



GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Council Tax 2020-21

The Parish Council Committees reviewed their budgets identifying any projects/areas requiring increased expenditure. The outcome of this is that we have set the budget we believe fulfils our responsibilities in 2020-21 whilst retaining sufficient reserves to cope with unexpected expenditure. Each committee has identified areas of additional investment, but these are being offset by savings and plans for increased income. In considering the Parish Council's budget it has been decided to keep it the same as 2019/20. The 'Tax Base' (the number of Band D equivalent homes in Goostrey) used to

set wider Council Tax, reduced from 1,086 to 1,082 in December 2019, which means that keeping the Precept the same represents a small increase of 0.3% in Council Tax, despite an increase in Cheshire East's Council Tax of 3.99%.

In the autumn of 2020, the Parish Council Committees will once again take a close look at budgets for 2021/22. We would welcome residents' suggestions for areas of investment and improvement within the village (remembering our income from the precept is £44,012).

Paul Morgan

Chairman, Finance Committee

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

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Goostrey Railway Sidings Update

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who responded to our letter of 21st January 2020 regarding the possible purchase of the 6.4 acres of railway sidings land at Station Road. We sent out 980 letters and although the time to reply was only one week, we received 616 replies before the deadline. This represents 33.3% of the total electorate of Goostrey Parish and is a high return for consultations of this kind.

Analysis of the returns showed 542 votes (88%) in favour of making an offer and 73 votes (12%) against.

The Parish Council had an in-depth discussion on the outcome of the vote and reviewed all the individual comments that were submitted. The benefits and risks were also considered.

As a result, it was decided to make an offer which was felt to be both realistic and within the financial limit given in the survey letter.

Unfortunately, we have now been informed by the land agents that they have received and accepted a "significantly higher" offer and therefore we have been unsuccessful in purchasing the land. We don't have any information at this time on who is the purchaser or their intentions for the land.

We very much appreciate the high level of interest that the community has shown in this initiative and thank you again for all the responses.

Ken Morris

Chairman, Goostrey Parish Council

Goostrey Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council encourages all Goostrey residents to come along to the Annual Parish Meeting which is due to be held on **Tuesday, 5th May 2020 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (**this meeting may be postponed due to Coronavirus. Updates will be placed on the notice boards and the web site**).

This meeting is your opportunity to hear what the Council has done during the last year and to raise any issues or ask any questions. The agenda will be posted on the notice boards and web site at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ken Morris

Chairman, Goostrey Parish Council

Points of interest:

- **Parish Council** - If you would like to speak to a member of the Parish Council please contact them directly or speak to the Clerk .
- **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**
<https://goostrey.info>
- **Social Media** - we are now on Twitter @GoostreyPC

FOGS Members are Celebrating Again!

By Christina Burgess

On Sunday 8th March, between sunshine and showers, FOGS members took time out of their regular monthly working party at Goostrey Station to celebrate.

First they mounted the 2019 Campaigns Award from the Cheshire Best Kept Station competition. This recognises the negotiations over a number of years which resulted in the repair of the Victorian wooden building.



FOGS members with the 2019 Campaigns Award

Later a plaque in memory of the late Cyril Caulkin was unveiled by his son Andrew. The plaque reads 'In memory of Cyril Caulkin, founder member of the



Cyril Caulkin's brother, son and grandchildren with the plaque in his memory

Friends of Goostrey Station and member of Goostrey Parish Council, whose vision initiated the restoration of the old ticket office.' It was fitting that Cyril's brother Keith, two of his grandchildren and several friends were able to be there.

Before the unveiling, Cyril's friend Peter Godfrey (former Chairman of Goostrey Parish Council) made a short speech on behalf of FOGS members. He commented that 'Cyril would have loved to see this building so beautifully restored. And he would be delighted that we are still improving our station.'

Highways & SpeedWatch

Rail Incursion Scheme at Goostrey Station Bridge

As you will be aware we have been in discussions with CEC Highways since 2016 about the dangers of a railway incursion by road traffic at Goostrey Railway Bridge, due to the absence of any barriers to prevent vehicles leaving the road and descending directly onto the track. We are also concerned about the safety of pedestrians crossing the bridge from one platform to the other as there is no footway on the bridge.

We have now been informed that although CEC's assessment in 2016 showed that the probability of injury is "high", CEC's contractors (Ringway Jacobs) cannot find a "feasible" solution to the problem and therefore only minor adaptations are proposed (20mph speed limit and cutting back vegetation).

The Parish Council has written to Cllr Crane, CEC who is responsible for road safety to express our frustration and dissatisfaction with the suggested solution and to put forward what we believe is a

"feasible" solution to improve road safety on the bridge.

We will update residents once we have received a reply from Cllr Crane.

Ken Morris

Chairman - Goostrey Parish Council

SpeedWatch

The SpeedWatch Team has conducted 22 sessions since the last Newsletter was distributed. A total of 5,876 vehicles have been monitored with 84 vehicles logged at 35mph and above. The highest speed recorded is 44 mph. There has been a reduction in the number of vehicles monitored travelling at 35 mph and above from 1.8% of vehicles monitored 12 months ago to 1.6% of vehicles monitored for the current period. This includes two sessions when no vehicles were recorded travelling at over 35 mph. We hope that this may be indicative of a change in drivers' behaviour in Goostrey with a general reduction in speeding prompted by the SpeedWatch Sessions.

Terence Rathbone

SpeedWatch Team Leader

Residents Information (stick this on your fridge or notice board!)

Phone Numbers for Local Services

Bus Services to Holmes Chapel/Sandbach	0871 200 22 33	Goostrey Tree Warden - Thelma Carter	01477 533760
Cheshire East Council	0300 123 55 00	Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School	01477 534513
Cheshire Police Non-Emergency	101	Holmes Chapel Health Centre	01477 533100
Cheshire Police - PCSO	101	Holmes Chapel Library	01477 535126
Chelford GP Surgery	01625 861316	Member of Parliament - Fiona Bruce	01260 274044
Citizen's Advice Bureau, Congleton	03444 111 444	Mobile Library Service	01270 873552
Goostrey Community Primary School	01270 685658	Parish Council (Clerk)	01477 535825
Goostrey Pharmacy	01477 549481	Rail Services	0800 528 0200
Goostrey Post Office	01477 549241	Village Hall Supervisor - Bookings & Caretaker Arrangements	07460 830382

Parish Councillors	Cheshire East Councillors
Cllr K Morris - Chairman	Cllr A Kolker
Cllr T Rathbone - Vice Chairman	Cllr L Gilbert
Cllr N Beckham	
Cllr S Lord	
Cllr P Morgan	
Cllr I O'Donoghue	
Cllr D Roberts	
Cllr C Ross	
Cllr J Sulej	
Cllr E Williams	

Goostrey Rose Day 2020

On Saturday 27 June, after travelling in the Rose Day procession through the village with her 5 attendants, Cate Clayton should have been crowned Goostrey Rose Queen 2020. Unfortunately in the light of the current Coronavirus pandemic, the committee has taken the difficult decision to cancel Rose Day this year. However we plan to organise this spectacular traditional event in June 2021.

We continue to seek the generous support of patrons who will donate at least £30 annually in return for free access to the Rose Festival, patrons badges and their names in the programme. If you are interested, please contact treasurer Peter Gomes peter@qualicum.co.uk.

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL

Sadly we are not able to take new bookings at this time due to Coronavirus.

If you need to cancel or rearrange an existing booking please ring the Clerk on

01477 535825.

The VE Day 75th Anniversary Event on 8/9th May at the Village Hall is postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Considerate Parking

We would all like to think we are considerate drivers, so when parking in the village please keep in mind these points when you park your car:

- If my vehicle is parked partially or wholly on the footway, can someone with a wheelchair or baby buggy get past, unhindered and without stepping into the road?
- Is there room for an emergency or refuse vehicle to pass on the road?
- If my vehicle is parked near a driveway have I left enough room for the resident to get in an out of their drive safely?

If you answered NO to any of these points please move your car to a more suitable parking location where you can park considerately. We thank you for your co-operation.