



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 27th June 2023, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. O'Donoghue (IOD Chairman), Morgan (PM Vice Chairman), Rathbone (TR), Craggs (DC), Morris (KM), Freeman (AF), Hall (PH)

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 2 members of the public present. A representative from Friends of Goostrey Station reported that the station had placed third in the recent World Cup of Stations in the Northwest and thanked everyone for their support. It was also reported that there had been no further incidents of graffiti at the station, but the group would continue to keep an eye on this. They have been advised by Northern that they are going to install 600 CCTV cameras in stations, but Goostrey will not be included in this roll out.

A new resident is arranging a coach trip in September to Llandudno for the community and asked if they could be advertised in the community notice boards. It was confirmed that the community boards are unlocked and that the trips can be advertised in them, the Chairman also offered to put up posters in The Trading Post. The resident had spoken to people at the St. Luke's Drop In and also the WI's. Other groups to approach were suggested.

The resident also advised that St. Luke's is setting up a mums and tots group at the pavilion, starting in September and asked where he could apply for grant funding to purchase new equipment for the group. It was suggested that the Co-op at the petrol station in Holmes Chapel could be approached, Sibelco was also suggested, and he was encouraged to apply to the Parish Council for a grant.

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

06.23.2 Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Beckham and Fagan.

06.23.3 Minutes of the meeting of 23rd May 2023:

Resolved: *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 23rd May 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

06.23.4 Cheshire East Council Matters: Cllr. Kolker reported the following:

- The council were urged to respond to the Cheshire East Libraries Service Review Consultation as a reduction in library opening hours across Cheshire East was being considered by CEC as a cost saving measure. It was confirmed that this was on the agenda and that the consultation had been circulated to councillors and had also been posted on the website so that members of the public could also respond.
- AK highlighted that there has been a change to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requiring Councils to make provision for 'First Homes'. These are discounted



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homes for first time buyers. Similar to Affordable Housing, First Homes will be exception sites and are outside of local or neighbourhood plan allocations to deliver affordable housing. AK advised that this effectively means that both the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans are out of date and urgently need revising to accommodate First Homes requirements and that without these policies neither the Local Plan nor Neighbourhood Plan could be used to object to First Homes. There was disagreement between AK and KM on whether this was the case, but it was accepted that this creates a vulnerability for the Parish Council regarding speculative development. It was confirmed that this didn't mean that the council was opposed to First Homes. AK was asked to confirm what CEC were doing with regard to a First Homes policy so that the Parish Council could consider a change to the Neighbourhood Plan if necessary.

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

- a) Amenities Committee Minutes 24th May 2024.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 24th May 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) Village Hall Management Committee 6th June 2023.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee meeting of 6th June 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

06.23.6 Planning Matters:

- a) **To elect the Chairman of the Planning Committee.**

Resolved: *Cllr. Ken Morris was elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee.*

- b) **To elect the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee.**

Resolved: *Cllr. David Craggs was elected as Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee.*

- c) To receive and consider the following planning applications:

23/2074C BRICKBANK FARM, BOOTH BED LANE, GOOSTREY, CW4 8NB

Resolved: *The council resolved to comment that the design of the building is not in keeping with the village and to also note that the application states that it is not known how foul sewage is to be disposed of and whether the applicant is proposing to connect to the existing drainage system.*

- d) To ratify the comments made, under delegated authority, for the following application where the comments deadline fell before the meeting:

23/1950C 38, BROOKLANDS DRIVE, GOOSTREY, CREWE, CHESHIRE, CW4 8JB.

Resolved: The council resolved to ratify the submission of no comment made under delegated authority for application 23/1950C.

- e) **To receive an update on the following planning matters:**



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- i. **Enforcement Request 23/00154E Holly Bank Farm.** The Enforcement Officer has been contacted to request an update since the last meeting but there has been no response. The Clerk will contact the Officer again.
 - ii. **Complaint Reference 19541281 61 A Main Road.** The council considered the findings and conclusion of the Stage 2 complaint and whether it would be prudent to take the complaint to the Government Ombudsman. The report by the Head of Planning had resulted in an admission that the incorrect drawings were approved, an apology for the error and confirmation that the error does not provide any precedent or change of policy, plus and assurance that each application continues to be considered on its merits, taking account of the importance of the protection of the telescope. After careful thought it was decided not to refer this issue to the Ombudsman but to underline the council's position by sending a letter to the CEC Chief Executive (copied to the Head of Planning). Drafting of the letter was delegated to KM due to his in-depth knowledge of the subject.
- KM also suggested arranging a short session on the Neighbourhood Plan for those who would find this useful. The Clerk will assist with arranging a convenient time for this.

06.23.7 Financial Payments: To approve the payments in schedule 06/23.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 06/23.*

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

06.23.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The contents of the reports were received and noted, particularly an increase in speeding.
- b) **Footpath Outside 77 Main Road:** The council considered the latest response from Highways which, in brief, states that the tree trunk/roots are not considered to present an actionable defect at this time but that the parish council's concerns and proposals have been raised with both the road safety and design teams to see where this might sit in terms of any potential funding for future assessment and consideration of improvements. It was concluded that the parish council had exhausted all available possible avenues to resolve the issue and that they would have to allow the road safety and design teams to put forward their assessment. The Clerk was asked to ask for an update in September if one hadn't already been provided by then.

06.23.10 Police Matters: TR confirmed that he would be attending the PCC and CEC Borough Town and Parish Council Meeting on 4th July and had submitted a formal question regarding average speed cameras and would report back to council in due course. It was also confirmed that the Neighbourhood Policing team have confirmed that Pam Graham will be the new dedicated PCSO for the Dane Valley Ward at the end of June.

06.23.11 Standing Order Items Deferred from the Annual Parish Council Meeting:



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a) Review terms of reference for committees: The Clerk confirmed that each committee has or will review the terms of reference at their first meeting following the Annual Parish Council meeting and these will be approved by full council at subsequent meetings. This was noted and approved by the council.

b) Review of inventory of land and other assets: The Clerk confirmed that the asset register is up to date and the annual equipment inspection has been completed. This was noted and approved by the council.

c) Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies: The council reviewed the current subscriptions to other organisations and confirmed that it was satisfied that the services were still required and represented value for money. It was also agreed not to reinstate membership of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) at this time but to ensure that this was also reviewed annually.

d) Review of the council's Complaints Policy: The Council reviewed the policy and agreed to approve it without change.

Resolved: *The council resolved to approve the Complaints Policy with no changes.*

e) Review of the council's Communication and Community Engagement Policy: The council reviewed the policy and agreed to the following updates:

- **Section 2.6** The Council shall routinely consider options for improving communication with the community when the policy is reviewed or earlier should this be required.
- **Section 3.3** The council aims to use social media accounts to support communication with the community, primarily as a tool to pass information on to residents. The council's social media accounts are not monitored. The council is keen to hear residents' views but cannot take comments made on social media as official communication. Members of the public wishing to make formal comments or raise issues should email or telephone the Parish Clerk or attend one of the council's meetings.
- **Section 4.2** The Council shall continue to develop the Annual Parish Meeting with an aim of increasing attendance and providing a venue for open community discussion.
- **Section 4.5** To remove this section from the policy – The council shall continue to utilise social media and its website for receiving and responding to comments from the community.

Resolved: *The council resolved to approve the Communication and Community Engagement Policy.*

f) Policies relating to freedom of information and data protection legislation and policies relating to employment: The Clerk requested that these items be deferred until the council meeting in September to allow sufficient time for the policies to be reviewed and updated if required.

Resolved: *The council resolved to defer these items to the council meeting in September.*



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06.23.12 Cheshire East Libraries Service Review - Public Consultation Launch: The council discussed the consultation and based on this AF and PM volunteered to work together on formulating an official council response which would be circulated to members before being submitted to meet the deadline.

06.23.13 To note that there is one seat vacant on the council following the election and that the council may co-opt a new member: It was confirmed that there had been no expressions of interest or applications submitted. The vacancy continues to be advertised.

06.23.14 Declarations of Acceptance of Office: The Clerk confirmed that all declarations have now been signed.

06.23.15 Council Newsletter: The council noted the items for inclusion in the next newsletter and also requested that the organisers of the Open Gardens event and Rose Day are mentioned and congratulated in the newsletter.

06.23.16 80th Anniversary of D-Day – 6th June 2024: The Council agreed that this occasion should be marked and agreed that this is delegated to the Amenities Committee. The Clerk will add this to the next agenda.

06.23.17 Minor items and items for the next agenda:

Minor Items:

- AF requested that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes for all those involved in this year's Rose Day Festival. This will also be included in the council newsletter along with congratulations to the Open Garden event organisers.
- PM offered his apologies for the next meeting.
- The Clerk reminded councillors to check the latest ChALC training schedule and let her know if there are any courses that they would like to be booked on to.

Items for the next agenda

- The Clerk advised that she would be on annual leave from 11th – 22nd July and therefore the agenda for the next meeting would have to be published early, on 10th July. Councillors were therefore asked to let the Clerk have any agenda items or motions as soon as possible.
- It was agreed that a separate 7pm Planning Committee meeting should be scheduled for 25th July. It was agreed that the Clerk would provide KM with the Planning agenda template and the latest date for publishing the agenda to ensure that any planning applications are captured.
- Cheshire East Bus Support Criteria Consultation

06.23.18 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th July 2023

The meeting closed at 9pm.