

GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

New Councillor

At the council meeting on 26th September councillors reviewed applications from the three candidates hoping to become the Parish Council's newest member. A vote took place by show of hands and Sue Mooney was elected as councillor with an absolute majority. Sue brings a wealth of experience and



Cllr. Sue Mooney

knowledge to the role and will sit on the Finance Committee.

It was a difficult decision for members as all candidates had fantastic skills, knowledge and enthusiasm.

Everyone is delighted to have Sue on board and the council back to its full complement of ten councillors.

Thank you once again to those who got in touch to find out more about becoming a councillor and to those who applied.

Highways Liaison Meetings

Following the election in May, the council decided to appoint a councillor as Highways Liaison to, amongst other things, attend liaison meetings, assist the Clerk in progressing highways issues and priorities and advance all opportunities to get Goostrey's needs on any existing and future Highways programmes of work. An extremely positive meeting has taken place with the local Highways Officer and a second meeting has already been scheduled. Whilst this doesn't mean that all of the village's highways problems will be resolved immediately, it does hopefully mean that the Highways team are clear on our priorities. For example, while the signage at the Bomish/Cross Lane crossroads has been re-instated, the road markings have not and the Officer is going to progress this. In addition it was confirmed that the Officer would pursue re-lining work to improve the Boothbed/Main Road junction. If you spot a problem on the roads in Goostrey then please do report it either on 0300 123 5020 between 8.30am and 5pm on weekdays or online at www.fixmystreet.cheshireeast.gov.uk. The online tool is easy to use and problems can be reported at any time, it's also possible to see any recently reported problems and if you provide an email address, you will receive updates on the status of your report.

Amenities Committee—Christmas Lights

Work has continued throughout the year, via the Amenities Committee, to improve the Christmas lighting on The Bogbean. Additional funding for this project was approved by the council so that a professional lighting company could be brought in to offer their expertise and install the new lighting. The beech tree's trunk and lower branches will be wrapped with professional grade, warm white, LED pea-lights and the existing floodlights will be replaced with two uplighters positioned at the base of the trunk so that the light shines up through the branches.

On the advice of the lighting company, the larch tree will not be dressed as it was felt that the branches are now too delicate so the committee has purchased an additional large, warm white lighting decoration. Work is being undertaken to establish a connection to the electricity for the new decoration and to make sure that everything is in place for the light switch on event on 26th November.

The Amenities Committee will review the lighting provision again in the new year to establish whether further work is required and if additional funding will be required.

Edited by

**Cllr. I O'Donoghue
& E Bambrook**

**The Parish Office,
Village Hall,
Goostrey**

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Audited Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2023

The Parish Council must ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices. The council's Annual Return is sent to the government appointed external auditor, PKF Littlejohn. The external audit has been completed with no matters of concern raised and so it's now time to publish the audit accounts for the last financial year.

Goostrey Parish Council Audited Accounts 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

RECEIPTS

Precept Payment	£48,142.00
V. Hall Lettings incl VAT	£24,944.79
Bank Interest	£1,680.66
Lunch Ticket Sales	£510.00
Exceptional Income	£0.00
Recharges	£63.41
VAT Refund	£3,287.20

£78,628.06

PAYMENTS

VAT Control	£4,336.31
Administration	£6,148.69
Audit	£637.50
Donations/Sponsorship	£1,675.19
Maintenance - around Village	£4,094.00
Parish Projects	£2,354.61
Salary & Expenses	£26,549.57
Staff Pensions	£749.83
Recruitment	£0.00
Training	£5.00
V.Hall Refunds	£10.50
V.Hall expenses	£2,187.82

£48,749.02

Excess of Receipts over Payments

£29,879.04

Balance at 01-April-2022	£181,255.62
Excess of Receipts over Payments plus	£29,879.04
Less spend from Non-Capital Reserves less	£3,197.08
Less spend from Capital Reserves less	£14,624.64

Balance of accounts at 31-March-2023

£193,312.94

Non-Capital Reserves (incl Current Account)	£151,281.01
Capital Reserves	£29,169.36
Unallocated Funds	£12,862.57
Total Reserves	£193,312.94

Represented by	
Current Account	£42,418.61
NS & I Account - Deposit	£71,824.83
Santander Account - Deposit	£78,875.96
Skipton Building Soc - Deposit	£0.00
Caxton FX Prep Paid Debit Card	£193.54

£193,312.94

Most of the Capital and Non-Capital (Revenue) reserves are earmarked, this includes maintenance payments to Cheshire East Council for the Village Hall Recharge. The Recharge is budgeted in the year required and spent in the following year. Due to administrative issues at Cheshire East the council has not been invoiced for the Recharge for several years. Funds are also held in reserves for projects and improvements. The Parish Council must also ensure that it holds sufficient reserves to cover the costs in the event of a by-election and to continue to run the council should there be a disruption to its income.

Tree Warden Required

Thelma Carter has decided to step down from her role as Tree Warden and the council would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work over the last four and a half years in this important voluntary role.

Trees are important because they provide a habitat for wildlife, shade and shelter and are appreciated by people for their beauty and the sense of wellbeing they bring. Would you be interested in being a contact and support for all things tree related in the village?

Tree Wardens are not expected to be experts in

tree matters but rather help to keep the Parish Council advised of any concerns regarding;

- the removal or mistreatment of trees with Tree Protection Orders on them,
- the replacement of trees with Tree Protection Orders on them which have been removed
- trees which merit having a Tree Protection Order on them,
- Sign posting people to the correct service.

If you think you could be our next Tree Warden then please contact the Clerk.

Volunteer Hedgerow Planting

Can you help make the Goostrey and Blackden countryside more wildlife friendly? Volunteers are needed to spare an hour or so of their time to help plant 2,600 hedgerow plants during December at four different planting events.

- Sat 02/12 Bridge Farm, Bridge Lane, Blackden CW4 8BX & Cross Lane, Blackden Heath CW4 8DG
- Sun 03/12 Blackden Lane, Blackden Heath CW4 8DG & New Platt Farm, Brick Bank Lane WA16 9LY
- Fri 29/12 Dromedary Lodge off Main Road CW4 8LG (suitable for accompanied children)
- Sat 30/12 New Platt Farm New Platt Lane CW4 8NL (suitable for accompanied children)



All events start from 10.30am and run until 1pm and free instruction is provided if needed.

Hollins Gang 2022

Please bring your own spade and protective gloves. Please also bring along a drink and snack to keep your energy levels topped up.

Please call or email Clare Downing on 07966 160079 or clare@downing.ltd with your availability to allocate a planting area and to answer any questions you may have.

Goostrey Playground Community Project

The Goostrey Playground Community Project team continue to work with Cheshire East Council and Ansa who will deliver the project to improve the Booth Bed Lane Play Area. The team of volunteers meets regularly and is progressing grant applications and obtaining indicative quotes for play equipment.

New Benches

Following its annual review of parish council owned assets three benches were identified as needing to be replaced, they are the bench on The Bogbean facing Main Road and the two rustic style benches at the rear of Booth Bed Lane Green. One of these benches has a memorial plaque attached, this will be retained and re-instated on the new bench.

Post Office Outreach Service

You may be aware that the Post Office has been looking for a new home following the passing of Goostrey's own Mrs Kettle. The Parish Council views the Post Office Outreach service in Goostrey as vital for our rural community and has been keen to offer whatever support it can to ensure that it can be retained in the village.

Goostrey Methodist Church has done a fantastic job in finding the Post Office a new home on its premises, and is in the process of funding the work to make the new service accessible and securing the necessary permission for change of use. At its meeting in October, the Parish Council voted unanimously to provide a grant of £1,800 as a contribution towards the architects fees. Well done to everyone at Goostrey Methodist Church for their hard work so far.

Residents Information *(stick this on your fridge or notice board!)*

Phone Numbers for Local Services

Bus Services to Holmes Chapel/ Sandbach	0871 200 22 33
Cheshire East Council	0300 123 55 00
Cheshire Police Non-Emergency	101
Cheshire Police - PCSO	101
Chelford GP Surgery	01625 861316
Citizen's Advice Bureau, Congleton	03444 111 444
Goostrey Community Primary School	01270 685658
Goostrey Pharmacy	01477 549481
Goostrey Post Office	01477 549241

Goostrey Tots	07805 160690
Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School	01477 534513
Holmes Chapel Health Centre	01477 533100
Holmes Chapel Library	01477 689550
Member of Parliament - Fiona Bruce	01260 274044
Mobile Library Service	01270 375325
Parish Council (Clerk) - Emma Bambrook	01477 535825
Rail Services	0800 528 0200
Village Hall Supervisor - Bookings & Caretaker Arrangements	07425 511680

Parish Councillors

Cllr I O'Donoghue -
Chairman
 Cllr P Morgan - Vice
Chairman
 Cllr K Morris
 Cllr T Rathbone
 Cllr N Beckham
 Cllr A Freeman
 Cllr D Craggs
 Cllr Paddy Fagan
 Cllr Peter Hall
 Cllr. Sue Mooney

Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr A Kolker
 Cllr R Chadwick

Council Information:

- Contact Councillors via email or speak to the Clerk.
- **Parish Office Hours:** Mon, Wed & Fri 1pm to 4pm
 - **E-mail:** clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk
 - **Phone:** 01477 535825 Answer phone out of hours
 - **Website:** www.goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk
 - **Social Media:** Twitter @GoostreyPC

Police Surgeries

PSCO Graham holds beat surgeries in the Village Hall Lounge, the dates will be published on the council website.

If you have any issues or concerns please come along and discuss them, everyone is welcome.

Cheshire East Borough Council Services

In Goostrey, many of the services are provided by the Borough Council rather than the Parish Council and are paid for by your Council Tax. Residents can contact the Borough Council online with any issues. Examples are:

Roads – potholes, white lining, street lighting, gullies, road signs, pavements and other Highways matters. These can be reported by Googling for 'Report IT Cheshire East'.

Bins, waste and recycling – Google for 'Cheshire East Waste'.

Grass verges and weed control Google for 'Cheshire East Grass Verges'

Street Cleansing – fly-tipping, litter, graffiti. Report it by Googling for 'Cheshire East Street Cleansing'.

Environment – noise nuisance (Google 'Cheshire East Noise'), air pollution (email environmentalprotection@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Planning – enforcement issues. Report suspected breaches of planning or damage to protected trees by Googling for 'Cheshire East Planning Enforcement'.

If in doubt, the Cheshire East Council general telephone number is: **0300 123 5500**.