



Goostrey Parish Council

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 23rd October 2024 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Rathbone – Chairman (TR), Fagan (PF), Craggs (DC)

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk

- 1. Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Freeman and Morgan.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting on 11th September 2024:**

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting on 11th September 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

- 4. Village Maintenance:** Representatives from St. Luke's Church have contacted the Clerk to enquire about where responsibilities lie for hedge cutting in the cemetery. It was confirmed that CEC cut the hedge which borders the footpath that the children use to cross from the Junior to Infant school site. The Parish Council engage Congleton Town Council to cut the hawthorn hedge that separates the new cemetery from the old one. They also cut the mixed (mainly holly) hedge that faces onto Main Road. The church has asked the Parish Council to consider cutting the small, untidy hedge that is located at the far end of the newest part of the cemetery as well as the hedge which borders the residential property adjacent to the cemetery.
It was agreed that the village maintenance budget should be increased to allow for this to be included in the contract for 2025/26, however, the Clerk was also asked to find out whether these hedges could be cut before this so that they would be in better condition ready for the new contract and season.
- 5. Budget Planning 2025/26:** The information provided in the document pack was reviewed, along with the supporting documentation and the draft Strategic Plan. A draft budget for 2025/26 agreed for consideration by the Finance Committee. **See Appendix 1.**
- 6. 3 Year Budget Planning:** The current 3 year budget and supporting documentation, including the draft Strategic Plan provided in the document pack was reviewed. A new draft 3 year budget was agreed for consideration by the Finance Committee. **See Appendix 2.**
- 7. Environmental Improvements Primrose Chase:** The committee approved the scope of work. It was further agreed that, as work to this area formed part of the last village survey, residents would be sufficiently aware of the plans. In addition, the work seeks to tidy the area, rather than make any significant changes. The Clerk will seek quotes.
- 8. Environmental Hedge:** Over the past year a significant part of the environmental hedge at the top of Shearbrook Bank has died, leaving a small amount (approx. 10%) of the original hedge surviving in a continuous length. The Clerk has asked Congleton Town Council to provide a quote to carry out remedial planting. This is still awaited.
- 9. Correspondence:** None.
- 10. Minor items and matters for the next meeting:** None.
- 11. Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 6th November 2024.
- 12. Meeting closed at 8.30pm**

APPENDICES

Appendix One

Goostrey Parish Council

Draft Budget 2025 - 2026

The draft budget gives costs for the financial year 2024-2025 to date and estimated costs for 2025-2026. While clearly there are some estimated costs to which the Parish Council is committed, other figures are suggestions, and are equally open to increase, decrease or elimination.

		Current Year 2024-2025				Next Year 2025-2026				Notes
2 Amenities		Receipts		Payments		Receipts		Payments		
Code	Title	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget		Budget		
29	Village Maintenance			4,500.00	1,459.03			4,740.00	5.33%	current contract is £3,644.18 per year but it cannot be guaranteed that this contractor will quote in future years therefore the budget reflects the higher costs quoted by other contractors plus a 3% increase. Additional hedge cutting in the cemetery has been requested and approved by the committee. Also included is the additional planting at Churchbank corner.
30	Graveyard Maintenance			2,600.00	353.32			2,830.00	8.85%	
31	Lengthsman Service			250.00	125.00			250.00	0.00%	
33	Speedwatch/SIDs			800.00	310.94			300.00	-62.50%	To cover Speedwatch and maintenance of SIDs. Recommend creating a reserve with the any unspent budget from this line and adding enough to the budget to top up the reserve. This is suggested as the spend on this item isn't necessarily required each year.
34	Seniors Lunch	1,050.00		1,950.00		980.00	5.33%	1,000.00	-48.72%	Receipts budget assumes the same ticket price of £14 for 70 attendees. The payments budget assumes an increase in costs of 3% £23.61 per head with the PC subsidising the meal by £9.61 = £672.70 for the meal plus table decorations, music, crackers.
36	Planters and Plants			250.00				0.00	-100.00%	Not required.
X	Christmas Lights Switch on event							1,000.00		Funded from reserves in 2024/25, needs to be included in the budget if this is to be a regular event. Previously £600 was paid to the Scouts to support the event.
X	VE Day Event							£2,000.00		An event to mark VE Day is being planned by a working group and a figure of £2,000 has been suggested.
TOTAL		1,050.00	0.00	10,350.00	2,248.29	980.00	-6.67%	12,120.00	17.10%	

Reserves

The Committee recommends creation of a Speedwatch & SIDs reserve from the unspent budget for this line to be topped up as required via the budget.

Appendix 2

Draft 3 Year Budget

Amenities	2025-2026		2026-2027		2027-2028		
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	
29 Village Maintenance		4,740.00		4,880.00		5,025.00	The Committee agreed to apply a 3% increase over the 3 year budget.
30 Graveyard Maintenance		2,830.00		2,910.00		3,000.00	
31 Lengthsman Service		250.00		260.00		265.00	
33 Speedwatch/SIDs		300.00		400.00		500.00	A higher increase has been applied here to account for replenishment of the reserve and possible increased spend on ageing equipment.
34 Seniors Lunch	980.00	1,000.00	1,010.00	1,030.00	1,040.00	1,060.00	
36 Planters and Plants		0.00		0.00		0.00	Cost code to be removed.
xx Christmas Lights Switch on Event		1,000.00		1,050.00		1,080.00	
xx VE Day Event		2,000.00		500.00		500.00	The committee has requested a nominal figure here each year to prepare for other important events from 2026/27 onwards.
XX Village Survey		0.00		1,000.00		0.00	To identify what improvements residents would like to see following the last survey in 2021.
TOTAL	980.00	12,120.00	1,010.00	10,530.00	1,040.00	10,930.00	

Draft Project List for 2024 – 2028

This document forms part of the Parish Council’s Strategic Plan and sets out the Council’s planned projects. These projects have been allocated to the appropriate committee, are included in the 3 year budget plan and approved by Council. The Project list should be read in conjunction with the Council’s approved objectives document.

No.	Project Title	Summary	Justification	Funding Requirements	Funding Source(s)	Responsible Member/ Committee	Planning period	Recommendation/ Updates
1	Village Environment Improvement Project	Public survey completed April 2021. The program of improvements is monitored and updated by the Amenities Committee as projects are brought forward for completion.	Remaining projects requiring scoping are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primrose Chase • Station Area • Outside Mini Market Main Road. 	Funding from Capital Reserves. The Village Projects Reserve balance is £6,630	Adopted Parish Council Project	Amenities Committee	2024 – 2028	
2	Booth Bed Lane Play Area Improvements	New equipment and facilities for the play area.	Approximately £40k is available via S106 funding. Consultation with residents has taken place and the Goostrey Playground Community Project Working Group has	The council has placed £10,750 in Earmarked Reserves as a third party contribution to access a larger (£100,00) FCC grant.	Adopted Parish Council Project	Amenities Committee	Deadline – August 2025.	

			been established, reporting to the Amenities Committee and Council. The group is working with ANSA to deliver the project.					
3	Village Gates Project	To install village gates as a visual speeding deterrent.	Data from SIDs continues to show a worrying level of speeding through the village. The installation of Village Gates would seek to control this.	Original estimate £7,000. Suggest funding from Unallocated Capital Reserves in the first instance, £4,606 available. Any underspend from the Village Entrances Project (approx. £1,000).	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	Amenities Committee		Project needs to be defined and approved. Clerk to contact CEC to establish whether a licence fee would be payable as part of establishing the feasibility of the project. Confirmed no licence fee payable.

4	Average Speed Cameras	To install average speed cameras in the village.	Data from SIDs continues to show a worrying level of speeding through the village. Applications to join pilot schemes have been unsuccessful in the past.	Previous estimates were costs upwards of £50,000.	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	Amenities Committee	2024 to end of 2025 2026 - 2028	Continue to pursue the new PCC regarding inclusion in future pilot schemes. If the above fails then obtain technical approval for installation by Parish Council plus consideration of how this could be funded.
5	Village Survey	To identify what improvements residents would like to see following the last survey in 2021.	To provide ongoing engagement with residents and inform future project plans	Funding to be via the 3 year budget plan. Approx. £1,000	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	Amenities Committee	2026 - 2027	Recommend that a new survey is considered in 2025/26 to allow a reasonable period to have elapsed since the last survey.
6	Repainting the Main Hall	Required to maintain the hall in good condition.	Regular repainting of at least the lower walls is required to keep the hall in good condition for the school and hirers.	Quotes to be obtained. Reserves to be earmarked possibly from the surplus VH Recharge 2021/22 reserve of £6,771.14. School have confirmed	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	VHMC	Summer 2025	

				that they will contribute.				
7	Installation of wall covering to protect the Chair Store in the Main Hall	Required to maintain the hall in good condition.	To provide long lasting protection for the walls and maintain cleanliness	Quotes to be obtained. Reserves to be earmarked, possibly from the surplus VH Recharge 2021/22 reserve of £6,771.14.	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	VHMC	Summer 2025	
8	Replacement of windows in the Parish Office, Committee Room and toilets.	Replacement of remaining single glazed windows in the Parish Office, Committee Room and toilets.	To reduce energy costs and create a warmer, more pleasant environment for hirers.	Funding earmarked in Capital reserves – Village Hall Projects of £8,800. Funding will also be sought from the Improved, Greener Community Facilities Fund which	Adopted Parish Council Project	VHMC	March 2024 – February 2025	

				offers 75% of projects costs up to a maximum of £15,000				
9	Replacement of lighting in the Parish Office and Committee Room.	Replacement of remaining fluorescent lighting in the Parish Office and Committee Room.	To move to more energy efficient LED lighting, as in the rest of the building, especially as these type of bulbs can't be replaced.	Indicative Quote £1,2000 Suggest funding through remainder of Capital reserves – Village Hall Projects.	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	VHMC		
10	New ceiling/wall mounted projector screen for the Lounge.	To install a wall/ceiling mounted projector screen in the Lounge. Preferably operated by remote control and perhaps including the projector itself.	The Coronation wall hanging covers a wall that was used to project meeting documents. The current screen is broken and is difficult to set up. This would improve the facility for Village Hall hirers as well as the council.	Quotes to be obtained. Proposed funding from the VHMC budget – Village Hall Improvements	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	VHMC		

11	Sand and reseal of the Main Hall Floor	Required to maintain the hall in good condition.	Regular maintenance is required to keep the hall in good condition for the school and hirers.	Reserves to be earmarked, possibly from the surplus VH Recharge 2021/22 reserve of £6,771.14.	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	VHMC		
12	Replacement Boiler	Planning required for eventual replacement of the boiler.	The boiler is 20 years old and it is prudent to consider making provision for this.	Consider earmarking general unallocated reserves of approx. £20,000. Should the boiler fail this will be a school/CEC project and therefore this would go through the recharge but the PC will need to make a contribution.	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	VHMC	Not known.	

13	Replacement Main Hall Floor	Planning required for the eventual replacement of the original Main Hall Floor.	This is the original floor and it is prudent to consider making provision for this. The flooring company has suggested that there a limited number of times that that the floor can be sanded back.	Consider earmarking general unallocated reserves of approx. £20,000. Indicative quote was £18,215 excl. VAT. If the school agreed that the floor needs replacing would go through the recharge but the PC will need to make a contribution.	Project in development. To be approved by Parish Council.	VHMC	Not known.	
14	Neighbourhood Plan Review	To review the Neighbourhood Plan Made in 2017.	Review will be required in light of the changes to the CEC Local Plan.	Funding from existing Earmarked reserves £12,000	Adopted Parish Council Project	Planning Committee	Timescales will depend on the completion of the Local Plan.	