



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. O'Donoghue (IOD) (Chairman), Morris (KM), Rathbone (TR), Craggs (DC), Beckham (NB), Mooney (SM), Fagan (PF), Hall (PH), Freeman (AF)

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk to the Council (EB), Cllrs. A. Kolker and R. Chadwick (PART) (Ward Councillors, Cheshire East Council)

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

There were 4 members of the public present. A representative from Bidlea Dairy was in attendance and, following questions raised at the last council meeting about recent activity at the Old Fuel Depot, felt that he should offer an explanation. The representative explained that the recent weather had caused problems for spreading slurry on the land and a backlog had built up which couldn't be used before the spreading window closed. Action was taken to store the slurry in the oil tanks until it could be spread again during the 'open period'.

The site in question is in Twemlow rather than Goostrey but the Chairman thanked the representative for attending and providing information. The representative confirmed that he had also visited Twemlow Parish Council.

The representative was asked whether the relevant permission had been obtained from the Environment Agency and whether planning permission and waste transfer notes had been sought and obtained. It was confirmed that they have had "the OK" from the Environment Agency to use the tanks. A councillor asked whether the Environment Agency had provided a permit, the response was that the Environment Agency had been invited to visit and ensure that they were happy with the tanks for this use but that there is no paperwork to confirm this, although the representative confirmed that this could be obtained.

A resident raised the issue of the condition of Goostrey Lane when the rough road onto the site was created. He stated that this is a road safety hazard as that stretch of road is a 60mph speed limit between two 30mph limits. If planning permission is sought for the new entrance (the seventh for this field) created by the removal of the hedge, that would give local residents the opportunity to ask CEC to reduce the speed limit on this stretch of road. The resident would also like permission to include a requirement for the entrance to be hardcore to avoid mud on the road. The representative was asked whether planning permission had been sought and stated that an historic map shows that it is an existing, entrance and CEC had not been consulted for this reason.

The representative was also asked about waste transfer notes for transporting waste to the storage facility but questioned whether they were required to transport waste to a field.

The representative was advised of the importance of obtaining all relevant permissions from the appropriate authorities.



Goostrey Parish Council

11.23.1 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Morris made a declaration of interest in item 6a planning application 23/4264T.

11.23.2 Apologies for absence: Cllr. Morgan

11.23.3 Minutes of the meeting of 24th October 2023:

***Resolved:** The Parish Council accepted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 24th October 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

11.23.4 Cheshire East Council (CEC) Matters: Cllrs. Kolker was present and reported the following:

- **Budget Deficit:** CEC have confirmed a projected budget shortfall of £18.7m with only £14.1m in reserves. This is a precarious position which means that funding for anything will be in short supply.
- **Leisure Centres:** A proposal to consult on the closure of leisure centres in the borough was rejected by the Environment Committee which proposed a consultation on measures to save CEC £479k per year. This consultation runs until 7th January and will be included on the agenda for the Parish Council's December meeting. Cllr. Kolker urged everyone to take part in the consultation.

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

a) Village Hall Management Committee Budget Meeting Minutes 10th October 2023.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee budget meeting of 10th October 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

b) Amenities Committee Budget Meeting Minutes 18th October 2023.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee Budget meeting of 18th October 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

c) Amenities Committee Meeting Minutes 1st November 2023.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of 1st November 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

d) Finance Committee Budget Meeting Minutes 7th November 2023.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee Budget meeting of 7th November 2023 and all the decisions therein.*

e) **Budget Approval and Precept Setting:** Cheshire East Council are due to fix the taxbase by council resolution on 13th December and precept notifications are due by 12th January, both of which are outside of ordinary Parish Council meetings. The council agreed to schedule an extraordinary meeting of the council on Monday 18th December at 7.30pm to approve the budget and to set the precept for 2024/25.

11.23.6 Planning Matters:

a) The following planning applications were considered:



Goostrey Parish Council

23/4264T T1 (Oak) - located in the garden of No.5 Swanwick Close. Crown reduction by 1 -1.5 metres all round, with specific focus on the lateral and upper lateral canopy on the property side. Canopy thin by 10% and removal of deadwood throughout. T2 (Oak) - Located in the garden of No.6 Swanwick Close, reduction by 1-1.5 metres all round, with specific focus on the lateral and upper lateral canopy on the sections affecting rear gardens of No.6 and No.7. The council approved of the plan of action put forward in the application and agreed that the Tree Officer's expertise would ensure that all work was appropriate.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on this application.*

- b) To receive an update on planning matters: Enforcement Request 23/00154E Holly Bank Farm: The Clerk sent a letter to Planning Enforcement on 30th October to formally state that the Parish Council does not agree with incursion of built development into the Open Countryside/Local Green Gap, adjacent to the Heritage Asset, at this location and believes there is sufficient evidence to justify enforcement. It also expressed support for Cheshire East's requirement for an application for retrospective planning permission, to which the council will respond accordingly. The Clerk has not received a response and will continue to pursue an update.

11.23.7 Financial Payments: To approve the payments in schedule 11/23.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 11/23.*

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

11.23.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The PCSO has confirmed that training can take place but that she cannot currently provide firm dates.
- b) **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** TWM visited site on 24th November but engineers couldn't resolve and the device was taken to the workshop. The device has been fixed and the SIM card has been changed. Awaiting confirmation that the unit has been reinstalled.
- c) **Highways Liaison Meeting:** The last meeting took place on 24th November and TR provided an update for members. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed in **Appendix 1 on page 6**. SM advised that the signage indicating the approach to the Bomish/Cross Lane crossroads (towards Goostrey) was now leaning into the hedge which was obscuring it from the view of drivers. There has been another accident and a near miss recently at this dangerous junction. The Clerk agreed to report this to CEC.

11.23.10 Police Matters: TR will be attending the Police and Crime Commissioner's next engagement meeting with the Cheshire East Borough, Town and Parish Councils on 7th December in Middlewich. A question concerning the Commissioner's average speed camera project and in particular when applications may be invited from Town and Parish Councils for candidate sites for the next phase has already been submitted. TR will report back to council.



Goostrey Parish Council

- 11.23.11 Transfer of Funds:** Transfer of £12,285.47 from the council's NS&I account into the council's current account is required in order to make payment of the Village Hall Recharge invoice, once it is received.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approves the transfer of £12,285.47 from the council's NS&I account to its current account in order to make payment of the Village Hall Recharge invoice.*

- 11.23.12 Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023/24:** The information provided by NALC was noted, as was the Clerk's note on the back payment and increase in pay rate going forward.

- 11.23.13 Cheshire Fire Authority 2024-2028 Draft Community Risk Management Plan Consultation:** Having read the consultation members agreed that the plan was both logical and sensible and that a formal council response was not required. It was agreed that individuals could respond if they wished.

- 11.23.14 Goostrey Parish Archive:** IOD and the Clerk met with the Chairman of Goostrey Parish Archive as agreed at the last council meeting. The meeting was positive and sought to clarify the relationship between the council and the group, as well as to provide reassurance of the continued support of the council. To this end the following was proposed and agreed by council.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved that whilst Goostrey Parish Archive Group is separate and independent of the Parish Council, the council will continue to support the group by providing storage and a meeting room free of charge. In order to establish a channel for communication between the council and the group, a councillor will be appointed to act in an external liaison role.*

Cllr. Fagan agreed to be appointed to the role as external liaison to Goostrey Parish Archive.

- 11.23.15 Christmas Lighting:** The Christmas light switch on took place on 26th November and the reaction received so far from the public has been positive. Council agreed that the Amenities Committee should review the lighting provision and any changes or additions required based on the residual funding. The Amenities Committee were also asked to look at the implications for the switch on now that the scouts have confirmed that they will not be organising future events due to a lack of volunteers.

- 11.23.16 Schedule of meetings for 2024:** The schedule was received and noted. Finance meetings have been moved forward a week to allow more time for end of quarter/year reports to be produced before meetings. It was suggested that the early council meeting in December be moved forward a week to allow time for CEC to confirm the tax base. This would, allow the budget and precept to be confirmed then rather than having to schedule an additional meeting. The provisional dates for the Annual Parish Meeting are 18th or 25th April. Councillors were asked to look at their diaries with a view to the date being confirmed at the December meeting.

- 11.23.17 Minor items and items for the next agenda:**



Goostrey Parish Council

- It was confirmed that the application for retrospective planning permission for the raised seating area at The Space Invader has been refused.
- The meeting was advised that Mrs Kettle's shop is now being advertised for sale. The Neighbourhood Plan has a policy (CF4) which, in theory, would prevent it undergoing a Change of Use (e.g. to residential only) without proof that it is not viable to be operated as a shop. The Parish Council does not have to act on this until there is a planning application and, given that the Post Office is being relocated, the council may feel that it isn't necessary to attempt to enforce this policy. The council decided to wait for the planning application before taking this further.
- Cllr. Beckham advised that he will be unable to attend the meeting of the Village Hall and Playing Field Foundation meeting on 29th January and asked that if anyone else was interested in attending in his place to let him know, otherwise he would have to send his apologies.

11.23.18 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th December 2023. Cllr. Hall gave his apologies.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.



Goostrey Parish Council

APPENDIX 1

HIGHWAYS LIAISON MINUTES

for the meeting on Friday 24th November 2023

Present: Josh Holden (JH) Local Highways Officer, Cllr. Terence Rathbone (TR), Emma Bambrook (EB) Parish Clerk

- 1. Approval of the updates following the meeting on 25th August 2023:** The updates were approved as true and accurate.
- 2. Review of outstanding Highways Issues:** The items were discussed, updates provided and actions agreed where necessary. The list of issues has now been combined into one table for ease of viewing. **See updated report on page 2.**
- 3. Water running onto land at Goostrey Station Car Park Entrance:** A resident had raised this as an issue following the work on the pavement between The Space Invader and the station. JH agreed to monitor this through passing attention and this was added to the issues list.
- 4. Items for next agenda:** JH advised that the bank at Shear Brook has slipped on the left as you travel towards The Trading Post. Barriers have been erected for safety. This will be followed up at the next meeting.
- 5. Date of the next Highways Liaison Meeting:** Friday 15th March at 2pm, Village Hall



Goostrey Parish Council

Outstanding Highways Issues

Priority/Date Raised	Location	Problem/Action Requested	Ref. No.	Progress	Action	Complete?
1.	Bomish Lane/Cross Lane	Signage and road markings at this crossroad need replacing.	3486466	Signage has been reinstated but road markings have not.	JH confirmed this is in progress awaiting a start date from LNR.	No
2.	Pavement outside 77 Main Road	Tree roots are causing the pavement outside 77 Main Road to be so uneven that pushchairs, scooters and mobility scooters are finding it difficult to traverse as the pushchairs etc. tip over. Alternatively, pedestrians have to go into the busy road to get past.	3390675	30/10/23 – Road Safety have put this scheme forward for funding approval for delivery in the next financial year. See note 1 below. There are concerns that this would leave disability scooter users mixed with	Although it is appreciated that this does not fall within JH's remit, he understood the concerns and agreed to mention them to Road Safety.	No



Goostrey Parish Council

				other traffic for far longer than a minimum.		
3.	Junctions in Goostrey particularly Boothbed, Hermitage, Main Road	Depleted white lining at most junctions in the village.		JH confirmed renewal of existing lining will take place.		No
4.	Goostrey Station/Station Road	Goostrey Parish Council have, for some years, been exploring various schemes to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety over Goostrey Station Bridge. Currently pedestrians, including those with mobility problems, cross between the platforms via the bridge which has no pavement. Plans with CEC for traffic lights	4927758/ 1004083	This project has now been included in the CEC programme MA22. * See note 2 below.		No



Goostrey Parish Council

		and a safe walkway for pedestrians on the bridge were cancelled in 2021.				
5.	Boothbed Lane/Main Road	Improvements to road Junction.		This has been considered in the past and the measures at the junction considered adequate by Highways.	JH to pursue re-lining work.	No
3.	Goostrey Lane	Speed limits too high e.g. Goostrey Lane approaching the village from A50, New Platt Lane.	4927808/10040833	Email received 27/09/2023 from the Road Safety Team Leader * See note 3 below		No
25/08/2023	Boothbed Lane	Removal of tree stump and permission to plant a new tree.		Tree stump could be removed but that permission to plant a	EB to place grinding down of the tree stump on the next Amenities	No



Goostrey Parish Council

				new tree wouldn't be granted as Highways are awaiting the outcome of CEC's review of tree planting.	Committee Agenda. Decision on replacement tree deferred pending the outcome of the tree planting review.	
25/08/2023	Sandy Lane	Loose chippings causing the footpath to become uneven.		Slurry seal work to address the issue of loose chippings on the path has been placed on a list for future schemes		No
25/08/2023	Main Road	Street light issues outside 79 Main Road reported March 2021. Lantern has become loose and the column isn't straight.	2626884	The lantern has been fixed and the streetlight team confirmed that another	Noting that this is outside of his remit, JH agreed to follow this up.	No



Goostrey Parish Council

				team would repair the concrete so that the light would be straight and stable. This hasn't happened.		
24/11/2023	Station Road, entrance to Goostrey Station car park.	Water running onto land at Goostrey Station Car Park Entrance following the work on the pavement between The Space Invader and the station.	N/A		JH to monitor this issue through passing attention.	No

Note 1 - Road Safety 30/10/2023

The road safety team have investigated and found that the carriageway is not wide enough to allow the footpath to be widened in this location. The road safety team are designing a solution to install a 1.5m wide shared cycle lane in the carriageway for a short length, allowing mobility scooter users to join in advance of the narrow area at the tree root location and re-join the footpath shortly after. They have put this scheme forward for funding approval for delivery in the next financial year.

Further information provided along with a plan on 02/11/2023.

Electric scooter users would use the advisory eastbound cycle lane (approx. 85m long) for bypassing the narrower footway esp. at the tree root obstruction. However, they will share the 3m carriageway lane with traffic for this short distance before they would rejoin the footway at a new proposed dropped kerb line, as they would if using the previous narrow footway section.



Goostrey Parish Council

Note 2 - Network Rail 23/08/2023

Having spoken to the structures engineers, they have said:

We monitor and maintain existing structures, on a limited budget. As we understand this Service Request is enquiring if we can access funding to probably build a footbridge so passengers do not have to use the road bridge to access the other platform or the carpark. This is not an ideal situation as the bridge is not wide enough for a pavement.

Having made enquires within Network Rail, other than the rail operating company who have been consulted already. The response has been that the numbers using the station and the traffic on the road is not great enough at present. If Goostrey was to be expanded with many more houses, then the situation would be re-evaluated.

The link in the email below is a little out of date and seems to refer to a lot of schemes that have already been completed, were the numbers of passengers have increased considerably.

When the railway and the station was built, the bridge was considered acceptable. We haven't made the station bigger, the numbers using the station have not got considerably larger. What has changed is the numbers of vehicles on the road (and the speed at which they travel). The safety of pedestrians on the road that crosses the railway lies with the local Highways Authority. As stated below they originally accepted this, with their proposal to put traffic lights on the bridge, but they have since cancelled that scheme due to a lack of funding. They should be pressed to move this forward.

Perhaps all traffic should be stopped by the use of an extended Pelican crossing lights, activated on request by passengers wishing to cross the bridge, again this would have to be raised with Highways Authority.

Note 3 - Cheshire East Highways Road Safety 27/09/2023

Thank you for your request for Speed Management Measures on Goostrey Lane. The Council will consider your request against the Speed Management Strategy that was approved by the Highways and Transport Committee in 2022, the next steps are:

1. Your request will be logged and checked against other requests.
2. Cheshire East Highway's Road Safety Team will consider and review the site, the first step in the review process is a desk top evaluation of the location to develop a priority score. Where possible, for high scoring sites, a high-level indicative cost for the suspected solution will be developed to help prioritisation. Resources permitting, this is expected to be undertaken within 1 month of receipt of the enquiry.



Goostrey Parish Council

1. In reviewing your request, the team will work with partner organisations to assess any issues in the locality.
3. If the location/s would benefit from educational or enforcement measure/s, one of the team will contact you.
4. You will be notified of the outcome of the assessment including if it is being considered for future funding.
5. Requests for speed management measures are prioritised for funding across the Borough annually for development.
6. Upon prioritisation, further investigations will be undertaken to understand the measures to be introduced and revise the likely costs.
7. The measures that may be introduced could range from signing and lining to amendments to the road layout. This wide range of solutions will dictate the feasibility and affordability of any proposals within the available budgets.
8. If sites are then identified as feasible and selected for funding, they will be included in the following year's annual works programme and key stakeholders will be kept informed throughout the process, this may include any statutory consultation that is required to implement.