



GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Chairman's Report

New Councillors

We hope you will join us in welcoming our new Parish Councillors. Cllrs Neil Beckham, Paul Morgan, David Roberts and Sara Lord have been co-opted onto the Parish Council. There is one further vacancy to fill due to the resignation of Cllr David Craggs, which we hope will be filled at our February Meeting.

The Parish Council would like to thank David for 13 years of dedicated service and appreciates his offer to allow another new person to gain experience with the Council before the elections in May.

Councillor information can be found at <https://goostrey.info/>.

Council Tax 2019—2020

Goostrey Parish Council has set the budget it believes it needs to fulfil its responsibilities in 2019-20 whilst retaining sufficient reserves to cope with unexpected expenditure. The budget is set to stay the same as last year. The number of Goostrey properties has increased slightly, so each household will see a small decrease in the Parish Council element of their Council Tax. Cheshire East Borough Council will not decide its own final budget and Council Tax until its meeting on 21st February 2019, however its pre-budget consultation states that "proposals include the option to increase Council Tax by up to 2.99%. The Medium Term Financial Strategy presented to Council in February 2018 included a 1.99% increase, and an additional 1% is now included to mitigate ongoing pressures in Children and Families Services. This approach would add approximately 80p per week to the average household Council Tax bill".

Planning - Sibelco Silica Sand Quarry

Although none of the proposed site in the Sibelco planning application for a new quarry is in Goostrey (it is entirely within Cranage and Allostock Parishes), Goostrey Parish Council did submit an objection.

The Cheshire East Strategic Planning Board have subsequently approved the application subject to planning conditions, including highways improvements at the A50 and a ban on any lorry traffic passing through Goostrey (which has a 7.5t weight limit throughout the village).

In January, Cheshire West also approved the application. However Cheshire East now have to consider new representations and subsequently the Secretary of State, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, will decide whether or not to 'call-in' the application for his own determination.

Highways and SpeedWatch Goostrey Station Bridge

Cheshire East Highways have informed us that the scheme to install a safe area for pedestrians to cross the Station Bridge and traffic lights is on hold. We received the following explanation directly from Cheshire East Highways last week.

"The scheme was programmed in to commence on site in March 2019, however after meeting with the Contractors on site to discuss the buildability aspects of the scheme, it became apparent that it would not be possible to implement the scheme as per the original design. This is mainly down to the complexities of the site in terms of the highway boundary extents.

We have therefore had no option but to place the scheme on hold while we investigate other options in order to ensure that we design and deliver a workable solution that is safe for all road users.

I appreciate this is not the news you wanted to hear, however I can assure you that we are working hard to explore other options to enable the scheme to be constructed".

We are extremely disappointed with this new delay, however, we are in contact with Cheshire East Highways and have been assured that finding a "buildable" scheme is a priority for them.

Parish Council Opportunity

In April this year we will come to the end of the 4 year term of office for all Parish Councillors. All ten positions will become vacant at this time. Anyone who lives in Goostrey Parish, or nearby, can put themselves forward for election in May as a Councillor (see item below). This is an opportunity to contribute to village life in different ways and past councillors have found it both worthwhile and satisfying. You can find out more about what the Parish Council does by coming to the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 18th March which is open to all. If you have some time to offer and would like to see Goostrey maintained and improved, I also encourage you to apply.

Town & Parish Council Elections 2nd May 2019

Anyone who has an interest in becoming a Councillor can contact one of the existing Councillors or the Clerk to find out what being a Councillor involves.

The Clerk will be taking delivery of candidate forms and information packs in February and once the application date is announced we will post the information on how to obtain a form on the Parish Council Notice boards and the web site.

Do you know someone whose voluntary activities make a real contribution to life in Goostrey?

We need your help again to identify the unsung heroes and heroines whose voluntary contributions to our village make it the thriving community it is. This is an exercise we conduct twice a year in order to enable the Parish Council to send Letters of Thanks to deserving residents of the parish on behalf of the whole community. The Parish Council selects the people to receive such a letter from your nominations. Names of both the recipients and the people who nominate them are kept confidential as the aim of the scheme is to discreetly acknowledge contributions voluntarily made to village life but people who have received letters in the past have said how much they valued receiving one.

Please send your nominations to the Clerk before 18th March. You should include the following information, your name, your nominee's name and a brief description of the voluntary activities they undertake which benefit the village.

Ken Morris - Chairman, Goostrey Parish Council

SpeedWatch

Our dedicated SpeedWatch volunteers have carried out SpeedWatch sessions most weeks in the winter months at the various approved locations in the village.

PCSO Liz Chesters joins the team when she is able, and the log sheets are sent to her within a few days of the session so that she can action any letters for motorists travelling at 36 mph and above.

We have also learned from the Police that a house visit it made to anyone travelling at 50 mph and above to highlight the severity of travelling at such speeds in a 30 mph speed limit area..

We are currently arranging more SpeedWatch sessions for our volunteers in the coming months.

If you would like to join our team please contact the Clerk for details.

Booth Bed Lane & Hermitage Lane Junction

The Parish Council has been working with CEC Highways to find ways to improve the safety of the Booth Bed Lane/Hermitage Lane Junction. There is very restricted space for changes, however it has been agreed that the signage on all approaches will be improved, as most accidents arise from speeding and/or lack of awareness of the junction. The Parish Council would like to thank our Ward Councillors Les Gilbert and Andrew Kolker for obtaining the funding and it is hoped the improvements will be carried out by the end of March.

Edited by Cllr K Morris & S Jones, The Parish Office, Village Hall, Goostrey

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Points of interest:

- **Parish Council** - If you would like to speak to a member of the Parish Council please contact them directly (contact details for councillors are on the website) or contact the Clerk to arrange a appointment.
- **Parish Office Hours**
Monday 09.30 to 12.30,
Wednesday & Friday 13.00 to 16.00
- **Contact** - E-mail
ParishCouncil@Goostrey.info
Phone: 01477 535825
Answer phone service out of office hours
- **Web Site** - For a calendar of local events, Parish Council Meetings, Village Hall booking information and forms visit <https://goostrey.info/>

GPC Environmental Initiative

On December 2018, GPC adopted its first Environmental Policy - the aim is to demonstrate how the Parish Council will support the long-term environmental, cultural and economic health and vitality of the Parish.

The policy, through the administration and activities of the Parish Council, seeks to protect and enhance our natural and built environment. Examples include encouraging the more sustainable use of resources through waste

reduction and recycling, conserving energy and water by local residents and businesses and protecting the Parish's landscape, habitats, open spaces, facilities, and heritage.

To take the policy forward, the Parish Council would like to put together a working group to develop a number of initiatives through an action plan and is seeking volunteers. We would welcome residents as well as local businesses so if you would like to lend your support or have any ideas or suggestions please contact the Clerk.

Goostrey Village Hall News

There have been a number of changes at the Village Hall in the last few months which we are sure you will be interested to hear.

Village Hall Supervisor

Our Village Hall Supervisor, Janet Keates, joined us on 7th January. She has taken over responsibility for bookings, caretaking and customer services at the Village Hall.

Village Hall Team

Janet has a wealth of experience in customer services, buildings management and caretaking, and we are happy to welcome her to the team.

Assisting Janet will be our dedicated cleaner, Sue Sproson, who manages housekeeping and Sharon Jones will continue to raise invoices and take payments for events at the Village Hall.

Bookings

We are currently using our Google Calendar on the Village Hall Page of our web site <https://goostrey.info/goostrey-village-hall/> as our main diary. This means that it is updated very soon after a provisional booking is made by phone. A new booking form is available on our website and we also have copies in the entrance hall at the Village Hall. All bookings must be made with Janet by phone 07460 380 832 or by e-mail at villagehall.goostreyipc@gmail.com. Forms can be put in the mailbox at the Village Hall or scanned and sent by e-mail to Janet.

Full instructions are at <https://goostrey.info/goostrey-village-hall/>

Electronic Entry to the Village Hall & CCTV

We have just installed a new door entry system for the Village Hall, this system, together with CCTV cameras directed at the front entrance and the kitchen entrance will ensure that the building is secured after each event.

We have privacy filters applied to the CCTV camera in the lounge which allows us to see the back door and the tops of the windows but screens out the main part of the room to protect hirer's privacy during events.

Janet is starting to phase in the use of the electronic entry systems with our regular hirers and will meet with each group to explain how it works before they use it for themselves.

If anyone has issues using the new systems or any questions regarding bookings please call Janet on 07460 380382 or by e-mail at villagehall.goostreyipc@gmail.com

Hire Charges from 1st April 2019

The Parish Council has not increased Village Hall hire charges since April 2015., however, we will be increasing the charges across the board by around 5% for bookings taking place from 1st April 2019.

The full list of charges are published at <https://goostrey.info/goostrey-village-hall/> in the *Information & Forms* section.

Cheshire East Highways Fault Reporting

You can use the Cheshire East Website to report any type of highways issue including broken street lights and potholes!

In an emergency, you can call CEC Highways on 0300 123 5020 during office hours (out of hours on 0300 123 5025)

Go to the web site at :

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_road/highways_and_road.aspx

Choose the type of fault you want to log in the "Report IT" section.

You will be asked to complete the form giving the location of the fault and a description of the fault.

Please note that if the door on the lamp post is open or has been removed it will make the issue a high priority fix.

If the fault is not fixed within 14 days please call Cheshire East Faults to chase it up or send the fault reference to the Parish Clerk so she can take the matter up with Cheshire East. Highways.

Parish Councillors	Cllr N Beckham	Cllr T Rathbone
Cllr K Morris (Chairman)	Cllr P Godfrey	Cllr D Roberts
Cllr I O'Donoghue (Vice Chairman)	Cllr S Lord	Cllr E Williams
	Cllr P Morgan	

Goostrey Parish Council

Dear Resident,

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019: MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2019

On behalf of Goostrey Parish Council, I invite you to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday, 18th March 2019 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

This Meeting, which is a mandatory requirement of Parish Councils, gives an opportunity to review the last council year and to consult with yourselves on relevant issues you may wish to raise.

The Parish Council continues to have an important role to play in influencing policies and decisions affecting this parish. In this respect it represents the residents of Goostrey and only with your input can that representation truly reflect your views.

I would therefore ask you to attend and participate in this meeting and also consider attending the monthly meetings of the Parish Council when time is set aside for you to have your say and ask questions.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2018
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Statement of Accounts
6. Goostrey Parish Archive Presentation
7. Public Forum.

Please join us for tea / coffee and biscuits following the Meeting, in the Lounge

Yours faithfully

Ken Morris

Ken Morris

Chairman - Goostrey Parish Council