



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

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

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

There were no members of the public present.

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

10.24.2 Apologies for absence: Cllr. Morgan.

10.24.3 Minutes of the meeting on 24th September 2024:

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th September 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

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

- **Devolution:** The government have contacted local authorities nationwide to ask them to consider devolution. The government has asked Cheshire East Council to consider putting in a proposal for devolution, in the form of an elected Mayor, along with Cheshire West and Warrington. The authorities would remain separate but the mayor would represent the three regions. It is thought that this would help in terms of grant funding for the region. It is likely that there will be a public consultation.
- **Fostering:** There is a shortage of foster families and a new recruitment initiative will be coming soon.
- **Green Waste Scheme:** Residents can now sign up or resubscribe to the garden waste recycling scheme.
- **Westfields:** The closure of Westfields should be complete by the end of December and it has been suggested that this could be used as an additional SEND school. This would reduce the costs associated with transporting children to Cheshire West to access SEND schools.
- **Solar Farm:** A solar farm has opened in Crewe which can power 1,200 homes.
- **Full Council Meeting:** Following the results of the peer review the Chief Executive is making changes to the senior team and these were voted on last night.
- **Planning Reforms:** Planning reforms are imminent. Under the previous government guideline CEC had sufficient housing provision for 10 years so no new land needed to be found. The new planning reforms mean that for every 1,000 houses earmarked there needs to be an additional eight, which is a requirement for an additional 200 houses per year. The introduction of grey belt land for housing is also imminent.



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- **Household Waste Consultation:** The public are being asked to comment on a reduced black bin collection (every three weeks) with the introduction of a larger food waste bin.

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

- a) **Finance Committee 8th October 2024:** Cllr. Morris provided an overview of the meeting and the committee's recommendations. The Clerk also provided the following update: There was a problem with the approved transfer of funds from the Santander account to the NS&I account. Santander was unable to process the transfer into the NS&I account as the account number was too long and the system couldn't accept it. It was established that the long account number was due to the age of the account and so the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr. Morris, agreed that the funds should be transferred into the Nat West account. From there, the funds could either be transferred to the NS&I account or remain in the Nat West account if funds were required there, which is possible as the transfer won't take place until April.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 8th October 2024 as a true and accurate record. The Parish Council resolves to accept the decision and recommendations of the committee for items 4,5,6,10, 11 and 14. All other recommendations will be considered as separate items on the agenda.*

10.24.6 Planning Matters:

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

24/3492C Cornbrook House, 19 Station Road, Goostrey, Cheshire, CW4 8PJ. Proposed Outbuilding.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on planning application 24/3492C.*

24/3081C 18 Willow Lane, Goostrey, Crewe, Cheshire, CW4 8PP. Change of use from a dwelling to Class E for Cheshire Massage Therapy LLP (OC452642).

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on planning application 24/3081C.*

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

Enforcement Request 23/00154E – Planning application 24/0688C Holly Farm. The Clerk has sent a follow up email to the Head of Planning and Enforcement in September, no response has been received. The Clerk agreed to ask Cllr. Kolker for his assistance if there was no response next month.

10.24.7 Financial Payments: The council reviewed and approved the payments listed on schedule 10/24.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 10/24.*



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

10.24.9 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. SID data for September 2024 shows that 22% of vehicles exceed 35mph. Recent correspondence with the Police and Crime Commissioner indicates that there will be no early implementation of Average Speed Cameras beyond the one set recently installed until a full assessment of effectiveness and value for money has been completed. Cllr. Fagan confirmed that there were now four Speedwatch volunteers (including himself) and PCSO Graham would be holding a training session on 11th November. An article has been included in the next newsletter to ask for more volunteers.
- b) **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** The contents of the report were received and noted. Of the 33,636 vehicles recorded in September, approximately 7,400 were travelling at over 35 mph (Average 240 per 24 hour day). 36 vehicles were travelling between 50 mph and 55 mph spread throughout the 24 hours but with peaks of 7 vehicles at 3pm – 4pm and 9 vehicles at 7pm – 9pm.

10.24.10 Police Matters: Cllr. Rathbone reported that there is a Resident's Voice survey on Cheshire Police's website, where the public can tell them about the things they would like the police to focus on in the area.

10.24.11 Council Vacancies: The Clerk confirmed that there are now two vacancies for councillors and that both may be filled by co-option.

10.24.12 Meeting Schedule 2025: The schedule of meetings for 2025 was received. It was noted that the Parish Council in January would take place on Wednesday 22nd January rather than Tuesday 28th due to the Clerk's annual leave. The VHMC meeting on 4th March clashes with a VHPFF meeting and has therefore been moved to 11th March. The meeting schedule was approved.

10.24.13 Financial Regulations: The Finance Committee reviewed the new model Financial Regulations and tailored the contents to suit the size and complexity of the Parish Council and incorporated the appropriate elements from the original regulations. The draft document was circulated in the document pack for review by full council.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approved the new Financial Regulations.*

10.24.14 Internal Auditor Review: The council noted the contents of the Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit Arrangements and approved the appointment of JDH Business Services as the council's Internal Auditor for 2024/2025.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council approves the appointment of JDH Business Services as the council's Internal Auditor for 2024/2025*

10.24.15 Risk Assessment: The council reviewed the risk assessment and approved the updated document.



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Resolved: The Parish Council approved the updated Risk Assessment as part of its Risk Management Policy.

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

a) **Investment Strategy Policy:** The council reviewed the policy and agreed to adopt it.

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved to adopt the new Investment Strategy Policy.

b) **Adult Safeguarding Policy:** The council reviewed the policy and agreed that references to trustees and The Charity Commission are removed as irrelevant in this case. It was also noted that the legislation referred to in the current policy needs to be updated.

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved to approve the Adult Safeguarding Policy with the above amendments.

c) **Child Safeguarding Policy:** The council reviewed the policy and agreed that references to trustees and The Charity Commission are removed as irrelevant in this case. It was also noted that the legislation referred to in the current policy needs to be updated.

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved to approve the Child Safeguarding Policy with the above amendments.

10.24.17 Consultations:

Cheshire East Boundary Review Consultation 2024: The draft recommendations don't include any proposed changes to Goostrey and therefore it was agreed that no response was required.

10.24.18 Minor items and items for the next agenda:

Minor Items:

- The VHPFF grant application was discussed in depth at the Finance Committee meeting, it was agreed that they would wait to see the results of their other funding applications and come back to the Parish Council at that point.
- Cllr. Morris agreed to attend the Remembrance Day service on behalf of the council to lay a wreath and do a reading.
- Councillors were asked if there was anything else that they would like included in the newsletter as there is a small space left.
- Cllrs. O'Donoghue and Fagan volunteered to join the Clerk to act as stewards for the Christmas Lights Switch On event on 1st December.

10.24.19 Date of Next Meeting: 26th November 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm