



Goostrey Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: O'Donoghue (IOD) – Chairman, Morgan (PM) – Vice Chairman, Rathbone (TR), Morris (KM), Beckham (NB), Fagan (PF), Harvey (SH), Freeman (AF), Lynch (JL)

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

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

There were six members of the public who were present to enquire about the progress of the new Booth Bed Lane Play Area having been made aware of the last update provided at the meeting in February. Cllr. Morgan informed the meeting that the most recent grant application has not yet been heard but that it should go before the panel in late May/early June. If successful, a design will be approved by the council working group and CEC, which could be widened to include some members of the community, and the approved design presented to the community as a whole. In the initial consultation there were many suggestions which were used to create an outline design. There is no limit in this case to the number of times that a grant application can be submitted but at some point, CEC would take the decision to stop the process and spend the original £40,000 from the Section 106 money. Funding could come from other sources, such as crowd funding, but initially this grant is a relatively simple way to access a large amount of additional funding and CEC have been successful in the past.

This is a CEC project with parish council involvement, CEC provides the professional knowledge of public play areas, grant applications of this nature and the resources to manage the project through to conclusion. It was agreed that the original outline plan could be publicised as well as the date of when the application would be heard. Offers of help were made by the residents which was welcomed but it was noted that the work on the play area would need to be carried out by professionals rather than volunteers, as this is a public playground. It was suggested that it would be useful for the public to know the cost of the play equipment and it was agreed that this could be done within the bounds of commercial confidentiality. It was also agreed that the information could be made available in the play area.

04.25.1 Declarations of interest: Councillor Lynch declared an interest in item 13 VHPFF Grant Update.

04.25.2 Apologies for absence: There were no apologies for absence.

04.25.3 Minutes of the meeting on 25th March 2025:

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th March 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and all the decisions therein.*

04.25.4 Cheshire East Council (CEC) Matters: Cllrs. Andrew Kolker was present and reported the following:

- **Devolution Consultation:** CEC had submitted its response to the Devolution Consultation. It was noted that both the Leader and Deputy Leader of CEC were



Goostrey Parish Council

enthusiastic about devolution but that there continued to be little hard evidence available for local councils and residents to be able to form an opinion.

- **Middlewich Leisure Centre:** The leisure centre will be closing to members of the public and will be given to the school for the purposes of education. This has been done as a cost saving measure and is also happening in Holmes Chapel.
- **Rubbish - Bank View:** Cllr. Freeman asked what could be done about the accumulation of rubbish outside the garages at the rear of the houses on Bank View. The Clerk confirmed that she had received a complaint and had visited the site and responded to the resident. This does not appear to be fly tipping and seems more likely that it is the result of building works to one of the houses. It was also confirmed that this is private land and the parish council can only report fly tipping to CEC on public land, on the public highway or other land owned by CEC. On private land it is usually the landowner's responsibility to remove waste or an accumulation of rubbish, whether tipped illegally or not. Cllr. Kolker agreed to investigate but agreed with the Clerk's comments.

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

- a) **Finance Committee Meeting 15th April 2025:** Cllr. Morris provided a brief overview of the meeting and its decisions. The council was advised that the committee had discussed the grant application from the Goostrey Footpaths Group for funding of £428 to replace finger posts on village footpaths, as part of its review of the local parish footpath network. The committee sought additional information concerning the extent to which CEC should be responsible for this work. The group has confirmed that CEC only provide metal posts with the 'walking man' symbol and no destination details. The posts provided by the group which are oak with destination details, represent a significant improvement on those provided by CEC. On this basis the council was asked to vote on approving the grant.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 15th April 2025 as a true and accurate record and all the decisions therein including:*

The year-end statement of accounts, financial position vs. budget report and reserves position for the year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

The award of a grant for £428 to Goostrey Footpaths Group to replace finger posts on village footpaths.

The approval of the council's Investment and Risk Management Policies without alteration.

04.25.6 Planning Matters:

- a) To receive and agree a response to the following planning applications:
25/1068/HOUS 23 Willow Lane, Goostrey, CW4 8PP. Alterations to dwelling including render to garage, cladding to dwelling and changes to windows (retrospective).



Goostrey Parish Council

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to make no comment to planning application 25/1068/HOUS.*

04.25.7 Financial Payments: The council reviewed and approved the payments listed on schedule 4/25.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 4/25.*

04.25.8 Clerk's Report: The contents of the Clerk's report were received and noted. The Clerk responded to questions in particular, correspondence relating to questions about the broken fence around The Old Paddock, the Clerk will contact the housing association again.

04.25.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** There is no report for this meeting as data cannot be downloaded although the device is still displaying speed. Liaison taking place with the contractor regarding repair. The Clerk advised that the usual contractor seems to be winding down and that a new contractor would need to be found. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Holmes Chapel Parish Council.
- b) **Speedwatch Report:** The session on 21st March 2025 recorded one vehicle travelling at 35 mph and above. The maximum speed monitored was 36 mph and 0.4% of vehicles were travelling at 35mph and above. More volunteers are required as each session must be run by three individuals. There are currently five volunteers so a larger number of volunteers would help with co-ordination and the number of sessions which can be run.

04.25.10 Police Matters: Cllr. Rathbone advised that the PCSO had reported that a vehicle had been stolen in the Goostrey area but unfortunately no further information was available.

04.25.11 Risk Assessment: The council reviewed the risk assessment which had been circulated prior to the meeting as part of the document pack. This included recommendations from the review by the Finance Committee. The council agreed to approve the risk assessment with all the recommendations as follows:

- 1.c.ii. Remove "Reports/motions put forward by Members should contain a comment by the Parish Clerk" as not required or applicable to this council.
- 1.d.iii. Remove " Review purchasing and contract procedure rules" as these have been reviewed as part of adopting the new model financial regulations and this is covered by 1.d.i.
- 1.e.iii. Financial Regulation section updated.
- 4.b.ii. Remove "Insurance cover increased 2022/23" as this has been completed and is covered by 4.b.ii.
- 5.e. Add "Investment Strategy Policy adopted by council."
- 5.h. Add "Clerk has attended VAT training provided by ChALC and Scribe and will continue to keep knowledge up to date. Specific, professional advice will be sought if needed."



Goostrey Parish Council

- 9. Add “Budgeting now takes account of forecast increases to salaries plus any performance based increase.”
- 13. Add “Health and Safety policy and risk assessment and updated. Village Hall PAT testing arrangements have been changed to be independent of the school’s contract to ensure items are not missed.”

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the risk assessment with the updates as part of the Council’s Risk Management Strategy.*

04.25.12 LCAS Gold Award Re-accreditation: The council currently holds the LCAS Gold Award and accreditation is held for a period of four years. The Clerk has confirmed that the council should be looking to submit an application in January 2026 for re-accreditation in May 2026. The council reviewed the documentation submitted. The Clerk was unsure how much of her time would be required in order to submit the application but had already booked a place on a ChALC webinar on 8th May to find out more. It was also suggested that the Clerk review the original application to see what was required. The Clerk was asked to report back to the council meeting in May and therefore the decision was deferred until then. The Clerk was encouraged to ask for assistance should the process be approved.

04.25.13 VHPFF Grant Update: Cllr. Lynch, in his capacity as Chairman of the VHPFF advised the council that the VHPFF has now reached its funding target, assisted by the council’s pledge to provide £10,000 if funding to not be raised from other sources, and that this grant was no longer required. Work is due to begin on 1st June and there will be an open day in early 5th/6th July to officially launch the new facility. It is now the intention of the VHPFF to apply for a new grant in the region of £5,000 to contribute towards the repair of lighting for the bowling green. A new grant application is awaited and will be considered when it is submitted. The council congratulated the VHPFF on its success.

04.25.14 Co-option of Councillor: There have been no expressions of interest in the role. The position will continue to be advertised in the Parish Magazine, newsletter and website. Councillors were reminded that they could encourage people they know to apply.

04.25.15 Minor items and items for the next agenda:

Minor items

- Cllrs. Morris and Rathbone attended a joint meeting of Parish Councils in Holmes Chapel which included a review of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan Consultation. The councils present discussed issues about updating their Neighbourhood Plans whilst the validity of the Local Plan and the housing land supply is uncertain. Cllr. Morris advised that he would continue to keep a watching brief and keep in touch with neighbouring councils via future joint meetings.
- It was confirmed that all councillors would be in attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday.



Goostrey Parish Council

- Cllr. O'Donoghue advised that there had been a collision between two vehicles at the Booth Bed Lane junction with Main Road last week, where one vehicle had failed to stop for traffic travelling on the Main Road. Since then the white lining has been re-instated at the junction and there seems to have been a slight change made which will hopefully prevent further collisions.

04.25.16 Date of Next Meeting: Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 27th May 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm