# Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting

# on Tuesday 23rd May 2023, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs.O’Donoghue (IOD Chairman), Morgan (PM Vice Chairman), Rathbone (TR), Beckham (NB), Craggs (DC), Morris (KM)

**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 representing Friends of Goostrey Station (FOGS) who reminded the council that Goostrey Station has been entered into the annual tournament which this year is celebrating the UK’s Best stations Loved Station and the work of the dedicated volunteers that support them. The public can vote online by visiting www.raildeliverygroup.com. The representatives also made a plea for new volunteers to help continue the work. It was reported that there had been a spate of graffiti at the station and that this was being monitored by FOGS and Network Rail.

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr. O’Donoghue was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2023/2024 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. **Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr. Morgan was elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for 2023/2024 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.
4. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Freeman
5. **Minutes of the meeting of 25th April 2023:**

***Resolved:***  *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 25th April 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

1. **To note that there are three seats vacant on the council following the election and that the council may co-opt new members:** Applications were received from two eligible candidates. The applications were reviewed and the council voted to co-opt both candidates.

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved to co-opt Paddy Fagan as a Goostrey Parish Councillor.*

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved to co-opt Peter Hall as a Goostrey Parish Councillor.*

1. **Declarations of Acceptance of Office:** The Clerk confirmed that all Declarations of Acceptance of Office had been signed and received prior to the meeting apart from those from Cllr. Freeman and newly co-opted members Paddy Fagan and Peter Hall who were not present at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would make arrangements for the declarations to be signed as soon as possible and before the next meeting.

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved that the Clerk would arrange for Cllr. Freeman and newly co-opted members* Paddy Fagan and Peter Hall to sign their Declarations of Acceptance of Office at the earliest opportunity and before the next meeting.

1. **To appoint representatives to outside bodies, liaison roles, committees and working groups:** The council agreed to appoint representatives to outside bodies, committees and working groups for the council year 2023/24 **(See Appendix 1**). This may be subject to change should an additional member be co-opted. It was also recommended that the Planning Committee membership be reduced to six.

***Resolved:*** *The Council resolved to appoint representatives to outside bodies, committees and working groups for the council year 2023/24 subject to a new member being co-opted onto the council.*

1. **To appoint Bank Signatories:** Cllr. Ken Morris was appointed as a signatory to the Santander and NS&I accounts. The full list of signatories can be viewed in **Appendix 2.**

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved to appoint Cllr. Ken Morris as signatory to the Santander and NS&I bank accounts.*

1. **a) Standing Orders:** The Council reviewed its Standing Orders and approved them without change.

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved to approve Standing Orders.*

**b) Financial Regulations:** The Council reviewed its Financial Regulations and approved them without change.

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved to approve Financial Regulations.*

1. **General Power of Competence:** The Council confirmed that it continues to meet the requirements to exercise the General Power of Competence.

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved that in accordance with the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 that Goostrey Parish Council meets the conditions set out to exercise the General Power of Competence.*

1. **Suspension of Standing Order 5. Ordinary Meetings Items K vi, xiii, xv, xvi, xvii, xviii, xix:** To meet statutory requirements the only items of business that must be conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is the election of a chairman. It is therefore proposed that Standing Order 5. Ordinary Meetings Items K vi, xiii, xv, xvi, xvii, xviii, xix are deferred to the next full council meeting.

***Resolved****: The Council resolved to defer Standing Order items K vi, xiii, xv, xvi, xvii, xviii, xix until the next council meeting.*

1. **Cheshire East Council Matters:** Cllr. Kolker reported the following:

* Cllr. Russell Chadwick had been elected alongside AK as the Dane Valley Ward Councillor and it was his intention to attend as many Goostrey Parish Council meetings as possible.
* Following the election CEC is being run as a Labour and Independent coalition with Sam Corcoran remaining as Leader and Craig Browne as Deputy Leader.
* There haven’t been any CEC meetings since the last Parish Council meeting. Inductions and training have been taking place for new members.
* It was noted that CEC currently had an 11-year housing supply, National Planning Policy requires local planning authorities to identify and update annually a supply of deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years’ worth of housing against their housing requirement.
* KM noted that the CEC Chief Executive had used emergency powers to overturn some of the reasons provided for a planning refusal by the Northern planning Committee. The refusal was going to appeal and that was the reason for using the powers. KM was advised that this was constitutional.
* TR commented that the council was pleased to see that the pavement between the Space Invader and the station has been repaired to a decent standard.
* TR wished to clarify that the reason for the depressions on the highway at Church Bank would be defects below the surface such as a drain or gully connection rather than the movement of sand; the sand would be moving because of the defect. Therefore, the highways department would need to dig down and investigate so that the appropriate body could rectify the problem. AK commented that Mill Lane also has a significant fault similar to that at Church Bank. TR specified that sand doesn’t move, the water moves and is then moving into a void. AK assured the council that he has advised highways that there is a problem that is getting worse, they are keeping a close eye on this and this will be addressed if and when they deem it necessary.
* IOD asked for an update on the 319 bus service. AK responded that there is no update as there haven’t yet been any committee meetings D&G have dropped the service, probably because of CEC’s stated intention to cut the bus subsidy. AK will liaise with the Clerk over who to direct this request.
* The Clerk queried who to contact about the provision of average speed cameras on the A535 at Terra Nova school. AK will find out where to direct this request and will speak to the councillor for Lower Withington (Lesley Smetham) who is also involved as a neighbouring Ward councillor, to try to move this forward. It was also suggested that the Clerk contact the Police and Crime Commissioner.

1. **Committee Matters**: To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees:
2. Planning Committee Minutes 25th April 2023.

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 25th April 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

1. **Planning Matters:**

**23/1751T** 10, MILL STREAM CLOSE, GOOSTREY, CW4 8JG.

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved to make no comment on planning application 23/1751T.*

**23/1210C** 10, NEW PLATT LANE, GOOSTREY, CW4 8NJ.

***Resolved:*** *The council resolved to make no comment on planning application 23/1210C.*

**To receive an update on the following planning matters:**

1. Enforcement Request 23/00154E Holly Bank Farm. A double garage has been built for which there is no planning permission. The Enforcement Officer replied that he thought it was permitted development. The Planning Committee responded that this cannot be the case as it extends beyond the curtilage of the property, into the green gap identified in the Neighbourhood Plan which is also open countryside. The Clerk has sent the Officer the Land Registry drawing and a topological survey that the owner had commissioned some years ago which is on the CEC website in addition to some photographs to assist. The concern is that this may set a precedent and the green gap may disappear.
2. Complaint Reference 19541281 61 A Main Road. The Stage 1 complaint wasn’t upheld and it was felt that the reasons for this were not sufficient. A stage 2 complaint has been requested with further information provided and the deadline for a response by CEC is 6th June. The next stage, if the council is not satisfied with the response, is the Government Ombudsman.
3. **Financial Payments**: To approve the payments in schedule 05/23.

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 05/23.*

1. **Clerk’s Report:** The contents of the Clerk’s report were received and noted.
2. **Highways & Speedwatch**
3. **Speedwatch Report**: The contents of the reports were received and noted. The PCSO is still not in post and this is preventing training for the speedwatch volunteers from going ahead. It was noted that 70% of the traffic breaks the speed limit which indicates that most of the speeding is done by residents. The speeding problem is ongoing and deteriorating.
4. **Footpath Outside 77 Main Road:** The Clerk advised that she had received a call from Lynne Nixon who confirmed that she is speaking to the design and road safety teams about this although there is no funding for this currently. She encouraged members of the public to log this as a problem using the reporting tool. The follow up email sent by Lynne indicated that a safety inspection had been carried out this week and that, “At this time there were no defects meeting the council’s intervention levels at this location.” The council agreed that CEC’s response should be publicised via the council’s usual communication methods. It was also agreed that the Clerk would ask for an indication of when a response could be expected. In addition, PM will investigate CEC’s highways defect policy so that the Clerk can formulate a suitable response.
5. **Police Matters:** There was nothing additional to report.
6. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year 2022/23:**
7. **Annual Governance Statement:** The contents of the Annual Internal Audit Report were reviewed and the recommendation made by the Internal Auditor was noted and remedial action agreed. The Annual Governance Statement was considered, completed and approved by the parish council.

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.*

The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.

1. **Accounting Statements:** The council considered and approved the Accounting Statements for 2022/23 which the Responsible Financial Officer had signed to certify that the statement had been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, in line with proper practices, and fairly represented the financial position of the council.

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Accounting Statements 2022/23.*

The Chairman signed the accounting statements.

1. **Public Inspection Period (Notice of Public Rights):** The Clerk/RFO confirmed that the Public Inspection Period (Notice of Public Rights) would be Monday 5th June to Friday 14th July.

1. **Minor items and items for the next agenda:**

**Minor** **Items:**

* It was confirmed that Goostrey Parish Archive is not a Parish Council asset and therefore the council is not responsible for this organisation, other than having provided a home for the archive.
* The Royal British Legion has approached IOD to ask for help with the insurance fee for the road closure for the annual Remembrance Day parade. The costs are not yet known and so the representative was advised to find this information and make a grant application.

1. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 27th June 2023

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Appendix 1** **Goostrey Parish Council Committees 2023 - 2024**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of each committee will be elected at the first meeting of that committee following the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

**Amenities Committee**

Terence Rathbone – Chairman

Paul Morgan – Vice Chairman

Neil Beckham

Arthur Freeman

David Craggs

Paddy Fagan

**Finance Committee**

Ken Morris – Chairman

Terence Rathbone

Arthur Freeman

Ian O’Donoghue

Peter Hall

Vacancy

**Planning Committee**

Ken Morris - Chairman

Terence Rathbone – Vice Chairman

Neil Beckham

David Craggs

Paul Morgan

Paddy Fagan

**Staff Committee**

Ian O’Donoghue - Chairman

Paul Morgan

Ken Morris

Terence Rathbone

**Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)**

Neil Beckham - Chairman

Peter Hall

Arthur Freeman

Sally Ball – VHPFF

Martin Leake – VHPFF

Edna Brandreth – VHPFF

Lyndsey Atkins – School

Jacqui Schurer-Lewis – School

Yvonne Lawson – School

**Boothbed Lane Play Area Working Group**

Paul Morgan

**External Appointments and Liaison Roles**

Ken Morris – Jodrell Bank UNESCO Steering Group, Rudheath Quarry Liaison Group

Terence Rathbone – Police Liaison, Speedwatch Liaison

Neil Beckham – VHPFF Liaison

Terence Rathbone – Highways Liaison

Paddy Fagan – FOGS Liaison

Peter Hall – Manchester Airport Liaison

**Appendix 2 Bank Signatories**

Nat West – Cllr. O’Donoghue, Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Arthur Freeman, Clerk

NS&I – Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Morris, Clerk as main contact

Santander – Cllr. O’Donoghue, Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Morris, Clerk as main contact