



Goostrey Parish Council

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

Present: Cllrs. Morris (KM) (Chairman), Rathbone (TR), Craggs (DC), Freeman (AF), Beckham (NB), Fagan (PF) **(PART)**

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk to the Council (EB), Cllr. Andrew Kolker, Ward Councillor (AK), Cllr. Russell Chadwick, Ward Councillor (RC)

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

There were 3 members of the public present. One resident was present for the agenda item on the grant application and the other two residents had concerns about roads and pavements.

One resident reported almost being tipped off her mobility scooter on the pavement outside number 77 Main Road where tree roots have created a very uneven surface. The resident was advised of the steps that the council have taken to try to resolve this and also asked that she log the issue with CEC using the online reporting tool as CEC use this as one of the ways in which work is prioritised. The resident also commented on the condition of the roads in general and was advised to log the issues individually. The same resident also commented on vehicles causing an obstruction by parking on pavements. The Clerk advised that this should be reported to the PCSO whose next surgery was being held in the Village Hall Lounge on 31st July between 10am and 11am.

A resident reported that she had logged the condition of the surface of the footpaths to the bungalows on Sandy Lane which are becoming uneven with loose chippings. The resident felt it would be useful for the road to be swept and the Clerk agreed to request this. She was also concerned that mopeds and electric scooters were using the footpath which was likely to be exacerbating the problem. The Clerk advised that the issue of motorised vehicles using pavements should also be reported to the PCSO.

Cllr. Chadwick also made a note of the issues in order to assist.

Due to the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was necessary to elect a chairman for the meeting.

Resolved: *The Parish Council elected Cllr. Ken Morris as Chairman of the meeting.*

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

07.23.2 Apologies for absence: Cllrs. O'Donoghue, Morgan and Hall.

07.23.3 Minutes of the meeting of 27th June 2023:

Resolved: *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 27th June 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

07.23.4 Cheshire East Council Matters: Cllr. Chadwick reported the following:



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- Garden waste bin collections are due to become a subscription service for those residents who wish their garden bins to continue being collected. This is planned to start in January 2024 and will cost £56 per year.
- There has been a favourable update following the public's response to the consultation on reducing the opening hours of libraries across Cheshire East with the council revising its proposals.
- A public consultation will be launched regarding car park charging.
- There will also be a consultation on street lighting with proposals including the implementation of controllable streetlights or switching off every other light.

Cllr. Kolker reported the following:

- The proposal to abolish one of the planning committees in order to save costs has been deferred as the stated cost savings to be delivered by the proposals had been proved to be incorrect.

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

- a) Finance Committee Minutes 4th July 2023. The Chairman of the committee provided an overview of the last meeting and the main recommendations and decisions. Given the low attendance at the council meeting it was proposed that the items relating to either filling the vacancy on the committee (or reducing the number of members required by the committee's terms of reference from 6 to 5) and identifying volunteers for the roles of committee Chairman and Vice Chairman be deferred to the next meeting.

The Finance committee had agreed to set the ticket price for the Seniors' Christmas Lunch at £10, up from £8.50, due to the increase in catering costs. Last year the council subsidised each meal by £6.50, the increased ticket price would reduce the subsidy to £6 per meal. It was agreed that the ticket price for 2024 should be set at £9.50 which would allow for the increased catering costs and maintain the council subsidy at £6.50.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 4th July 2023 and all the decisions therein with the exception of the ticket price for the Seniors' Christmas Lunch which was set at £9.50.*

- b) Amenities Committee 5th July 2023. The Chairman of the committee provided an overview of the last meeting and the main recommendations and decisions.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of 5th July 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

07.23.6 Planning Matters: All planning matters were considered at the meeting held prior to the Council meeting at 7pm.

07.23.7 Financial Payments: To approve the payments in schedule 07/23.



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Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 07/23.*

Cllr Fagan joined the meeting at 8pm

07.23.8 Clerk's Report: The contents of the Clerk's report were received and noted. The Clerk also advised that a response had been received about the possibility of exploring alternative schemes to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety over Goostrey Station Bridge and where the scheme currently sits within Cheshire East Transport Local Delivery Plans. This follows the cancellation of the plan for traffic lights and a safe walkway for pedestrians in April 2021. It has been confirmed that the requested scheme is included within the Middlewich area Local Transport Development Plan. The scheme could potentially be delivered within the 2 – 5 year timescale, however this is subject to the availability of funding and technical design work being conducted to establish feasibility. The Local Transport Delivery Plans will be used to identify suitable projects when funding becomes available, for example as part of the next CEC capital funding programme from April 2024 onwards. However, the costs of this scheme would likely be above the funding available as part of CEC's 2024-25 capital funding programme. One potential external funding source could be the Department for Transport's Access for All programme. This funding source is not currently open for applications but it was recommended that the Clerk contacts Northern Rail to add the requested scheme to their agenda for any future rounds of funding that become available. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Northern Rail.

A request had also been received from the organisers of Goostrey Open Gardens requesting use of the Bogbean for a plant sale on Sunday 9th June 2024 to raise money for East Cheshire Hospice. The Parish Council had no objection to the proposal but asked the Clerk to highlight in her response that the council do not own the land.

07.23.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The situation with Speedwatch remains the same with training required from the PCSO for volunteers. There is no report for the SDU at Shearbrook as the unit is not responding so the data cannot be downloaded. The device does, however, continue to display and record data. The issue is with TWM to resolve, the Clerk will follow this up.
- b) **Footpath Outside 77 Main Road:** 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. There had been no update since the last meeting and the Clerk was asked to ask for an update in September if one hadn't already been provided by then.
- c) **Works on Mill Lane:** CEC Highways had Mill Lane closed for works for a few days in early July, exploring the depression in the carriageway. A member of the team working there advised that a blocked gully had been found without any connection to the highway drain and this has now been corrected and the area reinstated. Lack of a proper connection would cause erosion of the ground and settlement of the carriageway surface.



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07.23.10 Police Matters: The contents of the report from the Police and Crime Commissioner Liaison Meeting for Town and Parish Councils were received and noted, in particular the answer to the council's question about whether the Commissioner could provide an update about progress with his pilot Average Speed Camera Project and in particular if and when applications may be invited for candidates for consideration in a next phase? The Commissioner responded that the three pilot projects are scheduled to be delivered July/August 2023 and after a three month evaluation period applications will be invited for candidates for the next phase. The Commissioner advised that he is particularly keen to deliver on this programme because speeding is a very high priority concern for Cheshire residents and the next election for PCC is in May 2024.

The Clerk reported that PCSO Pam Graham is in place and has met with the Clerk. PCSO Surgeries have also restarted in the Village Hall.

07.23.11 Grant Application: The grant application for Goostrey Tots was reviewed and the council satisfied itself that, although any funding would be paid into the churches bank account, the money would be ring fenced, to be used only for Goostrey Tots, including any future funding and that the group would be open to pre-school age children and their carers regardless of religious beliefs. Both items were evidenced by the group's constitution.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to approve a grant of £1000 to Goostrey Tots.*

07.23.12 Cheshire East Bus Support Criteria Consultation: It was confirmed that this consultation refers to the proposed changes to the criteria CEC use to prioritise bus services rather than a review of the current buses operating in Cheshire East. It was therefore agreed that the council would write a letter to CEC expressing its ongoing concern regarding the 319 bus service which has already been reduced to two days a week and one day where there is a Bank Holiday Monday. The Clerk and KM agreed to draft the letter. Councillors were encouraged to complete the consultation as individuals. Consultation deadline 6th August.

07.23.13 Minor items and items for the next agenda: AF provided an update, as a trustee of Goostrey Methodist Church on the relocation of the village's outreach Post Office service. He confirmed that positive talks are in progress with a view to the Post Office being located in the manse at the Methodist Church and will keep the council updated.

07.23.14 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 26th September 2023

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.