



Goostrey Parish Council

The Village Hall
Goostrey
Cheshire
CW4 8PE
01477 535825

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 8th MAY 2017 at 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Godfrey(PG), McCubbin(Vice-Chairman)(CMcC), Bennett (RB), Craggs (DC), Lenihan (GL), Macfarlane (IM), Morris (KM), O'Donoghue, (IO), Rathbone (TR) and Williams (EW)

In attendance: Cheshire East Cllr. A Kolker, Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Council, 54 Members of the Public

1. Welcome & Introduction

Cllr Peter Godfrey, Chairman of the Parish Council welcome everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr Ian Macfarlane who was co-opted to the Council to fill the vacancy sadly left by Cllr Cyril Caulkin.

2. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Shirley Collins, Mr & Mrs Ollier.

3. **Minutes:** To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016 as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Chairman's Report 2016-2017** - Cllr Peter Godfrey, Chairman of the Parish Council, delivered his report for 2016/17. (this is an edited version, the full version of the Chairman's Report is in the Annual Report for 2016/17 which is on the web site).

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and began by saying, this has been a very successful year for the Parish Council during which thanks to a lot of hard work, many of the plans we laid in previous years have come to fruition.

Main Parish Council Achievements in 2016-2017

New Scout Hut & Youth Facility

The new Scout Hut and Youth Centre was officially opened last Saturday. This has vindicated the Parish Council's decision that partnering with 1st Goostrey Scouts was the fastest and most likely to succeed option for providing the village with a Youth Centre.

Many thanks to The Scouts for the quality of the building and for the speed with which it has been built. Many thanks to the community for getting behind the project and for the individuals and village organisations whose donations have made it happen. The fund raising is not over there is still debt to be paid off!

Neighbourhood Plan

Goostrey Neighbourhood Plan has been written and Regulation 15 Consultation has been completed. I think you will all agree that it is an impressive document. Thanks to the Parish Council Committee and the wider Steering Group which included other villagers. Item 6 of tonight's agenda will include a full update on the Goostrey Neighbourhood Plan endorsed in January.

Gladman Appeal

The Gladman Appeal was refused following objections from Cheshire East Council and the Parish Council. Many thanks to Cllr Morris for taking the lead on this and for putting in a tremendous amount of work on behalf of Goostrey residents.

Precept

Last year, we approved a big hike in our precept and hence the size of the Parish Council element of your Council Tax. We have kept our commitment to make this a one-off event. Next year's Parish Council element of Council Tax is only 2% above that of 2015/16 to allow for inflation

Other PC Achievements in 2016-2017

- Our new website goostrey.info website was launched
- Our new accounting system is in operation
- New speed gun was bought for the Speedwatch Team
- Hawthorns on Bogbean have been replaced
- A replacement for the Parish Council Notice Board (at end of Bank View) has been ordered – awaiting delivery&installation
- A new SDU for New Platt Lane has been ordered – awaiting delivery&installation - old unit to be re-located near the School.

Sale of Half the site of the old Youth Centre

Generated around £150K after legal and demolition costs.

There are rules on how it can be spent – must go on Capital Projects – cannot be used to increase our annual budget or reduce the annual precept

First decision - £50K donated towards cost of building the Scout Hut/Youth Centre

PC needed to decide how to spend remainder of the monies. Projects should benefit whole community and some money should be held over to spend on future project.

A Working Party set up by PC. It has canvassed for ideas, reviewed submissions & selected 6 projects 3 have been fully costed and approved by the PC and will happen in 2017/. 8 3 more are still being costed.

Proposed Capital Projects

- 6 New 'Goostrey' road signs to be installed
- Village Hall Kitchen/Servery to be re-fitted
- Village Hall Stage to be resurfaced

Detailed Costings Being Developed

- Door to be installed between Main Hall & Kitchen in the Village Hall
- Main Hall & Lounge in Village Hall to be re-decorated
- New Stage Lighting for Village Hall to be installed

Other PC actions planned for 2017—2018

- PC will join CEC in opposing the Henderson Homes appeal against the refusal of application to build 6 houses on land adjacent to 51 Main Road – Public Inquiry in October
- The PC will transfer a plot of land to St Luke's Church to enable the extension of the existing Burial Ground – by about 50 graves or 10 years of burials at current rates
- The Parish Council will qualify for a Foundation Award under the Local Council Award Scheme

Review of Areas of Concern Raised with Cheshire East Council in 2016

Last year I ended by making a few critical remarks about Cheshire East our Unitary Authority. Parish Councils have a duty to develop effective partnerships with their Unitary Authorities. We took a decision at the start of this council year to work more closely with Cheshire East in the areas of Highways and Planning. This has been of some benefit in the case of Highways although progress has been slower than we would have liked. In my view, effective partnerships are based on open communication and honesty and so I believe it is important to review progress made since last year.

Local Plan

Failure to deliver a Local Plan and to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply have both contributed to opening Goostrey up to unwanted attack from Developers. The Plan still awaited but now with Inspector for a final decision. The five-year housing land supply still not proven but should be when Local Plan is adopted. Planners are giving more weight to JBO objections. Developers deterred by Gladman decision and the Emerging Neighbourhood Plan also has weight in planning decisions

Goostrey as a Local Service Centre

The classification of Goostrey as a Local Service Centre which has led to Goostrey being subject to unwanted attack from Developers. We have long been concerned that the Local Plan refers to a 'Goostrey Local Service Centre' which is actually a loosely connected area containing 4 parishes (Goostrey, Cranage, Twemlow and Swettenham) all of which regard Holmes Chapel as their Local Service Centre not Goostrey.

Roads and Pavements

Road surfaces continue to degrade and pothole repairs appear wasteful and ineffective. Booth Bed Lane was raised at last year's has now been resurfaced and some other remedial work has been carried out however residents judge many roads and pavements to be below an acceptable standard.

Goostrey Railway Bridge

The safety of Goostrey Railway Bridge remains a concern for the Parish Council and yet we cannot even engage with Highways about implementing their recommended solution. Funding is secured for traffic lights and alternating one-way traffic flows, the survey has been completed and the detailed design is in progress. We hope to have plans available for public inspection soon.

Broadband

The failure of Connecting Cheshire to deliver superfast broadband to some areas of the Parish remains a major disappointment. A Government Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme has been announced. This provides a subsidy to house holders who currently have speeds less than 2Mbps to get wireless or satellite connection.

Village Playground

Failure to obtain Section 106 money from Bloor Homes to spend on the Booth Bed Lane Play area.

Other Actions by CEC which benefit Goostrey

- A scheme to improve safety at the Booth Bed Ln/Hemitage Ln/Main Rd crossroads has been designed – awaiting funding
- Helped defeat the Gladman appeal by funding top planning QC
- Provided funds/assistance to our Neighbourhood Plan team
- Introduced 20 mph speed limit around Goostrey school
- Installed LED street lighting

In Conclusion

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as their Chairman and for their help, support and encouragement throughout the year.

- 5. Statement of Accounts** – Cllr Cath McCubbin, Chairman of the Finance Committee, delivered her report on the statement of accounts for 2016/17.(full version in Annual Report 2016/17 on the web site).
It was agreed by the Parish Council in 2016 that we increase the precept by the amount of £20k to cover the cost of the Neighbourhood plan, thus allowing for any unforeseen expenditure that may arise.
The Parish Council Precept for 2017/18 has been reduced by £20K, and we have limited the precept increase to 2%.
The full cost of the Neighbourhood Plan is unknown but grant funding has been available for some of the work. Funding is ear marked in the reserve to finish the plan
The Gladman Appeal Barrister Costs have been met from the general reserve and any remaining monies from the Neighbourhood Plan will “top up” our decreased reserve.
The base budget has seen no changes for this forthcoming financial year.
The sale of the building plot realised £170k before expenses. The monies have been split between several higher interest accounts, to ensure that it is safe guarded undercurrent banking regulations.
- 6. Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Morris made a short presentation on the Neighbourhood plan.
He presented 3 slides which explained what the Neighbourhood Plan is and the current status of the plan.
Cllr Morris indicated that the Neighbourhood Plan was currently under review by an expert and it may need to be updated. It would then be reviewed by the Planning Inspector and that a referendum would be held to allow residents to vote for or against the adoption of the plan. We are expecting that the referendum will take place in the summer. Further information about the local plan can be found on <https://goostrey.info>
- 7. Public Forum** – The Chairman opened the floor to residents for questions.
- Cllr Kolker asked for a breakdown of the spending from reserves for 2016-17.
 - Cllr Kolker spoke briefly about Planning Appeals and Rule 6 applications such as the Gladman Enquiry. He encouraged residents to attend the hearings as it showed there is local support for this type of action.
 - A resident asked why we did not keep the precept high to pay for Highways repairs and the new lights on the station bridge as it seemed that CEC was unable to afford to pay for these items which is why it took so long to get the roads resurfaced etc.
 - Another resident thanked the Parish Council for their efforts and for the newsletters.
 - A resident asked if the new accreditation would generate a lot of work for the Council.
- Cllr Godfrey closed the meeting at 8.50pm and invited everyone to join the members of the Council for Coffee in the new Scout Hut and Youth Centre.

These minutes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting. Until then they are draft minutes.