



Goostrey Parish Council

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 10th January 2024
at 7.30pm in The Village Hall

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

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk and P Kemsley, Tree Warden

1. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs. Rathbone and Fagan declared an interest in item 12. D-Day Anniversary event.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting on 1st November 2023:**

***Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting on 1st November 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.*

4. **Tree Report:** The committee welcomed the new Tree Warden and noted the contents of his report.

See Appendix 1 on page 3.

- The committee confirmed that as there is no local Tree Warden network to join then Paul should focus on the tasks listed by the Parish Council.
- As the term Tree Warden has been copyrighted by the Tree Council, it was agreed that the Tree Ranger would be used instead. Paul was thanked for his offer to replace the dead plants in the environmental hedge at Shearbrook, however, further information had since come to light meaning that this would need to be postponed (see agenda item 8.). The council also has to exercise caution when engaging any person or company to carry out work on its behalf so this would need to be considered.
- The current application window for branching out grants has closed but a grant could be considered in future to support council approved projects.
- Paul confirmed that he will be attending the Cheshire East Tree Conference at Congleton Town Hall on 17th January.

5. **Budget Review and Monitoring:** The committee reviewed the budget monitoring documents; no issues of concern were raised.

6. **Annual Plan:** The document was reviewed by the committee. Quotes have been requested for the annual maintenance contract and so far, two organisations have agreed to provide a quote. The Environmental Improvements programme has stagnated due in part to the difficulty in finding companies prepared to quote for work in line with the council's financial regulations. The Clerk has commissioned some work as an extension to contract with the council's current maintenance contractor but this isn't possible with larger projects. The remainder of the items were covered by items on the agenda.

7. **Removal of Tree Stump:** The committee was asked to consider the removal or grinding down of the tree stump on the grass verge on Boothbed Lane. This would be for amenity rather than safety as CEC have confirmed that the tree was cut down to a safe level. The purpose of this would be to clear the verge for replanting a replacement tree, although CEC will not give permission for this yet as they are reviewing their tree planting policy. The Clerk was asked to invite quotes, ensuring that any work is undertaken in accordance with all relevant Health and Safety requirements, particularly given the stumps proximity to the road and the footpath.

8. **Shearbrook Bank Environmental Hedge:** Some of the plants within the environmental hedge have died and will need to be replaced. The committee were going to be asked to approve replacement of these plants during the dormant season. However, due to the mild weather the daffodils in the bank have started to emerge and any work undertaken now would damage the spring display. It was therefore

agreed that this would be postponed and the annual maintenance contractor engaged to do this during the next dormant period, preferably in October.

9. **Christmas Lights:** The committee agreed that feedback from the community had been positive. It was also agreed that the larch tree is unsuitable for lighting, its condition being poor and its height making lighting the tree attractively, prohibitively expensive. The Christmas lighting will be reviewed annually and it was agreed that the remaining funds in the Christmas lighting reserve should continue to be held in order to fund future repairs and replacements as they occur over time.
10. **Christmas Lights Switch On Event:** As it currently stands, the Scouts will not be organising a switch on event in 2024 therefore the council will look to provide an event, although it may be lower key than in recent years. It was agreed that the most appropriate date would be Sunday 1st December and that the Clerk would liaise with St. Lukes to ensure that this didn't clash with any of their events and to see whether the church would like to be involved.
11. **Seniors' Christmas Lunch:** The Clerk is inviting quotes to cater the Christmas lunch as the usual caterer is retiring. One quote has been received so far. It was agreed that the date for this event would be pencilled in as Sunday 8th December. The Clerk will liaise with St. Luke's to ensure that this doesn't conflict with their Christmas concert.
12. **80th Anniversary of D-Day:** PF updated the committee on progress. The working group are progressing grant applications and two new volunteers had joined the group. The Clerk offered to send a link to PF and TR to CEC's Events webpage which includes information about organising events and registering events with the Event Safety Advisory Group.
13. **Goostrey Playground Community Project:** PM advised that Ansa are still working on project ideas and the working group are due to meet again soon. PM confirmed that Ansa have identified some pieces of existing equipment that will need to be replaced as they do not meet the specification that Ansa recommend. PM hoped to be able to provide details of Ansa's plan at the next meeting.
14. **Rose Day:** The Committee noted that the Rose Day Festival would take place on 29th June 2024. The committee agreed to recommend that the council doesn't have a stall but does pay for an advert in the programme as in 2023.
15. **Annual Equipment Check:** PM volunteered to carry out the equipment check and report before the end of the financial year.
16. **Keep Britain Tidy Campaign:** The committee noted the contents of the report.
***Resolved:** The Amenities Committee resolved to recommend that the Parish Council publicises the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign 2024 via the council website, newsletter and Parish Magazine and further recommends that the council considers providing direct support to any local organisation that asks for help to enable participation in the Great British Spring Clean 2024.*
17. **Correspondence:** Nothing of note to report.
18. **September meeting Date:** The committee agreed that the September meeting could be moved from 4th September to 11th September.
19. **Minor items and matters for the next meeting:** AF advised that plans for the relocation of the Post Office Outreach Service to the Methodist Church were progressing. No items were requested for the next agenda.
20. **Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 6th March 2024.
21. **Meeting closed at 8.35pm**

Appendix 1

Report

This was the job description in the Council Newsletter:

- 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.

These are the additional tasks listed on the Tree Council website:

- Arranging local tree planting days • Pruning, watering caring for local trees • Working with local authorities to plant & care for street trees • Rejuvenating local woodlands • Raising funds and finding land for tree planting projects
- Going into schools to talk about the value of trees.
- There haven't been any removals or mistreatments without planning permission recently
- 58-021 Beech was removed under planning permission from St Lukes Church Yard in 2018 but is still listed as a TPO tree and needs removing. 18/3442T Planning required 1 x Hornbeam at no less than 12 to 14 cm girth to be planted as a replacement. This didn't happen.
- There are plenty of trees that would probably merit a tree protection order but I am assuming there is no appetite for this unless the tree is under threat?
- I will replace the dead hedge plants on Shearbrook Bank this weekend. There is no need to pay £300.
- There is no tree warden network in Cheshire East. If you would like to join/start a network then we would have to pay the Tree Council directly. Apparently they have copyrighted 'tree warden' so you may wish to retitle if you don't wish to join.
- Would you like me to put forward a 'branching-out' grant application for any upcoming projects?