



Goostrey Parish Council

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall

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

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk

1. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs. Rathbone and Fagan declared a personal interest in agenda item 16 as they are both part of the group seeking to organise the 80th D-Day Commemoration and have guaranteed personal sponsorship. This did not preclude them participating in the debate or voting.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Beckham
3. **Minutes of the Meeting on 5th July 2023:**
Resolved: The minutes of the meeting on 5th July 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
4. **Tree Report:** There had been nothing to report from the Tree Warden. The Clerk was asked to contact the Tree Warden to ask whether she wished to continue in the role.
5. **Northwich Town Council Maintenance Contract:** The Clerk confirmed that had spoken to the Town Council about the maintenance of Church Bank corner and had been assured that this area would be attended to at every future visit.
6. **SID Issues:** The SID at Shearbrook on Main Road has not been working correctly since the beginning of July, in that it hasn't been possible to download the data that the machine is recording. It has been particularly difficult to engage with TWM, however, it has now been confirmed that a site visit is required; a quote is being raised by the company for this.
7. **Budget Review and Monitoring:** The document was scrutinised by the committee and it was agreed that the budgets for Village Maintenance and Graveyard Maintenance should be reversed. Although Northwich Town Council invoice for this work as a whole the Clerk has been apportioning the costs between both cost codes and it is clear that graveyard maintenance accounts for the smaller amount of the maintenance budget. This does not affect the total budget for village maintenance.
8. **Boothbed Lane Play Area Project:** PM reported that despite best efforts he had been unable to get a response from Cheshire East Council (CEC) regarding the Memorandum of Understanding. Ansa reported that the request had gone to the Monitoring Officer and the response had been that CEC don't, and never have, entered into this type of agreement. CEC do, however have this agreement with Ansa. It was also highlighted that a review of the construction and design regulations may be causing a delay. PM will be writing to the Monitoring Officer to query this and to request that any delay caused by the review is added to the time allowed for spending S106 funds.
Ansa have stated that the parish council is free to engage other contractors as long as the work is up to the required standards for CEC to sign off.
Other work relating to design and funding is being carried out by other members of the working group.
9. **Annual Plan 2023/24:** The Annual Plan was reviewed by the committee and its adoption was approved.
Resolved: The Amenities Committee resolved to adopt the Annual Plan for 2023/24.
10. **Asset Inspection:** The Clerk confirmed that CTS Systems has been asked to undertake the following remedial work identified by the asset inspection:
 - Repair loose slat on the table top of the northern most picnic table on the Booth Bed Lane Play Area.
 - Cleaning of the benches opposite the Trading Post.
 - Clean/dust Phone Box on Main Road.
 - Work to the benches at Shearbrook Bank and Church Bank.
 - The foliage behind the SID has been cleared.

The Clerk was asked to update the asset inspection list accordingly.

11. Christmas Tree Lighting: The report and quotes (**See Appendix 1 on page 4**) were reviewed by the committee. The committee agreed to recommend acceptance of the quote for £2,920 (excl. VAT) for the following work:

- 2 x 100w RGB units to replace the existing uplighters. To be positioned at the base of the trunk of the large Beech Tree, shining up through the branches.
- 1 remote control for the uplighters.
- 20 x 10m length sets of professional grade LED pea-lights, on black rubber cable with 2000, 10cm spaced tiny warm-white lights, to wrap the trunk and lower branches of the Beech tree.
- Delivery and installation of all lighting on a date in November to be confirmed. Including testing and full handover of all lights. Including labour, transport etc.

The committee had also investigated the possibility of lighting the fir tree both horizontally (with the lights to remain on the tree year round) and vertically, however, the lighting company would not undertake wrapping lights horizontally around the tree due to the delicate nature of the branches. This left vertical lighting, which increased the ongoing costs significantly as the lights would need to be installed and removed each year. The committee agreed that it did not wish to commit future councils to onerous ongoing costs. In order to add a more traditional Christmas tree shape to the area, it was agreed that a decorative, cone shaped/pole tree (approximately 4m tall) should also be purchased at a cost of approximately £250.00. Work would also be required to establish a connection to the electricity supply. In order to achieve this, further funds would be required to supplement the Christmas Lighting reserve.

It was further agreed that options for lighting the existing fir tree, or another more suitable and traditionally shaped tree, on the Bogbean would be investigated for Christmas 2024.

Resolved: *The Amenities Committee agreed to request that £3,500 is transferred from the General Fund to the Christmas Lighting Reserve to cover this phase of improvements. Any surplus funds may be transferred back into the General Fund once the work is complete or can be carried over into 2024/25 for a future phase.*

12. 80th Anniversary of D-Day – 6th June 2024: Since the last meeting, a group of residents led by Paddy Fagan (as a resident rather than a councillor) had proposed that the 80th Anniversary of D-Day be commemorated in Goostrey with a significant event in the form of a flypast and display by a Spitfire aircraft. Cllr. Fagan expanded on the submitted report (**See Appendix 2 on page 8**) and added that proposals for the event may also include a display of interesting vehicles from the period, various stalls plus fish and chips and the lighting of a beacon, which is in line with suggestions for the official commemorations. It was also confirmed that the group had registered for an RAF fly past, which would be free of charge, however, the group were low on the list. It was confirmed that the financial risk for the Spitfire flypast, should it not be able to take place would be in the region of £200/£300.

The committee were supportive of the proposal but felt that there were a number of issues, that would need to be addressed before it could recommend a course of action to the council. It was therefore agreed that a project working group should be convened to carry out further investigations. It was agreed that the group should consist of councillors and volunteers.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the VAT and insurance implications.

Resolved: *The Amenities Committee recommended that the Parish Council establishes a project working group to carry out further investigations and report to the committee.*

13. Community Resilience Plan: The Clerk reported that the Community Resilience Plan had been updated to reflect the changes within the council and the purpose of the plan communicated to new members. Due to several residents applying for co-option, the Clerk had not re-distributed the plan and would make a final update at the end of the month after which the plan would finally be re-distributed.

14. Correspondence: Nothing to report.

15. Minor items and matters for the next meeting: The Clerk reported that some of the remaining commemorative coronation mugs had been distributed to Goostrey children attending school outside

of the village. It was agreed that some of the remaining mugs should be raffled at the Seniors' Christmas Lunch and some should be offered to Goosfest for the same purpose.

16. Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting: Budget Meeting - Wednesday 18th October 2023.

17. Meeting closed at 8.35pm

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Christmas Tree Lighting Report

Based on the requirements identified at the last Amenities Committee meeting, Lightech were asked to provide an updated quote. The requirements were as follows:

- Purchase and installation of replacement coloured uplighters and wrapping of the beech tree with lights. Lights to be left in position throughout the year.
- Price for the purchase, installation and removal of vertical lighting of the fir tree.
- Price for purchase and installation only of wrapped lighting of the fir tree with lights to be left in position throughout the year.

Lightech provided the following updates quote:

N.B.

- A cost to wrap the fir tree branches wasn't included in the quote as this is not something that the company were able to do this type of tree due to the delicate nature of the branches.
- This does not include re-establishing the electric connection to the fir tree.

REVISED ESTIMATE – FESTIVE LIGHTING SCHEME PURCHASE

Event: Christmas Lighting, Goostrey Village Green – November 2023

Outdoor Lighting

- **2no** 100w RGB units, to replace the existing uplighters. To be positioned at the base of the trunk of the large Beech Tree, shining up through the branches.

Purchase price 2 @ £260.00 £ 520.00

Note: Cost of this product may be subject to price increases.

Note: Floor bases and security cages to be provided by others.

Note: New uplighters to connect to the existing cabling.

- **1no** Remote control unit for uplighters ***Purchase price each £ 30.00***
- **20no** 10m length sets of professional grade LED pea-lights, on black rubber cable with 2000, 10cm spaced tiny warm-white lights, to wrap the trunk and lower branches of the Beech tree. ***Approx.***
20no @ £61.00 each purchase price £ 1220.00
- **10no** 20m length sets of professional grade LED pea-lights, on black rubber cable with 1200, 15cm spaced tiny warm-white lights, for the Fir Tree, to be strung vertically from the top to the bottom.
Approx. 10no @ £64.00 each purchase price £ 640.00

Ancillary Items

- Delivery and installation of all lighting by our helpful and experienced crew, on a date in November to be confirmed. Including testing and full handover of all lights.
Including labour, transport etc. **approx. £ 1400.00**
- Removal of the lights on the Fir Tree in early January (Date TBC) **approx. £ 220.00**
Cherry picker hire **(you may wish to provide this)**
£ T.B.A.
- All cables, connectors and sundries needed for both trees
£ T.B.A.

Total cost excluding VAT and any optional extras £ 4030.00

Note: Prices quoted are on a purchase basis only, unless stated otherwise. If you require a revisit to make any adjustments or additions to the lighting systems, then an additional cost would apply. If any faults arise then we will revisit to correct the fault, however any problems caused by storm damage, wind damage or accidental damage, would not be covered.

If you wish to proceed with our service, please contact our office to arrange a payment as soon as possible.

Budget Considerations

The original budget for new Christmas lighting on The Bogbean was £2,000 and £1,626.92 remains, leaving a deficit of £2,403.08 or £3,209.08 including VAT. Any electrical work to reconnect the fir tree would also need to be included plus the hire of a cherry picker or similar.

Only £373.08 was spent last year, as much of the infrastructure work was carried out by Duttons Contractors free of charge as a service to the community.

Recommendation

Given the time and budget pressures on this project, a phased approach is advised. To this end, Lightech were asked to provide a further quote for improved lighting of the beech tree only as specified, this is provided below.

REVISED ESTIMATE – FESTIVE LIGHTING SCHEME PURCHASE

Event: Christmas Lighting, Goostrey Village Green – November 2023

Outdoor Lighting

- **2no** 100w RGB units, to replace the existing uplighters. To be positioned at the base of the trunk of the large Beech Tree, shining up through the branches.
Purchase price 2 @ £260.00 £ 520.00

Note: You may want 3no units, for more coverage.

Note: Cost of this product may be subject to price increases.

Note: Floor bases and security cages to be provided by others.

Note: New uplighters to connect to the existing cabling.

- **1no** Remote control unit for uplighters **Purchase price each £ 30.00**

- **20no** 10m length sets of professional grade LED pea-lights, on black rubber cable with 2000, 10cm spaced tiny warm-white lights, to wrap the trunk and lower branches of the Beech tree.

Approx. 20no @ £61.00 each purchase price £1220.00

Ancillary Items

- Delivery and installation of all lighting by our helpful and experienced crew, on a date in November to be confirmed. Including testing and full handover of all lights.
Including labour, transport etc. **approx. £1150.00**
- All cables, connectors and sundries needed for both trees **£ T.B.A.**

Total cost excluding VAT and any optional extras £2920.00

***Note:** Prices quoted are on a purchase basis only, unless stated otherwise. If you require a revisit to make any adjustments or additions to the lighting systems, then an additional cost would apply. If any faults arise then we will revisit to correct the fault, however any problems caused by storm damage, wind damage or accidental damage, would not be covered.*

If you wish to proceed with our service, please contact our office to arrange a payment as soon as possible.

This reduces the deficit (including VAT) to approximately £1,877.08 and would remove the need for additional electrical work. The committee could consider adding a conical or maypole style lit tree instead of lighting the fir tree in addition for this year although connecting it to the electricity is again a consideration. Examples are provided below:



www.festive-lights.com - Starry Nights Pole Tree

2m tree only currently available in this size in white rather than warm white
Includes ground pegs and accessories. Suitable for commercial use. Please see website for detailed specifications.
£99 (incl. VAT)



www.amazon.co.uk -Taylor & Brown Christmas Cone Tree Light Up

7ft tree also available in warm white. Please see website for detailed specifications.
£44.99 (incl. VAT)

It is recommended that the committee requests £2,500 is transferred from the General Fund to the Christmas Lighting Reserve to cover this phase of improvements. Any surplus funds may be transferred back into the General Fund once the work is complete or can be carried over into 2024/25 for a future phase.

Consideration should be given during the budgeting process for 2024/25 as to whether additional funds will be required to carry out further improvements, such as further lighting/decoration of the beech tree or lighting for the fir tree.

The committee needs to make a decision at its September meeting to ensure that the recommendations and requests for further funding can be decided by full council on 25th September and orders placed as soon as possible.

Appendix 2

80th Anniversary of D-Day – 6th June 2024:

A group of residents led by Paddy Fagan (as a resident) is proposing that the 80th Anniversary of D-Day – 6th June 2024 should be commemorated in Goostrey with a more significant event in the form of a Fly past and display by a Spitfire aircraft. Proposals are at an early stage and the group seeks to determine what support in principle might be provided by the Parish Council.

An initial quotation for a Spitfire based in Kent to perform over the area adjacent to the Village Hall is £6,000 + VAT. This would reduce if other events en-route or nearby come forward.

The Group recognises the challenges of providing a supporting event which does not impact on Rose Day which is three weeks later.

The group also recognises the difficulty in selling a large number of tickets to cover the cost of such an event and is therefore looking for sponsorships to guarantee to cover the costs. Sponsorship currently received totals £2k and the Group asks if the PC would consider sponsorship of £1.5k.

The Group also asks that provided the total required is covered by advanced Sponsorship and ticket sales if the PC might place the official order for the flight to enable VAT recovery? Similarly it would be helpful if the 3rd party insurance for the event was provided by the PC.