



Goostrey Parish Council

DOCUMENT PACK FOR THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING on Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** To receive any apologies for unavoidable absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** To receive any declarations of interest.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd July 2025.** [View Amenities Committee Meeting Minutes 2nd July 2025](#)
- 4. Tree Report:** To receive a report from the Tree Ranger. **See page 2.**
- 5. Budget Review and Monitoring:** To review the budget and address any areas of concern. **See page 3.**
- 6. Annual Plan:** To review progress and update as required. **See page 5.**
- 7. Village Maintenance:** To receive an update on issues raised and conclusions.
- 8. Primrose Chase Project:** To review the work carried out and approve additional costs for making good and future maintenance of the newly exposed areas.
- 9. Environmental Hedge:** To receive an update on planned work.
- 10. Village Gates:** To approve progressing this project, the available funding, scope and feasibility of installing village gates. **See page 6.**
- 11. Events:** To receive an update on planning for the following events:
 - a) Christmas Lights Switch On Event – 30th November.**
 - b) Seniors Christmas Lunch - 7th December.** To also make a recommendation to the Finance Committee for the ticket price for this event. **See page 19.**
- 12. Goostrey Playground Community Project:** To receive an update from the project working group.
- 13. Old Paddock Fencing:** To receive an update and note comments from a resident.
- 14. Bogbean Lighting for Events:** To confirm lighting of the beech tree for Remembrance Sunday.
- 15. Correspondence:** To review any correspondence received since the last meeting.
- 16. Minor items and matters for the next meeting.**
- 17. Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 22nd October 2025 – Budget meeting.

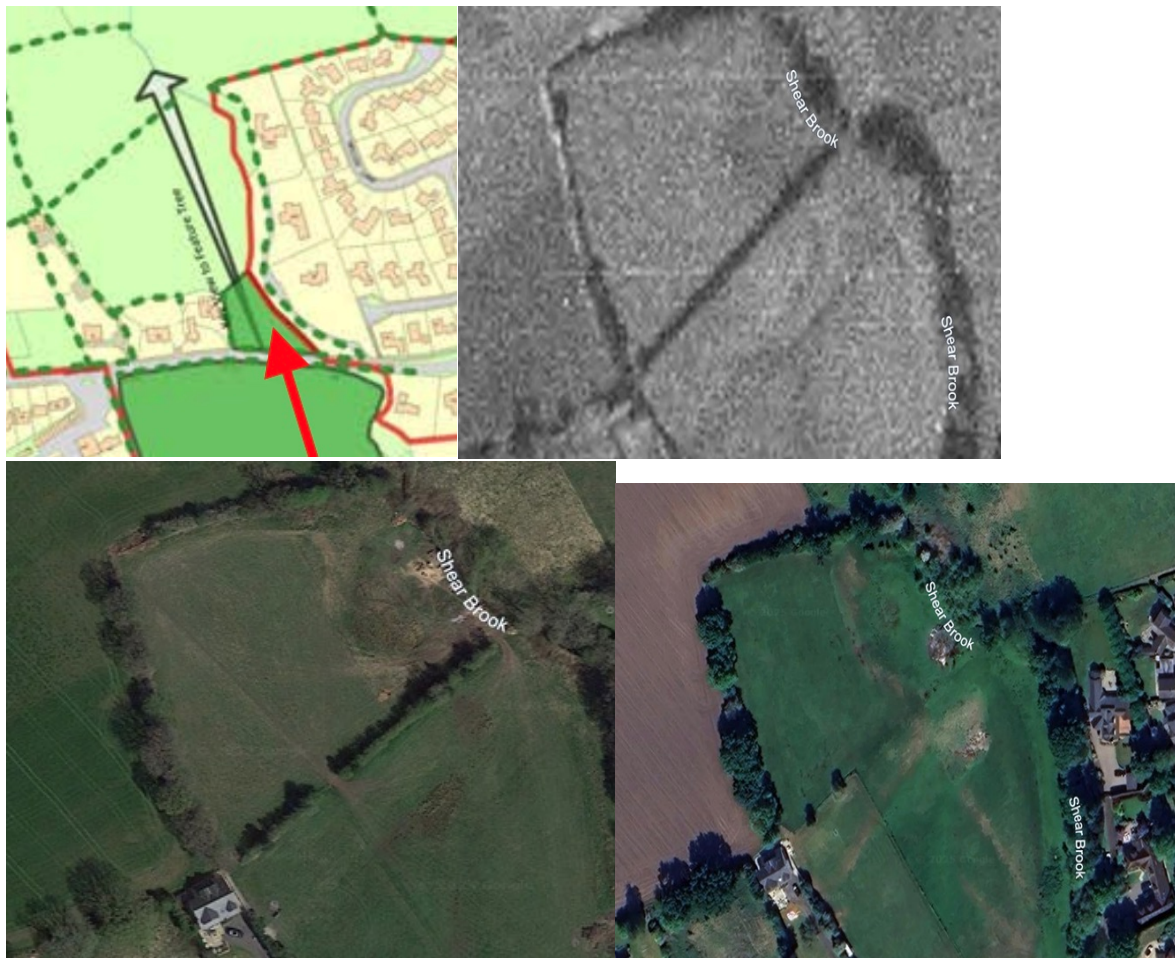
ENCLOSURES

Item 4

Tree Report 26/08/2025

1. There have been an applications for work to trees with TPOs 25/2773/TPO (wood lane), the work applied for appears to be appropriate.
2. Cheshire Farm Services are reviewing a plan for the maintenance of the Bongs woodland. It is likely a number of volunteers will be required from January 2026 to look at helping with the removal of invasive species.
3. We are planning our usual hedge/woodland planting for the Autumn, starting with Cubs, Scouts, Brownies & Guides in the last week of September at Swanwick Hall
4. Removal of hedgerow at Holly Bank. Pictures below, the hedge does not appear on the Tithe Map, however it was there in 1945(top right photo), is on the local plan as an important hedge (top left). It was there until 2021 at least (bottom left photo) and removed by 2025 (bottom Right). The hedgerow meets the criteria for protection: 70m long (minimum is 20m), land is used for agriculture, and it would likely have contained at least 4 woody species (judging by the makeup of adjacent hedgerows, and in in case if it was claimed it had less an application would have had to be made prior to removal to test this.

My recommendation is that a friendly approach is made to the owner on behalf of the council to replant it, prior to considering any further action



Goostrey Parish Council
Summary of Receipts and Payments
Cost Centre 2

2 Amenities

		Receipts			Payments			Net Position
Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
29	Village Maintenance (incl grass cutting)				5,740.00	227.85	5,512.15	5,512.15 (96%)
30	Graveyard Maintenance				2,830.00	75.83	2,754.17	2,754.17 (97%)
31	Lengthsman Service				250.00	210.00	40.00	40.00 (16%)
33	SIDS & Speedwatch				300.00		300.00	300.00 (100%)
34	Seniors Lunch	980.00		-980.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	20.00 (1%)
65	Christmas Lights Switch On Event				1,000.00	272.70	727.30	727.30 (72%)
66	VE Day Event		1,328.73	1,328.73	2,000.00	3,828.73	-1,828.73	-500.00 (-25%)
SUB TOTAL		980.00	1,328.73	348.73	13,120.00	4,615.11	8,504.89	8,853.62 (62%)

Summary								
NET TOTAL		980.00	1,328.73	348.73	13,120.00	4,615.11	8,504.89	8,853.62 (62%)
V.A.T.						184.96		
GROSS TOTAL			1,328.73			4,800.07		

Goostrey Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2025-2026

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
Capital					
Village Hall Projects	9,905.00		4,916.67		4,988.33
Village Projects	6,630.00	1,234.73			7,864.73
Capital General	4,606.00				4,606.00
Village Entrances Project	1,234.73	-1,234.73			0.00
CIL Payment	4,529.08				4,529.08
Total Capital	26,904.81		4,916.67		21,988.14
Earmarked					
Operating Reserves	47,323.00	3,266.00			50,589.00
Election Fee	8,286.00				8,286.00
Neighbourhood Plan Review	12,000.00				12,000.00
Unallocated General Reserve	21,232.29	-21,232.29			0.00
Christmas Lights for the Bogbean	1,705.30	1,294.70	62.15		2,937.85
Village Hall Laptop	524.18	-524.18			0.00
Defibrillator Supplies	806.60		289.00		517.60
Christmas Lights Switch On event 2024	20.65	-20.65			0.00
Village Hall Recharge 2023-2024	12,502.42				12,502.42
VH Recharges					0.00
Booth Bed Lane Playground Project	10,750.00				10,750.00
Village Hall Recharge 2024-2025	11,550.00	4,121.05			15,671.05
VH Energy Projects	10,000.00	14,552.42			24,552.42
VH Maintenance	6,771.14	1,139.19			7,910.33
VHPFF Approved Grant	10,000.00	-5,627.00	4,373.00		0.00
Advanced Events Deposits	-880.14		-927.00	-46.86	0.00
SID/SpeedWatch Reserve		4,345.31			4,345.31
Grant Funding		5,000.00			5,000.00
IT Equipment		2,000.00			2,000.00
VH Hall Floor Replacement		8,000.00			8,000.00
Total Earmarked	152,591.44	16,314.55	3,797.15	-46.86	165,061.98
TOTAL RESERVE	179,496.25	16,314.55	8,713.82	-46.86	187,050.12
GENERAL FUND					12,182.46
TOTAL FUNDS					199,232.58

Amenities Committee Annual Plan 2025/2026

1. Annual Maintenance Programme – Monitor and achieve planned maintenance programme by contractor Congleton Town Council.
2. Bogbean Christmas Lights – Monitor effectiveness of lighting including planning and management of event.
3. Seniors Christmas Lunch – Plan and provide event.
4. Environmental Improvements Programme – Implement approved works at:
 - a) Primrose Chase – Work scoped and ready for quotes
 - b) Station Area – To be defined in consultation with FOGS
5. Consultation – To define and carry out a consultation with residents to identify objectives for inclusion on the Environmental Improvements Programme.
6. Boothbed Lane Play Area Improvements – Support the Working Group to achieve the improvements. Contributing third party funds approved by the Parish Council to secure an FCC grant.
7. Commemoration of 80th Anniversary of VE Day event 10th May 2025 – Parish Council Working Group to plan and deliver the event. Funded through the budget.

Village Gates Project

The following is information provided by Cheshire East Council regarding the installation of Village Gates.

Cheshire East Council Village Gates/Boundary Signs

We can provide boundary signs for town and parish councils.

We put the signs on the edge of the town or village, which might not be the actual boundary. We can add a road safety message if you want us to.

Boundary signs belong to the town or parish council who buy them. If the sign needs to be replaced, then the town or parish council will need to pay for a new one. Signs have an expected life of at least 10 years. You can get insurance to cover theft and damage by vehicles and vandals.

Costs for boundary signs

You can expect to pay a minimum of £1,500 for us to make the signs and put them up. The cost depends on the number and size of signs, the number of new posts needed, and how quickly you want the signs.

You may also need to pay for temporary traffic lights or other measures needed to protect workers putting up the signs.

There is a non-refundable deposit to cover our assessment of where signs could go and what work will be needed to erect them.

Non-refundable deposit for boundary signs

1 sign - £380

2 signs - £635

Each extra sign - £130

There are no licence fees payable for boundary signs.

What to do if you want new boundary signs

To ask about boundary signs, contact the highways team by emailing signapplications@cheshireeasthighways.org

We'll then get in touch with you to find out more.

Once we know what's involved, we'll give you a confirmed quote. We'll normally do this within 2 weeks. It may take longer if you want lots of signs.

After you confirm your order, it then takes at least 6 weeks to make the signs and put them up. We schedule work to fit in with any road closures planned for other purposes.

Previous Investigations

The following information documents previous investigations into the installation of Village Gates.

Goostrey Parish Council - Preliminary Assessment of Locations for Possible Installation of “Village Gates”

Intoduction - The Parish Council wishes to investigate the possibility of installation of Village Gates to enhance the effectiveness of existing 30mph speed restriction signs and thereby enhance traffic calming.

Location 1. Station Road (approaching railway bridge)



Existing situation:- Single 30mph sign with yellow back-board on right hand side (RHS) of road. 30mph roundel and two “slow” painted in white on carriageway. Rear of “Twemlow” parish boundary sign visible on right-hand side. Verge on RHS is 2.4m wide with 30mph sign post set 1.2m from edge of carriageway. Verge opposite 30mph sign is 1.8m wide.

Options:- a) Set white gates at location of 30mph sign and also in verge opposite. Gates may need to be of different widths to ensure safe pedestrian access on left hand side (LHS) and to

provide a wider gate on RHS to maximise visibility and effectiveness. b) Enhance Twemlow boundary sign with gate and provide second gate in verge opposite.

Commentary:- No significant issues in respect of detriment to existing situation or potential creation of hazards identified. Propose that both options be progressed with further investigation by CEC Highways. Preference for option a)

Location 2. Blackden Lane (approaching Church Bank)



Existing situation:- 30mph signs positioned on both sides of road , no enhanced back boards or road markings. Post for sign on RHS set 800mm from edge of carriageway. Post for sign on LHS is set 600mm from edge of carriageway. Steep, high banks topped with hedges on both sides of the carriageway at location of signs and in the general vicinity.

Options a) There is no realistic option for installation of gates at this location , due the very narrow verges, but please see Location 3 below. It may be possible to enhance existing signage with provision of backboards and carriageway markings

Location 3 Church Bank (South of 30mph signs on Blackden Lane)



Existing situation:- Minimal verge on LHS, Verge of varying width (c2m -8m) on RHS. This verge is important for pedestrian refuge, to provide visibility for vehicles travelling in both directions on Church Bank, to provide safe access to properties fronting and general amenity.

Commentary re Locations 3 and 4b:- May be possible to install a single gate on RHS but very challenging to achieve benefit without detriment to existing situation above. Traffic issues here tend to revolve round type of vehicle using this road and traffic volume rather than speeding. Propose that options be progressed with further investigation by CEC Highways.

Location 4. Hermitage Lane (Adjacent to Netherlea junction)



Existing Situation:- Two 30mph signs located close to Netherlea junction. Verge on LHS is 1.9m wide. Verge on RHS is 3.5m wide, forms important visibility splay for Netherlea and pedestrian refuge and general amenity feature.

Options:- a) Enhance 30mph signs with backboards and road markings. Install gates at 30mph signs (extreme care required in design for any gate on RHS due to issues above). b) Install single gate on LHS. c) Install two gates at a location more remote from Netherlea junction.

Commentary:- Propose that all three options be progressed with further investigation by CEC Highways. Preference for option b or c)

Location 5. Goostrey Lane



Existing situation:- 30mph signs on both sides of the road with yellow backboards and 30mph roundel road marking. Signs are very close to Newplatt Lane junction. Verge on LHS is 1.6m wide verge on RHS is 0.9m wide with post for 30mph sign in the hedge.

Options:- Doubtful if benefits of gates can be achieved here without unacceptable detriment to visibility for both traffic on Goostrey Lane and emerging from Newplatt Lane. Possibility of gates further up Goostrey Lane

Commentary:- Propose that option for gates remote from Newplatt Lane junction be progressed with further investigation by CEC Highways.

Location 6.Newplatt Lane (adjacent to Harrison Drive junction)



Existing situation:- 30mph signs on both sides of the road with yellow backboards, no additional road markings. Note existing 30 mph signs located in Allostock parish and Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) area [would have been in Cheshire County Council highways area when installed]. LHS verge 3.5m wide, RHS 2.0m wide adjacent to existing 30mph signs. Any gate on LHS at this location is likely to have a detrimental impact on visibility at Harrison Drive/Newplatt Lane junction.

Options Please also see Location 7 below. a) Single gate on RHS verge adjacent to existing 30mph sign. b) gate in both side verges at a location further out of Goostrey, clear of visibility issues at Harrison Drive junction

Location 7



Options:- a) Install single gate on RHS to enhance Goostrey parish boundary sign where verge is 2.5m wide. Not feasible to add sign on LHS due to detrimental impact on visibility at Blackberry Gardens junction.

Commentary Locations 7 & 8:- Newplatt Lane is long, straight potentially high speed access to Goostrey. Speeding vehicles is a recognised issue. Pair of gates is likely to have the best effect, but available locations are in Allostock/CWAC and project here is likely to be administratively challenging, but a positive outcome may make this effort worthwhile. Similar issue with a single gate on RHS at Harrison Drive junction. Enhancing parish boundary sign with a single gate will be the simplest option to implement. Propose that all three options be progressed with further investigations with the relevant authorities.

Location 8. Boothbed Lane



Existing situation:- 30mph signs (no backboards located in each verge, “Slow” road marking. LHS verge is 2.8m wide. RHS verge is 1.3m wide.

Options:- Please also see Location 9 below. a) Install gate in each verge note potential issue with gate on LHS having detrimental impact on visibility for vehicles leaving cottage and similar impact on visibility for access to pedestrian gate to VHPFF site. b) Install single gate on RHS.

Location 9 (Boothbed Lane at Goostrey Parish boundary):-



Options;- Possibility of installing gates to enhance Parish boundary sign without detrimental impact on visibility. Gates at this location would have the added benefit of potentially improving behaviour of drivers in the vicinity of the main access to VHPFF site.

Commentary Locations 8 & 9:- Propose that all options for gates listed be progressed with further investigation by CEC Highways.

Examples of Typical Gates



May be at one or both sides of road, various patterns and widths of gates available. May incorporate 30mph speed limit sign or parish boundary sign.

V1. TR 27/11/18



Goostrey Parish Council

**The Village Hall
Goostrey
Cheshire
CW4 8PE
01477 535825**

17th December 2018

Cllr D Stockton, Environment Portfolio Holder
c/o Cath Law PA To the Cabinet
Westfields,
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
CW11 1HZ

Dear Cllr Stockton,

Speeding through Goostrey – Possible Provision of Village Gates

One of the most consistently high concerns for residents of Goostrey is vehicles speeding through the village. There are lengths of narrow footpaths which make speeding especially hazardous to pedestrians.

The village has a 30mph speed limit throughout. Over the years the Parish Council has provided five "fixed" Speed Indicator Devices (SID). These devices are moved around eight locations where permanent posts have been installed allowing ready relocation of the instrument heads.

The SIDs are generally fully operational except for short, intermittent periods in winter when low light levels are insufficient to maintain current in the batteries which are then temporarily removed, charged externally and replaced as soon as possible.

Goostrey also has an active Speedwatch team, managed by the Parish Council and which currently holds site sessions between two and five times per month.

Despite all of this activity, speeding vehicles remains a major concern for residents. The Parish Council is therefore keen to facilitate further measures to encourage a reduction in the incidence of speeding.

Published documents indicate that installation of "Village Gates", especially when incorporated with existing 30mph signs, has a significant impact in reducing speeding. To this end the Parish Council has undertaken investigations and produced a report – "Goostrey Parish Council- Preliminary Assessment of Locations for Possible Installation of "Village Gates."" (Copy Enclosed).

Can you please arrange for an appropriate feasibility and technical appraisal of the report to be undertaken with a view to CEC providing costed proposals for village gates where feasible?

The Parish Council is prepared to consider making a contribution to the capital cost of any such project for installation of Village Gates. The Parish Council would also be interested to hear about any alternative proposals which your specialists may consider to be more beneficial.

It would be helpful if I could have your initial response in time for me to report to the next parish council meeting which will be held on 22nd January 2019.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jones Clerk to Goostrey Parish Council



Chairman: Cllr Ken Morris

Clerk: Sharon Jones

Seniors' Christmas Lunch 2025

Beech Tree Catering will be providing the Seniors' Christmas lunch again this year. The cost per head will be £28 for a three course meal (with a choice of two starters and three desserts) including coffee and mince pies to follow. This price is inclusive of white crockery, cutlery, table cloths, napkins, staff for serving and VAT.

Cost Comparison

2024 Cost per head was £27.50, £22 excluding VAT.

Ticket Price £12 per person.

48 people attended.

2025 Cost per head £28, £22.40 excluding VAT.

The committee has budget £980 in receipts and £1000 in payments for this event.

Sundry items are purchased by the Clerk to enhance the event such as Christmas Crackers, table decorations and live music.

Costs for music and table decorations in 2024 totalled £215.

The committee must make a recommendation to the Finance Committee of the subsidised ticket price for this year's event.