrowed to overcome the safety issue and also to provide traffic calming on a road where more than 70% of all vehicles regularly exceed the 30mph limit. The Parish Council are strongly against a solution that involves closing the footway and causing pedestrians, including children on their way to/from Goostrey Primary School, to cross the road twice shortly after a bend in the road.*

**02.23.10 Police Matters:** TR reported that the Police precept had been approved at the higher rate which means that policing should remain at the same level.

**02.23.11 Election:** The Clerk attended the election briefing at Macclesfield Town Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> February and had nomination forms available for those who wished to take them and some spare copies would be kept in the Parish Office. The forms contain additional information for candidates including key election dates. It was agreed that Clerk would take any forms completed by the next council meeting to Sandbach.

**02.23.12 Insurance Quotes:** The quotes were reviewed by the council.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the 3 year long term agreement quote from Zurich at £817.38.*

**02.23.13 To consider a request from Goostrey Community Primary School for the Parish Council to assist with funding to replace the school steps:** The school steps have been assessed as unfit by CEC



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Highways who have recommended that the steps must be replaced with a ramp rather than steps. AK confirmed that that, despite allocating two years of his Ward Councillor budget to this project. there is currently still a funding shortfall of £6,000. It is thought that the new ramp will cost approximately £20,000 although the project has not been fully costed. The council's concerns are that any funding would represent double taxation to the public and that the full costs are not yet known. The Parish Council asked AK to request a full costing and an official request for funding. The Clerk will advise the school of this.

## 02.23.14 Grants and Donation Requests:

- a) **Jodrell Side WI and Goostrey Arts Studio:** As agreed during the public forum the group will complete a grant form so that this can be formally considered at the next council meeting.
- b) **Goostrey Garden Party:** The application was considered carefully.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to decline the Goostrey Garden Party grant application as the Grant Awarding Policy states that grants are provided to organisations rather than individuals. The application was also declined on the basis that the funding would only provide an event for the residents of one particular street and the council would be unable to provide the same funding for other street parties if they were received.*

- c) **Goostrey Community Shed:** The application was considered in detail and agreed that they would like the Clerk to arrange for Cllrs. Ross, Craggs and O'Donoghue to visit to discuss the application in more detail.

## 02.23.15 Zero Tolerance Policy: The draft policy was reviewed and approved.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the new Zero Tolerance Policy.*

## 02.23.16 Coronation Plans: The activities and events being planned, by both the council and other groups, to mark the Coronation were noted. It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase some filters for the uplighters on the Bogbean to include yellow/gold for the coronation and red to mark Remembrance.

## 02.23.17 Newsletter: The Clerk requested any additional items or articles for the newsletter by mid-March.

## 02.23.18 Minor items and items for the next agenda:

- KM advised that there is a Sibelco meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March and asked people to let him know if there were any issues that needed to be raised.
- IOD will be speaking to committee Chairmen about items for the Annual Parish meeting.
- Outreach Post Office location: Clerk to add this to the VHMC agenda for consideration.

## 02.23.19 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023.



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## **PART TWO**

### **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO RETIRE.**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as extended by the Local Government Act of 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the discussion of the undermentioned items on the grounds that the publication of the matters would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council resolved to move to Part Two to discuss a confidential land proposal.*

### **02.23.20 Land Proposal**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.