



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

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

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

There were 4 members of the public present. Representatives from Goostrey Footpaths Group updated the council on its efforts to establish a footpath between the station and Jodrell Bank. A proposal has been created which, it is hoped, eliminates the concerns that Jodrell Bank Observatory had previously expressed. The group wrote to Professor Garrett in mid-December and has not had a reply to this letter or the follow up which was sent a few weeks ago. The group asked whether the council had a regular forum with the Observatory or Manchester University and if so, could they progress the proposal with them. Cllr. Morris confirmed that the council doesn't have a regular forum but that he is due to attend a World Heritage Steering Group next week at which Professor Garrett will be present. Cllr. Morris agreed to try to speak to Professor Garrett at the meeting, if there was an opportunity, and to ask if he had received the letter and if so whether it had been passed to another department. Cllr. Morris asked for the representatives to send a copy of the letter to him for reference.

A representative from Friends of Goostrey Station advised the council that he had been sent an email from Cheshire East Council (CEC) regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Grants are available for cultural activities which are defined as arts, heritage, museums, festivals and events, new media and creative and digital industries. These grants are available to voluntary or community organisations, town or parish councils or registered charities or not for profit organisations. Organisations may apply for 80 per cent of their project's cost up to a maximum of £10,000. The representative agreed to forward the information to the Clerk.

02.24.1 Declarations of interest: Cllr. Rathbone declared an interest in item 11, the grant application for the D-Day +80 Anniversary Event and would therefore take no part in the debate or vote.

02.24.2 Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Fagan, Mooney and Craggs.

02.24.3 Minutes of the meeting on 23rd January 2024:

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd January 2024.*

02.24.4 Cheshire East Council (CEC) Matters: Cllr. Chadwick was present and reported the following:

- **Crossing Strategy Consultation** – If the consultation is passed then this will make it easier to apply for a crossing.
- **Policy Committee** - A peer review of the council's activities and financial situation has been approved.



Goostrey Parish Council

- **Council Tax** – The Medium Term Financial Review was voted through today, although savings are still needed to balance the budget.
- **SEND Provision in Cheshire East** – On 19th February a SEND school was opened in Wilmslow with a capacity of 80. This avoids the need to transport SEND pupils to schools outside of the CEC authority area and reduces costs. A second school is also due to be opened in Congleton.
- **Police and Crime Commissioner Election** – This is due to take place on 2nd May. The Village Hall is a polling station.
- **Green Spaces Maintenance Policy** – The new policy begins on 1st April but there is little impact on Goostrey.
- **Fall Prevention Classes** – CEC are offering free fall prevention classes for the elderly. Stand Strong Classes are held on a Monday at the Village Hall.
- **Rural Funding for Small Businesses** – CEC have been successful in getting funding for rural businesses. Grants are available between £1,000 and £10,00 for small businesses in the area.
- **Boundary Commission Review** – There is no change to the Dane Valley Ward.
- **Members' Allowances** – The proposal to ensure that committee responsibilities are spread out between members more evenly was passed, so that small numbers of members getting two allowances is avoided.
- **Highways** – Cllr. Chadwick has requested that Highways Officers provide more information on, for example, how many potholes have been repaired. This would help understanding of the operational issues that are faced.
- **Pavement at 77 Main Road** – Follow email to Road Safety Team. Clerk and Cllr. Chadwick to confirm this has been done.
- **Village Hall Recharge** – Cllr. Chadwick suggested writing to the new Chief Executive directly as he seems quite open to speaking to the parishes directly.

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

- a) Planning Committee Meeting 23rd January 2024.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 23rd January 2024 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 30th January 2024.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 30th January 2024 and all the decisions therein, with the exception of item 7 which will be considered as part of the council agenda item 15.*

- c) Staff Committee Meeting 13th February 2024.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolves to accept the minutes of the Staff Committee meeting of 13th February 2024 and all the decisions therein.*

02.24.6 Planning Matters:



Goostrey Parish Council

a) The following updates on planning matters were provided:

- i. Enforcement Request 23/00946E The Sidings, Station Road: No update has been received. The Clerk will follow this up with the Enforcement Officer periodically.
- ii. Enforcement Request 23/00945E The Sidings, Station Road: The Clerk noted that the lettings board had now been removed but that no official update had been received.
- iii. Enforcement Request 23/00154E Holly Bank Farm: Since the publication of the agenda, a retrospective planning application (24/0688C) has been submitted to regularise the garage and the extension to the domestic curtilage. Cllr. Morris provided an overview of the application and its history.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to object to planning application 24/0688C for the following reasons:*

It is an incursion into the defined 'Open Countryside' and an incursion into a 'Local Green Gap'. It is also outside the Goostrey Village Boundary as defined in the up-to[1]date SADPD (Goostrey Settlement Report ED30). It therefore conflicts with Local Plan Policy PG6, SADPD Policy RUR12 and Goostrey Neighbourhood Plan (GNP) Policy VDLC2.

The garage that was constructed in 2023 without planning permission is also an incursion into the Open Countryside and Local Green Gap. The unauthorised construction was reported to CE Planning Enforcement under case number 23/00154E. It is unclear whether this current application is attempting to remedy the unauthorised built development as the application answers "no" to the question 'has the work or change of use already started?' and "no" to the question 'does your proposal involve the loss or change of use of non-residential 2 floorspace?' but in fact the garage has recently been constructed on land which is the subject of this application.

- b) Local Validation Checklists Consultation:** It was agreed that the council would request the inclusion of a requirement for applicants to state that they meet the policies in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan, within the guidance and checklists. It was further agreed that the requirement by the National Planning Policy Framework to adhere to Neighbourhood Plans should be highlighted in the response.

02.24.7 Financial Payments: The Clerk removed the payment listed for insurance cover as the council agreed to add Contract Disputes cover to the policy, see item 13. The Clerk will add this element and pay the new invoice to ensure cover is continuous. The Clerk also noted that grant funding of £1,800, to support the relocation of the Post Office service to the Methodist Church, could now be released as invoices from the architect had now been received. Payment of this grant had previously been authorised under minute reference 10.23.12. Both items will be listed on the next payment schedule.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 2/24.*

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



Goostrey Parish Council

02.24.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The contents of the report were received and noted. SID data continues to demonstrate that speeding is on the increase and it is increasingly important to obtain more PCSO Trucam sessions and to continue to promote the possibility of installation of Average Speed Cameras. Shearbrook SID data has been sent to Police representatives to assist them in assessing optimum times for Trucam sessions.
- b) **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** The report was received and noted. Note for January 2024 data – Total number of vehicles 33,538. Approximately 5,000 were travelling at over 35 mph which gives an average of 161 vehicles per day. Peak times for vehicles travelling at over 35 mph were 08.00 to 20.00 this is an average of 13 vehicles per hour. Marginal decrease in numbers of vehicles travelling at over 35 mph for January and February 2024 is attributable to the effects of the barriers and cones at Shearbrook bridge.
- c) **Road Closures and Damage to Highways Verges:** The current road closure and damage to highways verges, caused by traffic ignoring the official diversion and taking a shortcut down Hermitage Lane, was noted by the council. The Clerk confirmed that the damage caused on Hermitage Lane has been reported to CEC and that this would also be raised with the Local Highways Officer at the next Highways Liaison meeting on 15th March. This is particularly important as a similar problem is likely to occur when work is done to resolve the embankment slippage at Shearbrook bridge.

02.24.10 Police Matters: There was nothing to report at this time.

02.24.11 Grant Application: Cllr. Rathbone answered questions put by councillors on the detail of the grant application for the D-Day +80 Anniversary Commemoration Event but took no part in the debate or the vote.

The council discussed the grant application for £3,000, to be used principally to secure a Spitfire flypast as part of the commemoration event, to ensure that the proposed funding would represent value for money for residents. Concerns were expressed that there would be insufficient additional funding to ensure that the event could go ahead. There was also concern that the flypast would need to be the highlight of the event, however, it was felt that there was not sufficient information available about the event to assess whether residents would purchase tickets to attend.

The Chairman proposed a motion to approve the provision of a £3,000 grant towards the D-Day +80 Anniversary Commemoration Event. There was no seconder for the motion and therefore no vote.

It was agreed that the D-Day group would be asked to resubmit their grant application to the next council meeting. The new application should provide any updated information on donations and grant funding and further information on the event itself, aside from the flypast.

02.24.12 Grant Payment Review: The council discussed the request by the Coronation Wall Hanging Group to take the additional costs, incurred during the wall hanging project, from the



Goostrey Parish Council

remaining grant funding provided by the council. A report from the group was received detailing the request. The group had underspent on the room hire allocation of the funding and had secured the materials and labour for the installation free of charge, leaving the installation allocation untouched. The council agreed that the additional costs of £120.84 could be recouped from the grant funding. This would leave a balance of £223.16 (£44 for room hire and £179.16 for installation) to be returned to the council. The council noted the group's honesty in highlighting the underspend and expressed its delight with the wall hanging. There was appreciation for the work that had gone into the project as well as the engagement created within the community.

02.24.13 Insurance Renewal: The council agreed to add Contract Disputes cover to the council's policy at an additional cost of £17.50 plus Insurance Premium Tax. This aspect of legal expenses cover had previously been included but was now optional. The total cost of the premium for 2024/25, including this addition was still within budget.

02.24.14 Review of Strategic Plan: It was agreed that the council would review and update its strategic plan. Each committee will review its own section of the plan before it returns to full council for approval. It was noted that this should also include the Staff Committee.

02.24.15 Village Hall Recharge: The council debated the proposal by the Finance Committee that all parties to the Joint Use Agreement discuss the introduction of a flat fee for the recharge, increasing each year in line with inflation to assist with budgeting and reduce the time spent trying to reconcile invoices to the recharge and correcting errors.

The Chairman proposed the motion that the council approves the introduction of a flat fee recharge in principle and agrees that further enquiries should be made in order to progress this via the Village Hall Management Committee and Cheshire East Council. There was no seconder for the motion and therefore no vote.

It was agreed that an item would be placed on the Village Hall Management Committee agenda for the next meeting to discuss any progress made by the school with CEC Finance and what the school would like to happen, with a view to trying to arrange a meeting with CEC Finance to resolve the issues. The results of this discussion will be reported at the next council meeting and from there to the Finance Committee in early April.

02.24.16 CEC Consultations:

- a) **Boundary Commission Review of Cheshire East Council Wards:** The Clerk and Cllr. Rathbone have registered to attend a CEC webinar on 18th March and will report back to council.
- b) **Crossing Strategy Consultation:** It was agreed that councillors would respond to this consultation on an individual basis.

02.24.17 Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill (Martyn's Law): The Clerk attended an SLCC/Home Office webinar. The Bill will require certain venues to fulfil necessary but proportionate steps to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm. The duties that premises will have will



Goostrey Parish Council

depend on the size of the venue. Premises and events with a capacity of 800 or above will be in the enhanced tier, while premises with a capacity of 100 to 799 will be in the standard tier. There is no requirement to assess the likelihood of a terror attack rather, the requirement is to be prepared. The Bill is not yet law and it is therefore still subject to change, however the situation currently is as follows:

Those responsible for Standard Tier premises will be required to have in place reasonably practicable procedures to follow in the event of an attack. The requirement for specific terrorism protection training has been removed. Instead, training or instruction will be what is sufficient and appropriate to ensure procedures are effectively in place considering their circumstances and that staff are aware of the actions to take and protocols to follow in the event of an attack. Guidance will assist those responsible for standard duty premises and there will be sufficient time to make the necessary changes.

02.24.18 Minor items and items for the next agenda.

02.24.19 Date of Next Meeting: 26th March 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.