Goostrey Parish Council

AMENITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Present: Cllrs Rathbone (TR) - Chairman, Morgan (PM) – Vice Chairman, Fagan (PF), Harvey (SH), Freeman (AF)

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Lisgo
2. **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting on 3rd September 2025:**

   Resolved: *The minutes of the meeting on 3rd September 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record.*
4. **Budget Planning 2026/27:** The information provided in the document pack was reviewed, along with the supporting documentation and the draft Strategic Plan. A draft budget for 2026/27 agreed for consideration by the Finance Committee**. See Appendix 1.**
5. **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.**
6. **Christmas Lights Switch On Event:** The Clerk confirmed that the electrician had inspected the power supply on the Bogbean and had confirmed that the sockets on the larch tree should only be used for lighting. The sockets in the main box will provide power for additional lighting etc. for the catering units but may struggle if the power is to be used for heating, it was not thought that this would be the case.
   - The electrician will be visiting the householder who has agreed to provide additional power on the night this Friday to carry out a safety check.
   - Cllr. Fagan will confirm what length of cable cover will be required so that the Clerk can order this.
   - It was noted that there remained an intermittent fault with the buried connection to one of the floodlights on the beech tree, which the electrician has not been able to replicate and therefore it is possible that the fault will occur again. The floodlights worked when used over the summer and will be used again for Remembrance before the Christmas event. The only way to resolve the problem will be to dig up the cables.
   - The Clerk will draw up a timetable for the day of the event and the event itself to be distributed in advance to those assisting.
   - The Clerk to advise how many marshals will be required.

   The committee reviewed the current risk assessment for the event and it was noted that the last tree inspection for the Bogbean had been carried out by CEC on 9th July 2025 and at that time no defective trees requiring maintenance were identified. This does not mean that a problem will not have occurred between then and the event, so it would be important to keep a close eye on the situation. Should severe weather be forecast, or the site becomes unsafe in any other way then the council may take the decision to cancel the event, up to and including on the day.
7. **Correspondence:** Nothing of note.
8. **Minor items and matters for the next meeting:** Cllr. Morgan provided an update on the Boothbed Lane Play Area project. Councillors Lisgo and Morgan met with another member of the working group (local resident) and Ed Yoxall (CEC Parks Development Officer) to discuss next steps for the Booth Bed Lane Play Area. The following actions were agreed:

- Based on feedback a further funding application bid is to be made to the FCC Community Action Fund - aiming for February 2026 submission.
- EY is to review the budget and costs associated with the previous application to see how/if it can be scaled back (with making up the scaled back amount as outlined below).
- An updated scheme will need to be obtained from contractors on the CEC framework.
- A community fundraising drive is to be undertaken to try to boost the budget.
- A request to the Parish Council is to be made for £10,000 towards the project (noting that the third party contribution that the council underwrote last time was only noted but scored to the detriment of the bid. CEC's Parks Development Fund will contribute the third party support.

9. **Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting**: Wednesday 5th November 2025.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Budget Planning 2026/27

Goostrey Parish Council

Draft Budget 2026 - 2027

The draft budget gives costs for the financial year 2025-2026 to date and estimated costs for 2026-2027. 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.

2 Amenities		Current Year 2025-2026				Next Year 2026-2027				Notes
		Receipts		Payments		Receipts		Payments		
Code	**Title**	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Budget**		**Budget**		
29	Village Maintenance			5,740.00	227.85			8,775.00	52.87%	These two cost codes form part of the same contract. The rate provided by the current contractor is no longer available and previous quotes indicate much higher costs going forwards. The low actual figure here is due to the issues with the contract and lack of invoicing. This is being resolved and the actual figure to date for 2025/26 is approximately £3,750. In addition grass cutting at the Bogbean and planting of the Bank View planter will also need to factored in from April 2026.
30	Graveyard Maintenance			2,830.00	75.83			2,925.00	3.36%	
31	Lengthsman Service			250.00	210.00			250.00	0.00%	
33	Speedwatch/ SIDs			300.00	0.00			300.00	0.00%	To cover Speedwatch and maintenance of SIDs with any unspent budget from this line added to the earmarked reserve. This is suggested as the spend on this item isn't necessarily required each year but costs can be high when a spend is required. In addition, due to the age of the equipment, provision needs to be made to replace failing devices. **See note 1.**
34	Seniors Lunch	980.00	0.00	1,000.00	7.07	1,040.00	6.12%	1,060.00	6.00%	
65	Christmas Lights Switch on event			1000.00	303.23			1,500.00	50.00%	The increased size and complexity of this event requires a more significant increase in budget to cover gazebo hire, installation plus lighting, seating and flooring. Hire of the band and first aid cover.

66	Events			2000.00	3828.73			£500.00	-75.00%	The committee requests a figure here each year to prepare for other important events from 2026/27 onwards. Funds will either be spent or placed in a reserve for future years.
XX	Defibrillator Supplies							£500.00	100.00%	The defibrillator supplies reserve needs replenishing. This may also need to cover supplies for additional devices in the village. Consideration also needs to be given to putting aside reserves for replacing the two PC devices and the possible replacement of the device at The Trading Post. **See note 2.**
	TOTAL	**980.00**	**0.00**	**13,120.00**	**4,652.71**	**1,040.00**	**6.12%**	**15,810.00**	**20.50%**	

Notes/Recommendations

1 The surplus from last year's Amenities budget was placed in an earmarked reserve for anticipated SIDs and Speedwatch costs, this stands at £4,345.31 which is approximately enough to cover the cost of one new SID. The committee requests that consideration is given to earmarking part of the unallocated Capital reserve to allow the committee to build funds for a rolling replacement programme of one every five years. The committee will also make provision within the three year budget plan for the replacement programme and will include this in the council's Strategic Plan.

2 The age of the defibrillators in the Village Hall and on Main Road means that provision should be made for their eventual replacement, as well as the replacement of the Trading Post device if that is required. The committee requests that consideration is given to earmarking part of the unallocated Capital reserve to allow for this .

Appendix 2 3 Year Budget Planning

Draft 3 Year Budget Planning

		2026-2027		2027-2028		2028-2029		
Amenities		**Receipts**	**Payments**	**Receipts**	**Payments**	**Receipts**	**Payments**	
29	Village Maintenance		8,775.00		8,950.00		9,130.00	The committee decided to recommend applying an approximate 2% increase for inflation for 2027/28 and 2028/29 inline with estimated CPI figures. The exceptions to this are the Events, SIDs and Defibrillator budget lines.
30	Graveyard Maintenance		2,925.00		2,985.00		3,045.00	
31	Lengthsman Service		250.00		255.00		305.00	
33	Speedwatch/SIDs		300.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	Due to the age of the SIDs, provision needs to be made within the three year budget plan for a rolling replacement programme to be included in the council's Strategic Plan.
34	Seniors Lunch	1,040.00	1,060.00	1,060.00	1,270.00	1,080.00	1,295.00	
65	Christmas Lights Switch on Event		1,500.00		1,530.00		1,560.00	
66	Events		500.00		500.00		500.00	Provision to prepare for important events from 2026/27 onwards. Funds will either be spent or placed in a reserve for future years. The committee felt that this line could remain unchanged unless a specific event was highlighted.
XX	Defibrillator Supplies		500.00		510.00		520.00	Provision is required in the budget to cover the costs of pads and batteries for the community defibrillators. Whilst not necessarily required every year, the expense can be high when a spend is required. Any unspent budget should be transferred to the earmarked reserve to allow funds to build and be available when needed.
	TOTAL	**1,040.00**	**15,810.00**	**1,060.00**	**17,000.00**	**1,080.00**	**17,355.00**	