



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of the Goostrey Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 25th April 2023, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. O'Donoghue (IOD Chairman), Rathbone (TR), Ross (CR), Sulej (JS) (**PART**), Morgan (PM), Beckham (NB), Freeman (AF)

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 two members of the public present to speak in support of grant applications for Goostrey Open Gardens and Goostrey Parish Archive.

04.23.1 Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were made.

04.23.2 Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Morris and Craggs. Cllr. Sulej advised that he would have to leave the meeting early.

04.23.3 Minutes of the meeting of 28th March 2023:

Resolved: *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 28th March 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

04.23.4 Cheshire East Matters: AK informed the council of the sad news of the death of his colleague Cllr. Les Gilbert, CEC Ward Councillor. AK spoke of Cllr. Gilbert's many qualities as a Ward Councillor and of his excellent working relationship with him. He'll be sadly missed. Ak advised the meeting of the following:

- The new bus timetable has been published which reduces the 319 bus service to two days a week, Mondays and Thursdays, leaving only the 'flexi-bus' as an option at other times. There has been no consultation with Parish Councils or Ward Councillors. This is a regrettable decision and leaves those who rely on the service in a difficult situation. It is the bus company who have closed depots and reduced the service, however, CEC have reduced bus subsidies and it is unclear whether this has had a bearing on this decision because there hasn't been any consultation.
- The new school ramp has been installed and both AK and the school are delighted. The land isn't owned by highways and the ownership couldn't be established but highways did agree to do this work using 3 year's of AK's Ward budget and some highways funding; the total cost was approximately £22,000. Both AK and the council agreed that the ramp looked good and that it was far better than some of the very utilitarian examples which can be seen elsewhere. AK was congratulated for his perseverance on this issue.
- Highways will also be repairing the footpath between The Space Invader and the station during May.
- Residents have been in contact with AK about the ongoing problem with the road at Church Bank. The sand is leaching away underneath the road surface which is undermining its viability.



Goostrey Parish Council

Highways are aware and are keeping a close eye on it; they don't think that it constitutes a serious problem at the moment. Communication is ongoing.

JS left the meeting at 8.15pm

- A resident has been in contact about the condition of the road and the accidents that have occurred on the Jodrell Bank/Terra Nova stretch of the A535. Highways have been out to look at it and their opinion is that the signage is adequate, the road surface is adequate but that the white lining needs reinstating in some places. The problem is that if certain drivers ignore the road signs, conditions and speed limits then that is what causes accidents. Safe drivers should be able to navigate that road safely. In terms of enforcement, the Parish Council can only carry out speed watch where it is safe to do so and there isn't anywhere along that stretch that is safe for this.

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

- a) Planning Committee Minutes 28th March 2023.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 28th March 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) Planning Committee Minutes 31st March 2023.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 31st March 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- c) Finance Committee Meeting 4th April 2023.

- i. Resolved: The Finance Committee resolved to accept the Financial Position vs. Budget for the year ended 31st March 2023.
- ii. Resolved: The Unaudited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023.
Resolved: The Finance Committee resolved to accept the reserves position for the year ended 31st March 2023.
- iii. Resolved: The Finance Committee resolved to accept the risk assessment for 2023-2024.
- iv.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 4th April 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

04.23.6 Planning Matters: All planning matters were considered at the Planning Committee meeting prior to the Parish Council meeting.

04.23.7 Financial Payments: To approve the payments in schedule 04/23.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 04/23.*



Goostrey Parish Council

04.23.8 Clerk's Report: The contents of the Clerk's report were received and noted. Updates to the report included progress on the Village Hall Recharge. Positive communication is ongoing between the Clerk and CEC, figures have been received and the invoices are imminent. Further clarification is likely to be required from CEC.

A production company have asked permission to film in Goostrey for the BBC's Great British Railway Journeys. There will be an investigative visit between 3rd – 13th May with filming likely to take place between 31st May and 9th June. Dates and exact locations will be confirmed.

Correspondence was received from a resident about the lack of car parking spaces for customers in front of the row of shops on Main Road and the businesses opposite. The Clerk had already responded and the Council agreed that the Clerk's assessment of the situation was correct i.e. that enforcement wasn't possible and that any other actions would simply move the problem elsewhere.

04.23.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The contents of the reports were received and noted. It was estimated that it would be 2-3 weeks before the new PCSO would be in post and this is causing the delay to the Speedwatch training. The SDU at Shearbrook continues to record that speeding is still an issue. It was noted that the batteries had not needed replacing/charging this year resulting in lower costs. The Clerk was asked to chase up the white lining work for the cross roads at Bomish Lane/Cross Lane as this is still outstanding.
- b) **Footpath Outside 77 Main Road:** The Clerk advised that a formal request was made to the Head of Highways at CEC, Paul Hurdus, to review the highways safety issue related to the footpath outside 77 Main Road. The request has been acknowledged and logged and CEC have 20 working days to provide a response.

04.23.10 Police Matters: There was nothing additional to report.

04.23.11 Grants and Donation Requests:

- a) **Goostrey Parish Archive:** It was agreed that the grant application was premature as there were no definitive costings for the project at this stage. It was felt that other companies could be approached in order to establish value for money and that alternative project plans could be considered to get the project launched. The Council were happy to consider a future application when sufficient information was available.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved not to provide a grant to the Goostrey Parish Archive at this time.*

- b) **Goostrey Open Gardens:** It was agreed that a grant of £544.80 would be provided to Goostrey Open Gardens. As a suitable bank account was not available for the funds to be paid into, the council would pay the invoices as detailed in the application, up to the



Goostrey Parish Council

specified value, and the purchases would be donated to Goostrey Open Gardens. The organiser was asked to enquire whether East Cheshire Hospice had the facility to retain some funds from this year's event which could be used to make purchases in order to run future events. This did not preclude the group from making future grant applications but would help to ensure the longevity of the event.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to provide a grant of £544.80 to Goostrey Open Gardens by the council paying the invoices as detailed in the application, up to the specified value, and the purchases donated to Goostrey Open Gardens.*

04.23.12 Boothbed Lane Play Area Working Group Update: The contents of the report were received and noted. TR circulated a document with some comments and questions on the project to members. **See Appendix 1 on page 5.** PM answered questions posed by members and advised that he would provide a written response to TR's questions.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the development a Memorandum of Understanding with Cheshire East Council on the management of the s106 monies allocated to Goostrey for informal and formal play. The Memorandum of Understanding will return to the Parish Council for final agreement.*

04.23.13 Bank Holiday to mark the King's Coronation: The council approved the additional bank holiday on 8th May for Council staff.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the additional bank holiday on 8th May for Council staff.*

04.23.14 Kofax Power Advanced PDF Software: The council considered the request to purchase this software.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the purchase of the Kofax Power Advanced PDF Licence at a cost of £131 (excl. VAT).*

04.23.15 Rewilding Initiative: The Council agreed that this was an extremely good idea although the Parish Council doesn't actually own any land to suggest for this initiative. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the resident with a response and to advise that should the council become aware of any appropriate land then they will make contact.

04.23.16 Minor items and items for the next agenda:

The Clerk suggested that councillors arrive at 7pm for the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May so that Declarations of Acceptance of Office can be signed before the meeting. This was agreed.

04.23.17 Date of Next Meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 23rd May 2023. AF gave his apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm.



Appendix 1

Item 12

Boothbed Lane Playing Field Comments on Report to be Submitted to PC Meeting 25th April

1. Query the need for a further survey – What questions are to be asked which have not been answered already or which cannot be answered from other existing sources eg ONS? Cannot better use be made of held data to satisfy external funding sources?
2. Concerns about PC taking lead role in implementation of the project:-
 - (i) GPC has previously looked to facilitate the project with a reduced amount of input and without procuring equipment or installation services. GPC does not have existing lists of either approved suppliers of playground equipment, installation contractors or general contractors. The equipment must be compliant with CEC requirements as CEC will be responsible for future operation and maintenance and it is therefore probably preferable for CEC to undertake the procurement which it is understood that they are able to do.
 - (ii) Procurement will create significant resourcing issues for GPC. Preparing and vetting lists of suppliers and contractors to be invited to submit tenders is arduous and time consuming. GPC procurement is currently undertaken by the Clerk with limited Member support. Procurement of the Environmental Project has been phased to suit the internal resource available and still has elements outstanding because of this. It is questionable if GPC has the resources to procure a relatively complex project of a value c.£100k when existing projects with elements of typical value c.£3k-£5k must be phased. None of this arises if CEC undertakes the procurement. The concern appears to be about delivery to the required programme just how much of a risk is this?
 - (iii) GPC could consider appointment of a professional project manager for this project. This will be expensive.
 - (iv) Previous iterations of the Working Group have a poor record on delivery.

TR25/04/23