



# Goostrey Parish Council

## ***Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall***

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

**In Attendance:** E Bambrook, Clerk to the Council (EB)

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

There was one member of the public present.

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

**09.23.2 Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Paddy Fagan

**09.23.3 Co-option of a new member to fill the seat left vacant on the council following the election:** The council reviewed the submitted applications provided by each candidate and a vote took place by show of hands. Susan Mooney was co-opted on to Goostrey Parish Council by an absolute majority of councillors present. The Chairman thanked the unsuccessful candidates for their applications and time and encouraged them to consider applying in the future if a seat became vacant or standing in the next election.

**09.23.4 Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** To resolve to make arrangements for the new councillor to sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council resolved that the Clerk will arrange for the new councillor to sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the earliest opportunity and before the next meeting.*

**09.23.5 Minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023:**

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

**09.23.6 Cheshire East Council (CEC) Matters:** Cllrs. Kolker and Chadwick were not present. The following matters were raised:

- **Tree on Main Road:** The owners have chased progress. The Clerk reported that it is still the case that the issue rests with both the Road Safety and Design teams at Cheshire East Highways. There is currently no indication of a timeline for this process but it was raised at the recent Highways Liaison meeting and the Highways Officer committed to trying to find out what the timeline might be. The Parish Council shares the residents' frustration and will continue to press for updates when appropriate and through the Highways Liaison meetings. Members of the public were urged to report any issues with the pavement directly to CEC using the online tool.
- **Household Recycling Centres:** CEC have a report going to the Environment and Sustainability Committee this week on the future of household recycling centres with a



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recommendation to reduce the number from six to four. This would see the closure of Middlewich and Poynton. There will be a public consultation.

- **Maintenance of Grassed Areas:** CEC are reviewing all of the grassed areas that they have been maintaining which are not owned by CEC. One of these areas is the one in front of the Old Paddock which is likely to be still owned by the housing association. KM could not identify any additional areas in Goostrey.

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

- a) Planning Committee Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) Planning Committee Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- c) Amenities Committee Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Resolved - Christmas Tree Lighting:** 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.

**Resolved - 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day:** The Amenities Committee recommended that the Parish Council establishes a project working group to carry out further investigations and report to the committee.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- d) Village Hall Management Committee Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Resolved - Guttering Sealant Work:** The Committee resolved to recommend that £1,000 is paid to Goostrey Community Primary School, upon presentation of an invoice, as a contribution to the sealant work carried out on the Village Hall.

The Chairman and Clerk were asked to remind the school that there should be advanced notification of any future maintenance work.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

- e) **Finance Committee Membership:**

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to appoint Susan Mooney to the Finance Committee.*



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**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference.*

**09.23.8 Planning Matters:** There were no planning applications to consider. All applications were dealt with at the Planning Committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**09.23.9 Financial Payments:** To approve the payments in schedule 8&9/23.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 8&9/23.*

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

**09.23.11 Highways & Speedwatch**

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The situation with Speedwatch remains the same with training required from the PCSO for volunteers. The meeting was informed that PCSOs are not allowed to undertake training until further notice as this is under review. 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) **Highways Liaison:** The draft minutes of the meeting were received and noted. TR reported that this was an excellent meeting and advised that the Highways Officers responsibilities have changed to being responsible for surfacing and road markings, drainage and street lighting now fall outside of his remit. Nevertheless the meeting was productive and positive and the next meeting has been arranged and they will continue.

**09.23.12 Police Matters:** The Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report has been published today. Crime in Cheshire is down by 4% and £13 million in additional funding has been achieved.

**09.23.13 Rudheath Quarry Liaison Group Update:** KM reported that there was a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September. There is supposed to be a footpath which runs along the back of Racecourse Wood, joining Goostrey Lane and New Platt Lane. This is due to go in in November and will be a permissive path that should be open during the life of the quarry. KM pursuing Sibelco over measuring and monitoring dust particles of less than 2.5 microns. Although this is carried out at other sites it is not carried out here. KM and Cllr. Kolker have asked Sibelco to commit to either measuring the levels or make assurances that they are not exceeding the legal limit and to respond by 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**09.23.14 Policy Review:** The following policies were reviewed by council:

- a) **Anonymous Communications:** No changes were requested.  
**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Anonymous Communications policy.*
- b) **Co-option:** It was agreed that the first paragraph in the "At the Council Meeting" section of the policy required amendment to improve the clarity of the language. On the advice of the Clerk, it was also agreed that the reference to proposing and seconding candidates should be removed as there was no legal requirement to do so. The paragraph will now



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read: Each councillor present will have one vote per vacancy to be filled and the vote will be by show of hands. At the request of a councillor the vote may be recorded.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Co-option policy with the agreed amendment.*

- c) **Data Protection:** No changes were requested.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Data Protection policy.*

- d) **Disciplinary:** No changes were requested.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Disciplinary policy.*

- e) **Document Retention:** No changes were requested.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Document Retention policy.*

- f) **Equality and Diversity:** No changes were requested.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Equality and Diversity policy.*

- g) **Grant Awarding:** It was agreed to amend the wording of the policy to state that the Finance Committee would consider applications and make recommendations to council wherever possible but that, in circumstances where the grant application requires urgent consideration, the application may be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting for review. In this situation advice from the Clerk and Finance Committee should be sought to establish the level of grant funding available. It was agreed that this would provide flexibility.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Grant Awarding policy.*

- h) **Grievance:** No changes were requested.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Grievance policy.*

- i) **Health and Safety:** It was agreed that PH would review the policy and any associated risk assessments. The Clerk will provide PH with all the documentation available.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to categorise the current policy as under review.*

- j) **Publication Scheme:** No changes were requested.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Publication Scheme.*

**09.23.15 Confirmation of Budget Setting Process:** The Clerk confirmed the budget setting timetable as follows:

- Village Hall Management Committee Budget Meeting – 10/10/2023
- Amenities Committee Budget Meeting – 18/10/2023
- Finance Committee Budget Meeting – 07/11/2023
- The budget can be approved and the precept set at the council meeting on 28/11/2023 or 12/12/2023.
- CEC usually require the precept request to be submitted by mid-January.



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**09.23.16 Post Office Outreach Service:** AF, in his capacity as a trustee of the Methodist Church, provided an update on the current position. Much work has been undertaken by the Methodist Church to locate the Post Office Outreach Service at the church and ensure the future of the service in the village for the community. The church have secured the majority of the funding but it is likely that there will be a monthly deficit of approximately £50. The council were extremely supportive of this and advised that the church should submit a grant application to the council. The Clerk agreed to send the relevant documents to AF.

**09.23.17 Official Recognition for Good Works in Goostrey:** The Clerk had received a request to commend a resident for good works carried out in the village. It was agreed that a Chairman's letter would be in order and that the Clerk would organise this. It was also suggested that the process for nominating someone for recognition should be advertised in the next newsletter.

**09.23.18 Minor items and items for the next agenda:** The Clerk reported the following minor items:

- The external auditor has notified the council of the conclusion of the audit. There were no issues.
- The Clerk will be attending the Society of Local Council Clerk's Branch Conference on Thursday. This is a useful opportunity to undertake training which is vital for LCAS Gold Council re-accreditation.
- The Goostrey Tots group have reported that they have 27 tots on their books and nine new families attended this morning. The organiser once again thanked the council for their support. IOD and DC asked the Clerk to organise a convenient date for them to visit.

**09.23.19 Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.