



# Goostrey Parish Council

## ***Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall***

**Present:** Cllrs. O'Donoghue (IOD) (Chairman), Morgan (PM) (Vice Chairman), Morris (KM), Rathbone (TR), Craggs (DC), Beckham (NB), Mooney (SM), Fagan (PF)

**In Attendance:** E Bambrook, Clerk to the Council (EB), Cllr. A. Kolker (Ward Councillor, Cheshire East Council)

### **PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT**

There were five members of the public present. A representative from Friends of Goostrey Station (FOGS) asked whether the council would be willing to support the FOGS and Community Rail Network to revisit the possibility of establishing a footpath between the Station and Jodrell Bank. The council agreed that they were in favour of supporting this initiative again. KM volunteered his assistance in the form of knowledge based on his involvement in the project last time, although he didn't wish to lead the project. Council was also informed that FOGS had a successful visit from the Beavers and distributed some copies of a rail safety guide for children. The intention is to distribute these to the school and to Beavers and Rainbows when they visit to promote rail safety.

A representative from Goostrey Tots thanked the council for the grant it provided to the group to help purchase new toys and equipment and provide a quality environment for the tots and their carers. Cllr. Craggs attended and was impressed to be told that almost everything that was being used on that visit was purchased with the grant from the council. The Clerk offered to add the group to the directory on the council website if provided with the details. It was confirmed that the draft council newsletter is quite full for this issue but the contact details could be added to the back page.

**10.23.1 Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.

**10.23.2 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Freeman and Hall.

**10.23.3 Minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023:**

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

**10.23.4 Cheshire East Council (CEC) Matters:** Cllrs. Kolker was present and passed on Cllr. Chadwick's apologies for being unable to attend the meeting. Cllr. Kolker reported the following:

- **HS2:** The leg to Crewe has been cancelled and this has implications for CEC as the funding provided by this was earmarked to help regenerate Crewe. The full impact of this is still being examined.
- **Full Council Meeting:** This was held last week and a new interim CEO, David Parr, has been appointed.
- **Airband:** There was a public meeting in Holmes Chapel concerning Airband's installation of new telegraph poles. Members of the public are unhappy about the new poles to provide ultrafast broadband combined with the fact that they don't receive notification of



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the work. The response from Airband was that this is permitted and so they intend to continue. The only compromise offered was that if there was a whole area that did not want ultrafast broadband then they wouldn't progress this in that area. Airband's reasoning is that telegraph poles are cheaper than underground cabling and consumers don't want to pay to absorb the much higher costs associated with underground cabling.

- **Car Park Consultation and Green Spaces Review Consultation:** Cllr. Kolker urged the council and residents to take part in the consultation. Both appear as agenda items.

NB mentioned that part to the HS2 funding had been due to be used to fund bus services, it was confirmed that this didn't include Goostrey.

KM asked how CEC intended to ensure that they can meet the government's requirement to enforce waste food collection across all councils by 2026 when they are making waste food collection a voluntary, chargeable service. It appears that this change was made in the full knowledge that this would happen as the requirement has been known since 2018.

## 10.23.5 Committee Matters: To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees:

- a) Planning Committee Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) Finance Committee Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. The Clerk provided an overview of the meeting and highlighted the following recommendations from the committee regarding the Village Hall Recharge.

- **Resolved:** The Finance Committee recommends that the Parish Council agrees to pay the remaining £2,767.01 of the 2018/2019 recharge on presentation of an invoice from Cheshire East Council.

- **Resolved:** The Finance Committee recommends that the Parish Council agrees that the figure of £646.76 for the 2020/2021 recharge will be paid on presentation of an invoice from Cheshire East Council.

- **Resolved:** The Finance Committee recommends that the Parish Council requests that Cheshire East Council raise an invoice to include the 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 recharges.

- **Resolved:** The Finance Committee recommends that the Parish Council reduces the reserves for the 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 recharges to the figures quoted by Cheshire East Council. Any surplus should be transferred to support the recharge deficits in years 2018/2019 (1p) and 2022/2023 (3,639.39), the remainder to be transferred to the General Fund.



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**Resolved:** The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 and all the decisions therein.

- c) Village Hall Management Committee Budget Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

NB provided an overview of the recommendations made by the committee which will be considered by the Finance Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## 10.23.6 Planning Matters:

- a) The following planning applications were considered:

[23/3573C](#) Blackden Hall, Blackden Firs, Goostrey, CW4 8BY. Installation of solar photovoltaic panels on land at Blackden Hall, comprising 3 rows of 12 solar panels generating 15kw of power output.

**Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on planning application 23/3573C.

[23/3785C](#) 18 Bank View, Goostrey, CW4 8PB. Two storey side extension.

**Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to no objection to planning application 23/3785C 18 but would prefer that the hedge is not replaced with a fence, as this is in keeping with the village aesthetic.

- b) To receive an update on planning matters: Enforcement Request 23/00154E Holly Bank Farm: The Clerk has followed up with the Enforcement Officer and has provided additional information which supports the council's concerns over the building works at this location expanding into the field. The field is designated "Open Countryside" in the Local Plan/SADPD and as a "Local Green Gap" in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Enforcement Officer has advised that he will revisit this.

The Clerk confirmed she had received a response from Dane Plus regarding Sandy Lane and that she would ensure that all interested parties received an update.

## 10.23.7 Financial Payments: To approve the payments in schedule 10/23.

**Resolved:** The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 10/23.

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

## 10.23.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** TR requested that the Clerk contact the PCSO and ask her to confirm that she is currently not permitted to carry out Speedwatch training. It was noted however that the PCSO has been carrying out monitoring to detect speeding using a trucam device.
- b) **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** TWM were advised to proceed with the site inspection on 13<sup>th</sup> October. It was noted that it had been particularly difficult to contact and get responses from TWM.

## 10.23.10 Police Matters: The Police & Crime Commissioner's quarterly newsletter has been published and the overall news is good with crime figures down.



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**10.23.11 Financial Risk Assessment:** The council considered the risks listed in the document circulated before the meeting, and the recommendations of the Finance Committee to decide whether any change in the management of risks were required. The changes recommended by the Finance Committee were accepted and the following amendments were also agreed:

- Item 1.3 It was agreed that the current risk level should be changed to 2 3 6 as a more reasonable level of risk.
- Item 2.1 Place promotion and attendance of training by councillors in the actions column to reduce the resultant risk level to 2 3 6. Also add this to item 4.1 as an action. The Clerk was asked to recirculate the ChALC training schedule.
- Item 6.2 It was agreed that the current risk level should be changed to 2 3 6 as a more reasonable level of risk.
- Item 9.1 Change wording of risk to be incorrect salary payments made and/or Inappropriate rate of pay made to employees. Change actions required to read, budgeting now takes account of forecast increases to salaries plus any performance based increase. This changes the resultant risk level to 2 2 4.
- Item 13.1 Add the current overhaul of the Health and Safety policy and risk assessments by PH. Also, improvement of the Village Hall PAT testing arrangements to be independent of the school's contract with a resultant risk level of 2 3 6.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the amended risk assessment as part of its risk management policy.*

**10.23.12 Grant Application:** The grant application from Goostrey Methodist Church to support the continued provision of a Post Office Service in Goostrey was considered by the council. Concerns had been raised when the application had been published as part of the meeting document pack that the original request was to offset the utility and maintenance costs of allowing the Post Office Outreach Service to operate on church premises. The concern was that this may set a precedent for subsidising commercial enterprises (the Post Office) and that, as such, it contravened the council's grant awarding policy. It was suggested that the council would be more comfortable providing grant funding which assisted the church in making the changes required to host the post office service in the vestry. A representative from the church was present and was asked whether the requested grant of £1,800 could be used towards payment of the architect's fees. It was confirmed that this would make a significant contribution.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to award grant funding for the sum of £1,800 as a contribution towards the architect's invoice.*

**10.23.13 Car Park Review Consultation:** The council agreed to support Holmes Chapel Council's objection to the introduction of parking charges.

**Resolved:** *The parish council resolved that the Clerk should complete the Car Park Review Consultation on behalf of the council and support Holmes Chapel Council in objecting to the introduction of parking charges.*



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**10.23.14 Green Spaces Maintenance Review Consultation:** The council noted that Booth Bed Lane Playing Field has been identified as a CEC owned site and graded as Typology E with Medium Amenity. Concern was expressed that the proposed schedule of maintenance would have a negative impact on use of the field, leading to a decrease in use by residents at a time when the council is looking to invest heavily (with the support of CEC/Ansa) in improving the play provision for the benefit of the community. The council would seek to be reassured that, should these measures be introduced and are subsequently found to be inadequate, then steps will be taken to address this.

***Resolved:** The parish council resolved that the Clerk should complete the Green Spaces Maintenance Review Consultation on behalf of the council to express its concerns about the proposed reduction in maintenance for Booth Bed Lane Playing Field.*

**10.23.15 Christmas Lighting:** The Clerk provided an update and confirmed that all the plans were in place for the new Christmas lights to be switched on at the event on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**10.23.16 Autumn Issue of the Newsletter:** The Clerk provided an overview of the articles for the newsletter which is now almost complete. Council requested that information about the Post Office be included in this issue.

**10.23.17 Minor items and items for the next agenda:** It was reported that the Chairman of the Goostrey Archive Group had been in contact and wished to meet with council representatives to clarify the council's relationship with the group and concerns about its future. It was agreed that IOD, DC and the Clerk would arrange a meeting.

**10.23.18 Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.