



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk to the Council (EB), Cllrs. A. Kolker (Ward Councillor, Cheshire East Council)

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

Prior to commencement of the public forum and meeting, a one minute silence was observed to pay respects to Cllr. Sue Mooney following her death on 30th August 2024.

There were 2 members of the public present. A representative from Friends Of Goostrey Station (FOGS) reported that an application for funding for water butts and plants had been made, but that following a health and safety meeting with Network Rail and Northern Rail, he had decided not to purchase water butts and to use an alternative method. This was due to the threat of Legionella when spraying water as 95% of water butts contain the bacteria. Vandalism at the station was a problem over the summer but this now seems to have settled down. There are still a large number of Arlo Railway Safety books available if anyone knows of any groups who would like some.

A resident reported that the spaces between rows in the extension to the graveyard have increased from about eight feet to about eleven to twelve feet which seems like a waste of space. In addition the alignment in the last row is poor. The Clerk will ask St. Luke's and report back.

09.24.1 Declarations of interest: No declarations of interest were made.

09.24.2 Apologies for absence: None.

09.24.3 Minutes of the meeting on 23rd July 2024:

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd July 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

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

- **Budget Review:** All the CEC committees have just had the first quarter budget review. CEC have a £26.5 million projected overspend for this year. £20 million of this is accounted for by Adult Health and there is nothing that can be done to rectify the situation apart from trying to make economies such as, being more strict about which care homes they put people into and adhering more closely to the savings thresholds for funding care. However, this wouldn't make a significant dent in the overspend. Reasons for the overspend are vague but include wage demands, pay to third party contractors and some legacy issues from last year. There is a one off grant



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available from the government in exceptional circumstances which would help but just delays what may be the inevitable.

- **Transformation Programme:** This programme is there to address the projected £100 million deficit over four years. The report is high level and short on detail about how the changes will be made. There will be further reports which will hopefully go into more detail. This will affect Goostrey but it's not possible to say in what way at this stage but there is a recognition that money needs to be saved.
- **Devolution:** Devolution doesn't mean going back to the days of Cheshire County Council, central government wants to devolve power local areas. The suggestion is that CEC joins with Cheshire West and Warrington as a devolved area to take grants that were traditionally dispensed from central government to be managed locally. There are several models but the governments preferred option is a locally elected mayor. They will address things like integrated transport and business parks and areas. A concern is that Warrington has massive debts, and that therefore all the funding will go there due to its size with the most need and biggest deficit. The concern from the Parish Council is what it may be expected to cover when CEC has to cut budgets in order that statutory duties can be covered. This isn't known at this time but Cllr. Kolker agreed he would let the Parish Council know when he does.

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

- a) **Planning Committee Meeting 14th August 2024:** Cllr. Morris provided an overview of the circulated minutes.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 14th August 2024 and all the decisions therein.*

- b) **Village Hall Management Committee Meeting 10th September 2024:** Cllr. Beckham provided an overview of the circulated minutes. He thanked the Clerk and the School Business Manager for their work to resolve the issue of the historic recharges. In addition to obtaining estimated costs for replacing the hall floor, the Clerk was also asked to find out from the school whether there is an estimate for when the boiler might need replacing, so that this can also be considered as part of the longer term budget planning.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee meeting of 10th September 2024 and all the decisions therein.*

- c) **Amenities Committee Meeting 11th September 2024:** Cllr. Rathbone provided an overview of the circulated minutes. The Clerk was asked to follow up the letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner about the possible installation of average speed cameras in Goostrey.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting of 11th September 2024 and all the decisions therein.*

- d) **VHPFF Meeting 16th September 2024.** Cllr. Freeman to provide an update from the meeting. A Management Committee has been formed and is effective and the accounts



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have been brought in line with the affiliated clubs' accounts. The replacement of the astro turf which is being organised by the Tennis Committee was discussed. A grant application has now been submitted to the Parish Council for £20,000. Cllr. Freeman advised the VHPFF that there are significant other pressures on the Parish Council's budget and reserves.

09.24.6 Planning Matters:

a) To receive and agree a response to the following planning applications:

24/3076M The Cottage, Macclesfield Road, Jodrell Bank, CW4 8BU. Extension in the footprint of the existing cottage at the sides and also at the rear and refurbishment of the existing cottage.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on planning application 24/3076M.*

b) To receive an update on the following planning matters:

Enforcement Request 23/00154E – Planning application 24/0688C Holly Bank Farm. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up progress on this.

09.24.7 Financial Payments:

The council reviewed and approved the payments listed on schedule 8&9/24.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 8&9/24.*

09.24.8 Clerk's Report:

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

09.24.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** The PCSO has been trained in the new Speedwatch processes and is looking to train Holmes Chapel volunteers followed by Goostrey.
- b) **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** The contents of the report were received and noted. During July of the 33,317 vehicles recorded, approximately 7,300 were travelling at over 35 mph. One vehicle travelled between 55 mph and 60 mph at 10am and two vehicles were travelled between 55 mph and 60 mph at 5pm. During August of 32,707 vehicles recorded, approximately 7,000 were travelling at over 35 mph. 31 vehicles were travelling between 50 mph and 55 mph spread throughout the 24 hours but with peaks of four vehicles at 3pm – 4pm and five vehicles at 10pm – 11pm.
- c) **Highways Liaison Meeting:** The minutes from the meeting held on 20th September were received. Cllr. Rathbone highlighted that CEC have removed channel weed killing from the maintenance schedule. Cllr. Kolker was asked to raise a member's enquiry to find out whether this could be reinstated. Cllr. Kolker advised he would pass this to Cllr. Chadwick who sits on the Highways Committee.

It was also noted that the work required to the embankment at Shearbrook bridge had been referred to the Structures team at CEC to arrange a survey.



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09.24.10 Police Matters: Cllr. Rathbone attended the Dane Valley Parishes meeting with the PCSOs on 2nd September. It was noted that of the crimes reported to the meeting, very little of it related to Goostrey which remains a low crime area.

09.24.11 Council Vacancies: There were no applications for co-option therefore the Clerk will continue to advertise the vacancy. Due to the sad death of Cllr. Mooney a second casual vacancy has arisen, CEC have been notified and notices posted. CEC will contact the Clerk after the 4th October deadline to confirm whether an election has been called.

09.24.12 Conclusion of External Audit: The Clerk confirmed that the external audit has been completed and advised that the auditors found that the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and that no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The Conclusion of Audit notice has been posted on the website and notice boards and will remain in place for one month.

09.24.13 Remembrance Wreath: The Council approved a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion (Goostrey Branch) for a Remembrance Wreath.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approved a donation of £50 to The Royal British Legion (Goostrey Branch) for a Remembrance Wreath.*

09.24.14 The Bogbean Formal Ownership Application: The Working Group asked for an increase in its budget to £450 as the cost for a Highways Extent Search, which was required to progress the adverse possession application) had been quoted at £294 (incl.VAT). Other legal and application fees are likely to come to about £100 so the budget needs to be increased.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approved a budget not exceeding £450 for the Working Group to cover the application for adverse possession of The Bogbean, search and legal fees.*

09.24.15 Parish Council Policies: The council reviewed and approved the following policies:

a) [Anonymous Communications Policy](#)

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved too approve the Anonymous Communications Policy.*

b) [Councillor Vacancies and Co-option Policy](#)

A spelling mistake was identified on page two of the policy which should read seat instead of set.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to approve the Anonymous Councillor Vacancies and Co-option Policy.*

c) [Grant Awarding Policy](#) and [Grant Application Form](#)

It was proposed that the following wording (shown below in bold italics) be added to the Grant Awarding policy:

No further amount will be allocated from the annual budget if the money is committed before the end of the financial year (end of March each year). ***In exceptional circumstances, the Parish Council may consider allocating additional funds from reserves.***



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This would allow the council the flexibility to consider increasing the funding available subject to sufficient reserves being available.

Resolved : *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Grant Awarding Policy with the addition of the line "In exceptional circumstances, the Parish Council may consider allocating additional funds from reserves". The Grant Application Form was approved unchanged.*

09.24.16 Cheshire East Consultations:

- a) **Manchester Airport Draft Noise Action Plan Consultation 2024:** Cllr. Craggs advised that he had read the consultation and responded as an individual. His view was that this was an interesting though very technical consultation but that there was nothing for the council to be concerned about. Cllr. Craggs was thanked for his efforts.
- b) **Household Waste Collection Consultation 2024:** Having reviewed the consultation, the council agreed that members should respond on an individual basis if they wished.

09.24.17 Minor items and items for the next agenda: None were suggested.

09.24.18 Date of Next Meeting: 22nd October 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm