



# Goostrey Parish Council

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

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

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

There were four members of the public present.

A representative from the Goostrey Footpaths Group spoke about the group's keenness to improve its visibility. A recent organised walk attracted some residents and another walk is scheduled to leave from the Space Invader pub at 10am this Friday, everybody is welcome. The group is also interested in strengthening its relationship with the council and it was agreed that the appointment of a councillor as liaison for the group should be placed on the next agenda. In the meantime, and in any case, the Clerk confirmed that the group could always contact her with any questions.

A representative from Friends of Goostrey Station (FOGS) advised the meeting that they had won the national Community Rail photo competition. On 12th March, FOGS members attended Cheshire's Best Kept Station awards evening and received the award for an Art Project which recognised the Platinum Plaque and the Coronation Discs which celebrated Queen Elizabeth's jubilee and King Charles' coronation.

**03.24.1 Declarations of interest:** Cllrs. Rathbone and Fagan declared an interest in item 12, the grant application for the D-Day +80 Anniversary Event and would therefore take no part in the debate or vote.

**03.24.2 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Mooney and Hall.

**03.24.3 Minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024:**

***Resolved:*** *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.*

**03.24.4 Cheshire East Council (CEC) Matters:** Cllrs. Chadwick and Kolker were present and reported the following:

- **Cross Lane/Bomish Lane Junction:** Following the latest accident Cllr. Chadwick raised a Members' Enquiry with the CEC Road Safety Team and was advised that the team were aware that there is reduced visibility from the side roads due to overgrown hedgerows on Bomish Lane. A letter will therefore be sent out to landowners by CEC asking them to address this. In addition, relining of the road markings will also be requested. Whilst the parish council were pleased to receive this update, Cllr. Chadwick was advised that plans to conduct re-lining work at this junction had been promised before (between 6 months to a



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year ago) and this has still not happened. Cllr. Chadwick agreed to follow this up with the Road Safety Team Leader with a view to getting a timescale for the re-lining work to be done.

- **Police and Crime Commissioner Election:** The election takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.
- **A500:** There will be a review into the plan to dual a section of the A500 for HS2 and how this will be progressed now that this section of the HS2 project has been scrapped.
- **Bus Services:** Cllr. Chadwick confirmed that the maximum fare cap of £2 for single journeys will continue until December.
- **Household Waste Site Closures:** Household Waste sites in Bollington, Middlewich and Poynton will close from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
- **A535:** Fans of Harry Styles are visiting Twemlow Viaduct and other sites in Holmes Chapel where he grew up, in large numbers. Safety concerns have been raised as the A535 is particularly dangerous to walk along and CEC Officers have been asked to investigate this.
- **Peer Review:** Cllr. Kolker reported that the peer review into CEC's performance has started.
- **Planning Application for Petting Zoo:** There is currently a planning application for a petting zoo at Bidlea Dairy but as this is in Twemlow the Parish Council have not been consulted.

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

- a) Village Hall Management Committee Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024: Cllr. Beckham provided an overview of the meeting to support the minutes of the meeting.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) Amenities Committee Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024: Cllr. Rathbone provided an overview of the meeting to support the minutes of the meeting.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and all the decisions therein.*

## 03.24.6 Planning Matters:

**The following updates on planning matters were provided:**

- a) Enforcement Request 23/00946E The Sidings, Station Road. No response has been received, despite requests for an update.
- b) Enforcement Request 23/00945E The Sidings, Station Road. No response has been received, despite requests for an update.
- c) Enforcement Request 23/00154E – Planning application 24/0688C Holly Bank Farm. The decision date for this application is 17<sup>th</sup> April. The council's objection has been logged.

## 03.24.7 Financial Payments: The council reviewed and approved the payments listed on schedule 3/24.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 3/24.*

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



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## 03.24.9 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.
- b) **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** The report was received and noted. During February Main Road was closed to through traffic at Shearbrook bridge for nearly three weeks. Of a total of 10,748 vehicles, approximately 1,700 were travelling at over thirty-five mph. The peak times for vehicles travelling at over 35 mph were 7am – 11am and 3pm – 11pm.
- c) **Highways Liaison Meeting:** The new date for the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> April was noted. Cllr. Rathbone noted that the embankment at Shearbrook continues to slip and no action has yet been taken. He also advised that there were issues surrounding land ownership at this location. Cllr. Kolker made a note of this. The latest accident at the Cross Lane/Bomish Lane junction had been raised and addressed earlier in the meeting.

**03.24.10 Police Matters:** Cllr. Rathbone reminded the meeting that the Police & Crime Commissioner election would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**03.24.11 External Appointments:** The following updates were received:

- a) **Sibelco Liaison Meeting:** Cllr. Morris provided an overview of the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr. Morris continues to request that Sibelco measure a particular size of dust particles. Setbacks to the completion of the discretionary footpath between New Platt Lane and Goostrey Lane have included the rain and the Environment Agency requirements for Ditch 3. Also different requirements at either end of the path, as one end is in Cheshire East and the other in Cheshire West. There is no date for completion yet but the work will continue once these difficulties are overcome.
- b) **Jodrell Bank World Heritage Steering Group Meeting:** Cllr. Morris provided an overview of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The group are keen to protect their World Heritage Status and there is concern that the government is making it easier to build under permitted development. The group believe that any planning applications in the Jodrell Bank Observatory buffer zone should have an impact assessment. Visitor Centre numbers are down, as in other major attractions, from 180,000 to 122,000. The public have not returned to days out in the same way as they did before the pandemic. Current projects include research into gravitational waves and string theory, repairs to the Lovell telescope and confirmation that there are now 25 countries involved in the Square Kilometre Array which should be fully operational by 2029. Cllr. Morris spoke to Professor Garrett about the proposed footpath between the station and Jodrell Bank, who agreed to take the matter up with the other parties involved. Cllr. Morris then sent an email including with maps, he hasn't heard anything since but will follow this up.
- c) **Village Hall and Playing Fields Foundation Meeting:** Cllr Beckham provided an overview of the meeting in January. This was the VHPFF Annual General Meeting. The VHPFF are



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struggling to generate funds and attract new members; they also have facilities which need updating. The treasurer reported a potential deficit of £7,500 for the current financial year. At the meeting it was agreed to record the sum of £5,268 provided as its contribution towards the cost of the construction of the Infant School and Village Hall.

**03.24.12 Goostrey D-Day +80 Revised Grant Application:** The updated grant application had been submitted as requested by council at the last meeting. Cllrs. Fagan and Rathbone, having already declared an interest, took no part in the debate or the vote but did answer questions relating to the application put to them by councillors. The council, having been assured that there were sufficient attractions to make the event viable and that there would be sufficient funding from other sources, agreed to award the full grant of £3,000 to the group. It was agreed that the funds would be made available from the remainder of the 2023/24 Grant reserve (£1,857.17), the D-Day Events reserve (£1,000) and the remaining £142.83 from the 2024/2025 Grant reserve. Payment would be made in early April.

**Resolved:** *The council resolved to award a grant of £3,000 to the Goostrey D-Day +80 Anniversary Group. It was further resolved that the funds would be made available from the remainder of the 2023/24 Grant reserve (£1,857.17), the D-Day Events reserve (£1,000) and the remaining £142.83 from the 2024/2025 Grant reserve.*

**03.24.13 Village Hall Recharge:** The Clerk and the school continue to work together and with CEC to try to resolve the ongoing issues with the recharge. CEC have agreed to allow the electricity invoices to go directly to the school's Business Manager to apply the correct invoice split rather than this being done centrally, where there is clearly a misunderstanding of how this should work. There have also been issues with waste and BT Line Rental charges, these are split by the school rather than centrally, however, these invoices are paid via school's purchase card and despite coding the split correctly, there is an inconsistency as to whether the transfer to the centre codes is applied. CEC now have a new bank account and it is believed that this should work correctly with the Unit 4 system. The Clerk and the school's Business Manager met on 25<sup>th</sup> March and reviewed the recharge for this financial year. Problems have been identified and work continues to get CEC to resolve them. Both agreed that they would try to arrange a meeting with the CEC Business Support Team in order explain how the percentage splits should work. It is hoped that this will prevent the same problems reoccurring each year. Work can then begin on the two outstanding recharges which have not yet been reconciled. Going forward the Business Manager and the Clerk will meet on a quarterly basis to review the recharge.

**03.24.14 Improved, Greener Community Facilities Fund:** It was agreed that the council met the criteria to apply for a grant to replace the single glazed windows in the Parish Office, Committee Room and Village Hall toilets. The Clerk confirmed that the school had provided a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate for the site, which is a requirement for the application. The council agreed that the application should be made.



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**03.24.15 Village Hall, Main Hall Floor:** The council considered the quote to clean and reseal the main hall floor and agreed that this should go ahead in August. It was also noted that the school have set aside £1,000 as a contribution to this. The Clerk was asked to confirm with the flooring company whether it would be possible to apply additional coats of the floor sealer for a better, more long lasting finish and how much extra this would cost.

**03.24.16 Procedure for Recovery of Unpaid Invoice:** The Clerk advised that an invoice for an event at the Village Hall had not been paid and confirmed that subsequent communication requesting payment had not been acknowledged.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved that the Clerk shall write to the debtor to detail the steps to be taken if payment is not received. The council also approves that if payment is not made, the Clerk shall pursue recovery of the debt, including any costs incurred, through a court claim at a cost of £50 in court fees.*

**03.24.17 Annual Parish Meeting:** Following the discussion during the public forum the Footpaths Group agreed that an item on the Annual Parish Meeting agenda was not required.

**03.24.18 Christmas Lights Switch On Event:** The Clerk confirmed that, in consultation with St. Luke's Church, the event has been planned for 1<sup>st</sup> December. This is the same date as the Christingle service and those attending will parade down to the Bogbean with the Christingles, with artificial lights being used instead of candles, to join other residents wishing to attend the event. The Clerk has arranged for the Rode Hall Silver Band to play carols and there will be song sheet so that everyone can join in once the Christmas lights have been switched on. A company has been engaged to provide, set up and dismantle a gazebo, flooring, chairs and lighting for the band. The council approved the format of the event and the payment of the deposits as listed in the payment schedule.

**03.24.19 Boundary Commission Review of Cheshire East Council Wards:** The Clerk and Cllr. Rathbone attended the Boundary Commission webinar last week. It was agreed that it was an extremely informative session which explained the process and rationale for the review of electoral arrangements for the borough. The Commission uses electorate forecasts supplied by Cheshire East Council to propose wards that ensure each councillor represents a similar number of electors in the future. These new arrangements will be in place for the next local elections in 2027. The first consultation closes on 1<sup>st</sup> April and simply asks for the consultee's views, no proposals have yet been put forward. There will be a second consultation on the draft proposals which will take place between 30<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> October and it was recommended that the council respond to the consultation at this time. The council agreed to this proposal.

**03.24.20 Arrangements for Internal and External Audit for the year 2023/24:** The arrangements were confirmed as follows:

- a) Timetable for Internal and External Audit. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) document must with the external auditor by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. The internal audit must be completed first, followed by the two sections of the AGAR, which must be approved at a full meeting of the council before that date.



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- b) Timetable for the signing of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) form by Council. The AGAR forms will be approved by full council then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**03.24.21 Minor items and items for the next agenda:**

**Next Agenda:** Appointment of a councillor as liaison to the Goostrey Footpaths Group

**Minor Items:** The council agreed that the Clerk would send a card on behalf of the council to Cllr. Mooney.

**03.24.22 Date of Next Meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.

## PART TWO

### MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO RETIRE.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as extended by the Local Government Act of 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the discussion of the undermentioned items on the grounds that the publication of the matters would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to move to Part Two to discuss confidential matters.*

**03.24.23 Chairman's Letter of Recognition Nomination**

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.