



Goostrey Parish Council

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall

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

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr. Terence Rathbone was elected as Chairman for 2023/24.
2. **Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr. Paul Morgan was elected as Vice Chairman for 2023/24.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest made.
4. **Apologies for Absence:** None
5. **Minutes of the Meeting on 8th March 2023:**
Resolved: The minutes of the meeting on 8th March 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
6. **Review of Terms of Reference:** The terms of reference were reviewed and approved without amendment.
7. **Tree Report:** The Clerk had attempted to contact the Tree Warden.
8. **To note the dates and arrangements for the following events in 2023:**
 - a) **Rose Day:** 24th June 2023. Advertisement has been purchased for the programme and arrangements have been made for the hire of the mobile toilet unit.
 - b) **The Coronation:** Presentation of commemorative mugs was made by Cllr. Freeman on 5th May 2023 to the children at the pre-school and primary school and it was very well received.
 - c) **Christmas Lights Switch On** – 26th November 2023.
 - d) **Seniors' Christmas Lunch** – 3rd December 2023.
9. **Budget Review and Monitoring:** The document was scrutinised by the committee and no issues of concern were highlighted.
10. **Annual Equipment Inspection:** PM was thanked for carrying out the inspection and reporting the issues. The full inspection report was received and noted and the following were identified as needing attention:
 - Station Road SID solar panel - vegetation growing behind the perspex.
 - One of the slats on one of the Play Area picnic benches is unscrewed and needs fixing.
 - Bogbean (Main Road side), Shearbrook Bank and Church Bank benches require light aesthetic maintenance.
 - One of the Boothbed Lane Green benches is probably beyond repair and the second needs some attention. It may be worth considering replacing both to match.
 - The defibrillator in the phone box - Phone box could do with a dust inside. It was confirmed that the defibrillator itself is checked on a regular basis.
 - Benches at the Boothbed Lane/Main Road junction need cleaning.
11. **Community Resilience Plan:** It was agreed that the plan needs updating with the new members names but was reviewed last year and is sound. The new members will need to be made aware of its contents. The council were approached about using a redacted version of the plan as a model for others as it is a good example.
12. **Boothbed Lane Play Area Project:** PM provided an update on the project and had provided the answers to the questions raised by TR at the last Parish Council meeting. **See Appendix 1.** A meeting was held last week to discuss progress. A handful of people have been identified to be invited on to the working group including a chartered surveyor and possibly a barrister. The new questionnaire is likely to go out in June online and some hard copies and via the school by interviewing some pupils about what they would like to see. This would all help create a prioritised view of what is possible and would provide demographic data on users.

There hasn't been any contact from CEC about the memorandum of understanding so this will need chasing.

External funding applications have been started with the information available now. Some deadlines are approaching and it is uncertain whether the funding deadlines for this quarter will be met but once the working group has been expanded this will hopefully become easier.

13. Environmental Improvements Project:

- a) **To consider and approve options for Church Bank bollards:** It was agreed that this should be included in the remaining identified works for the Village Entrance improvements to produce a complete project. This would include replacement bollard, two planters either side of the bench, clearing of the stone wall and general mowing and tidying, light maintenance of the bench. Investigate whether the crown on the oak trees need to be lifted to let light in. The Clerk will produce a scoping document, with assistance from TR, to obtain quotes from contractors. It was also agreed that Goostrey Community Shed would be approached to produce the bollards and planters and they could be specified as the supplier.
- b) **To receive an update on the new bench on The Bogbean:** The bench has now been installed.

14. Tree on Main Road: This was discussed in detail at the Parish Council meeting where it was decided that a response be sent to Lynne Nixon to address the assertion that, "At this time there were no defects meeting the council's intervention levels at this location." The email was sent this afternoon.

15. Christmas Tree Lighting: The committee received and considered two quotations based on both hire and purchase options. It was agreed that the options for lighting the fir tree, wrapping the large beech tree and lower branches with lights and potentially new uplighters, plus installation be pursued as a basis for quotes. A further meeting with a representative from the company is being arranged. The Clerk will also start to investigate other companies with a view to obtaining quotes.

16. Environmental Policy: The Environmental Policy was reviewed and it was agreed that all references to the Environmental Working Group be removed, as the group no longer exists, and replace with Amenities Committee. The policy was approved subject to this amendment.

17. Correspondence: Nothing to report.

18. Minor items and matters for the next meeting:

Minor Items

- Consider replacing two benches on Boothbed Village Green.
- Bank View Planter is due to be painted and TR confirmed he is happy to replant for the summer as a volunteer at no cost to the council.
- The village entrance signs have been cleaned.

19. Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting: Wednesday 5th July 2023.

20. Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Appendix 1 Boothbed Lane Play Area

Further to the queries Terence raised at the PC meeting on Boothbed Lane below are the responses. As I put in my report one of the working group members was very closely involved in a similar project of the same scale in Tattenhall. She has direct relevant experience to bring and that is invaluable remembering that that project was hugely successful locally.

I paraphrase the questions:

1. Need for another survey: the survey put out for the Tattenhall was more focussed than either the previous ones (including ours). The survey needs to ask about special needs requirements and well as honing down more on materials as well as equipment. When it comes to grant applications you can't over consult. The planned survey will be badged as the project group rather than the PC and the associated comms will provide an explanation for the survey recognising previous efforts. The PC who sent out its survey to raise the raise awareness as much as anything and it hid that handsomely.
2. Resources: to reiterate my comments at the meeting, we can go with ANSA to do the design and install work (although there might be instances where they can't deliver the project e.g., if they apply for grants on 'our' behalf I believe). They would procure all equipment and services and present us with an invoice at the end. They have an approved supplier list of suitably certified equipment and it is obviously in their interest to install equipment to their standards as they are maintaining in the long run. If we select an alternative contractor, we would need a procurement process which the project group would handle with the oversight of the PC. The selected contractor would need to have playground experience and would be expected to provide design services as part of their package. It would be great to have a dedicated project manager but that would represent a significant cost that would need to be to-sliced from additional funds not the s106 money.
3. Planning permission: The Tattenhall Play Area had an existing planning permission and all improvement work and additional equipment was deemed to be covered by that so there was no need for an application. However, that was replacement not 'extension' - will seek ANSA's advice.

I have got in touch with ANSA on the Memorandum of Understanding and a working group meeting will be convened in the next week or two.

