



# Goostrey Parish Council

## AMENITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the MEETING on TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

at 7.00 PM Via VIDEO CONFERENCE

**Present:** Cllrs Rathbone (TR)(Chairman, Morgan (PM)(Vice-Chairman), Beckham (NB), Lord (SL), Roberts (DR) and Williams (EW)

**In Attendance:** Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Council

- 1. Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies for absence.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - *Resolved:* The minutes of the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February were accepted as a true record of the meeting.**
- 4. Budget Review 2020/21 – To consider the effects of COVID-19 on expenditure and to consider reducing expenditure.**

The budget for the rest of the current year was reviewed. It was noted that the Scouts are hoping host both the firework display in November and the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event in December. The following decisions were made.

**VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Budget** – Councillors felt that now that the date had passed there seemed to be no appetite from the key contributors to hold an alternative event.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to donate £200 from the £500 budget for the VE Day celebration event, which was cancelled due to COVID-19, to the Goostrey Branch of the Royal British Legion in November as the Parish Council's contribution for the Remembrance Day Wreath. The remainder of £300 would be returned to reserves.

**Seniors Lunch** – The members were keen that if the Seniors Lunch could not be held due to social distancing restrictions as a result of COVID-19, it was important to provide something for the Senior Residents of village, whether it be a meal delivery or another option. Given the Village Hall was not yet open it was decided that the decision could not yet be made.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the decision whether to hold the Seniors Lunch or similar event would be reviewed monthly at the Parish Council Meetings.

- 5. Budget Timetable for 2021/22** – To consider the timing of budget meetings and invitations to tender for Village Maintenance Services. **Resolved:** The Clerk would set a timetable of Budget Meetings for 2021/22, to begin at a date after the Parish Council meeting in September.

**Resolved:** The Clerk would invite local contractors to tender for the graveyard and village maintenance and any tree work for the year starting in April 2020, during August 2020.

**6. VILLAGE ENTRANCES PROJECT - CHURCHBANK/MAIN ROAD CORNER – PHASE 2**

**PROPOSALS** – To receive and consider the report – Cllr Morgan presented the report and the following decisions were made; the report numbering is being used for clarity:

**3.1.2 Refurbishment of Bollards - Resolved:** The Committee resolved to retain current bollards with some refurbishment and replacement of rotten examples, including to pay £40 for the replacement oak bollard sourced by Cllr Williams.

**3.1.3 Replacement Bench - Resolved:** The Committee resolved to retain current bench and do nothing.

**3.1.4 Planters and Planting - Resolved:** The Committee resolved to purchase planters to be placed either side of the bench, the size and design to be agreed later.

**3.1.5 Bike Rack - Resolved:** The Committee resolved not to install a cycle rack.

**3.1.6 Replacement Litter Bin - Resolved:** The Committee resolved to retain and re-locate the existing bin away from the bench towards the telegraph pole to discourage pedestrians from taking a short cut across the grass to deposit litter. The exact location of the bin and the method of anchoring it to the ground to be agreed later.

**Action:** Clerk to investigate costs for moving and anchoring the bin.

**3.1.7 Refurbishment of Cheshire Railings - Resolved:** The Committee resolved keep any refurbishment under review.

**3.1.8 Public Art - Resolved:** The Committee resolved not to install an item of public art.

**3.1.9 Maintenance of ‘the backline’ - Resolved:** The Committee resolved to have ‘the backline’ levelled where the banking is most prominent. The work to be carried out by volunteers.

**7. Hedges** – To consider complaints of hedges and foliage encroaching onto the footway.

**Resolved:** The Committee resolved to accept the new hedge letter.

**Actions:**

- Clerk to provide list of properties reported as having overgrown hedges and foliage encroaching onto the footway.
- Councillors to report any additional properties with overgrown hedges and foliage encroaching onto the footway to the Clerk by the appointed date.
- Clerk to send out letters to residents on behalf of the Council.

**8. Correspondence** - No additional correspondence received.

**9. Minor items and matters for the next agenda**

- Seniors Lunch
- Budget Setting for 2021/22

**10. Date of next meeting** – Amenities Budget Meeting to be arranged for early October 2020, Clerk to propose date and circulate.

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Budget</b>
		<b>Q1 2019/20</b>	<b>Q1 2020/21</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	
	Adjustment				
4405	Precept Payment	£22,006.00	£22,006.00	£44,012.00	<b>50.00%</b>
	Village Hall Lettings	£8,275.24	£1,529.42	£20,000.00	<b>7.65%</b>
4006	Performing Rights Recharge	£30.83	£15.30	£225.00	<b>6.80%</b>
4450	Bank interest	£0.00	£155.02	£800.00	<b>19.38%</b>
4407	Lunch Ticket Sales	£0.00	£0.00	£750.00	<b>0.00%</b>
4475	Exceptional income	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£30,312.07</b>	<b>£23,705.74</b>	<b>£65,787.00</b>	<b>46.08%</b>
<b>Amenities</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Budget</b>
		<b>Q1 2019/20</b>	<b>Q1 2020/21</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	
<b>Maintenance - Village</b>					
5000	Village maintenance - Grass Cutting	£175.02	£467.52	£2,065.00	<b>22.64%</b>
5010	Noticeboards & Benches Repairs	£0.00	£0.00	£850.00	<b>0.00%</b>
5001	Graveyard Maintenance	£737.46	£674.97	£3,000.00	<b>22.50%</b>
5003	Rose Day Stand & Toilets	£0.00	£0.00	£750.00	<b>0.00%</b>
	VE Day 75th Anniversary Event	-	£0.00	£500.00	<b>0.00%</b>
	<b>TOTAL Maintenance - Village</b>	<b>£912.48</b>	<b>£1,142.49</b>	<b>£7,165.00</b>	<b>15.95%</b>
<b>Parish Projects</b>					
5760	Speedwatch	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00	<b>0.00%</b>
5750	Senior Citizens' Lunch	£0.00	£0.00	£1,900.00	<b>0.00%</b>
6202	Christmas Lights (BB & St Lukes)	£0.00	£0.00	£750.00	<b>0.00%</b>
6203	Planters/plants	£368.48	£0.00	£1,000.00	<b>0.00%</b>
	<b>TOTAL Parish Projects</b>	<b>£368.48</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£4,450.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL Amenities</b>		<b>£1,280.96</b>	<b>£1,142.49</b>	<b>£11,615.00</b>	<b>11.03%</b>

added to budget

**GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL  
VILLAGE ENTRANCES IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
CHURCHBANK/MAIN ROAD CORNER – PHASE 2 PROPOSALS**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

For a while the Amenities Committee has been discussing a project to improve areas that are considered 'village entrances'. The objectives of this project were to re-design these community open spaces so that they:

- are welcoming and eye-catching;
- provide a strong first impression for visitors;
- give a sense of identity and individuality to the village; and
- give a sense of pride in residents.

Two village entrances were identified for improvement of the green spaces at the:

- Churchbank/Main Road corner; and
- Booth Bed Lane/Main Road junction.

The project at the Churchbank/Main Road corner was to be undertaken in two phases and used as testing ground for improvements at the Booth Bed Lane/Main Road junction.

The development of Churchbank Corner raises a number of fundamental questions that need answering before the selection of individual items can be made:

1. Do we still agree with the objectives of the project?
2. What approach to design should we take?
3. What are the fundamental elements for the development?

This report considers the suggestions for Phase 2 of the Churchbank/Main Road corner project so that a definitive masterplan is agreed for implementation. However, a backdrop of reduced income for at least 2020/21 has to be in the back of the Committee's mind when considering a timetable for spending and implementation.

## 2. CHURCHBANK/MAIN ROAD CORNER PHASE 1 WORK

The first phase of the work was to effectively undertake maintenance and some initial planting to create a blank canvas to draw up proposals for Phase 2. Members will recall the proposals for the development of Churchbank Corner considered and approved at the Amenities Committee Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – these proposals included the planting of pollinator friendly bulbs. This was completed by members of the volunteer environmental working group (although beds are still to be created when the timing is right for the planting of more pollinator-friendly bulbs are available).

The maintenance work saw the initial clearance of the back wall (removing ivy, grass and other plants), a crown lift of the oak tree and the installation of a replacement Church Bank street nameplate. During this period it was identified that one of the existing wooden bollards had rotted at ground level and effectively snapped off.

### 3. PROPOSALS FOR CHURCHBANK/MAIN ROAD CORNER FOR PHASE 2 WORK

Previous suggestions:

- Refurbishment of the bollards and the reflectors
- Removal or replacement of the bollards
- Replace the bench
- New planters and planting
- Bike rack
- Replacement litter bin
- Replaced and re-sited dog waste bin (replacement procured and location agreed)
- Refurbishment of the Cheshire railings that form the boundary between public and the adjacent domestic property

A suggestion was later received for the consideration of a piece of public art.

Previous Amenities meetings have set budgets for a number of items (new bench and new litter and dog bins) but a full scheme was not comprehensively agreed.

#### 3.1.1 Design principles

As with a lot of areas, the look of the corner has evolved over time as different items of furniture and infrastructure is added over time. To some this this look can be considered incoherent providing no 'signature' or identity.

Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Replace and/or procure items individually and not as a package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May result in lower costs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perpetuates the current design approach</li></ul>
2	Consider all items as part of a single design package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a cohesive and individual/statement development more in line with the project's objectives</li><li>• Opportunity to re-sue redundant items elsewhere in the viallge</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May result in higher costs</li><li>• Provides potential redundancy of serviceable items</li></ul>

The selection of the approach will inform the direction the development of Churchbank Corner will take.

As a public body, the Parish Council also has a responsibility to seek to use any procurement to further sustainability objectives through the selection of materials from sustainable sources and the reduction in the use of chemicals (for example).

#### 3.1.2 Refurbishment of anti-parking bollards

It is understood the wooden bollards placed around the perimeter of the Corner were installed to deter parking – this had become a problem as parents dropping children off at the school were parking on the verge damaging it.

As noted above at least one of the bollards has rotten at ground level (it is likely others are close to a similar condition) and one has been recently hit. As discussed at the GPC meeting on 25th February 2020 Cheshire East Highways (CEH) take a dim view of the placement or installation of structures within one metre of the edge of the highway.

As Figure 1 shows, the bollards are not perhaps providing the desired deterrent and with regard to CEH’s comments on such structures it may be that a less physical alternative is considered – one that either provides a deterrent to parking providing a barrier to encourage safer walking (i.e. the use of the provided pavements rather than cutting through the bollards and across the grass (damaging the grass and bulbs when in bloom)) or one that recognises that parking on the corner will always be an issue so seeks to protect the verge.

**Figure 1: Inappropriate parking on Churchbank/Main Road corner**



A number of options are suggested and these are summarised below.

Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Retain current bollards with some refurbishment and replacement of rotten examples  Retain either for a period and replace in a subsequent phase of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May represent a good value option as limited replacement required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does this option meet the initial project objectives?</li> <li>• May result in a mismatch of colours as bollard material cannot be satisfactorily matched</li> </ul>
2	Remove bollards altogether and provide no replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost options</li> <li>• Extends the area of grass that can be planted</li> <li>• Removes need for the unsightly weed spraying employed by CEH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would remove any deterrent value the bollards (or an alternative) provides</li> <li>• Parking may encroach further and further onto the verge</li> <li>• Will continue to see damage to grass</li> </ul>

3	Install a flexible low impact alternative such as metal edging 'hoops'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be relatively inexpensive</li> <li>• Straightforward to replace</li> <li>• Flexibility may assist maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of visual impact may result in parking or damage</li> <li>• Potential tripping hazard</li> <li>• Would they meet any required standard?</li> </ul>
4	Remove the bollards and replace with a cobbled strip (of the type used at locations in Holmes Chapel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could look attractive</li> <li>• Low maintenance once installed</li> <li>• Removed damage to grass</li> <li>• Provides a visual guide to parkers</li> <li>• Remove the need for weedkilling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will require investment</li> </ul>

**SUGGESTED APPROACH:** the current bollards are retained whilst other works are undertaken (including replacing the rotten post) and install a cobbled strip at a later date.

### 3.1.3 Replacement bench

As part of Phase 1 works the existing bench was refurbished although a replacement had been agreed. Some have suggested that the bench's design is dated.

Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Remove the bench entirely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes any maintenance requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves a big gap to fill</li> <li>• Bench is used so would be missed</li> </ul>
2	Retain current bench and do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on other street furniture selected the bench design may look out of place</li> <li>• Does not meet the objective of making this a statement village entrance</li> </ul>
3	Replace the bench  This option has received approval on at least two occasions from the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables a cohesive street furniture design to be delivered</li> <li>• Provides a limited opportunity to re-configure the layout of street furniture on the corner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processing for selecting a bench</li> <li>• Cost (purchase and installation)</li> <li>• Potential for ground works</li> </ul>

It has been suggested that the existing bench could be removed and re-used. However, some doubt was cast over this possibility because of the nature of its fixing. This needs to be confirmed as re-use of the bench may provide financial benefits. However, the wooden slats could certainly be re-used.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH:** the bench is replaced with a new one in a different and more attractive style. In replacing the bench the strip of worn soil in front of the bench is paved to improve the sitting experience and enabling the bench to be brought forward.

### 3.1.4 New planters and planting

The verge on the ‘backline’ of the former is grassed and planted with bulbs. For most of the year it is relatively featureless. It has been suggested that it would be a good location for planters next to the bench.

Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Do not place any planters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removes any maintenance requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaves a big gap to fill</li> <li>Bench is used so would be missed</li> </ul>
2	Place planters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low cost option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depending on other street furniture selected the bench design may look out of place</li> </ul>

If planters in principle are agreed then a design is the next discussion point. Ideas on these have included ‘shell’ planters which surround an internal tub containing the plants. The plants could be replaced relatively easily without the need to dig a fixed planter out – examples are provided below.



**SUGGESTED APPROACH:** Planter ‘shells’ are identified (off the shelf or commissioned) to sit either side of the bench.

### 3.1.5 Bike rack

Goostrey is on a popular cycling route and the corner is regularly used as a rest point. As a result cyclists rest their bicycles against the tree, wall, bench and/or bin – not ideal. The installation of a cycle rack was suggested.

Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Installation of a piece of a cycle rack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May increase usage of the corner as a rest stop</li> <li>Reduce damage (if any identified) to the wall and bench</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would require the re-configuration of the corner to accommodate</li> <li>Questionable space</li> <li>Demand?</li> <li>Cost and design</li> </ul>
2	Do not install a cycle rack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current practice continues</li> </ul>

**SUGGESTED APPROACH: Do not install a bike rack as there is space to rest bicycles already and the additional furniture would add clutter.**

### 3.1.6 Replacement litter bin

The current litter bins is of functional and utilitarian design which is what is needed.

Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Remove bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides opportunity to re-configure corner giving greater space for other items of street furniture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly a need for the bin</li> <li>Litter may be placed in the dog waste bin potentially preventing the placement of dog waste</li> </ul>
2	Retain and re-locate the existing bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowest cost option preserving funds for more important elements</li> <li>Re-location would discourage pedestrians from taking a short cut across the grass to deposit litter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design may result in mis-match of styles</li> </ul>
3	Procure new bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the opportunity to be part of a cohesive design</li> <li>Could consider moving to a different location (although may not be desirable)</li> <li>Opportunity to re-use the removed bin elsewhere in the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost to purchase and install</li> </ul>

**SUGGESTED APPROACH: Re-locate the existing litter bin to next to the telegraph pole so I can be used more by pedestrians walking along Main Road.**

**It is also suggested the new dog waste bin is located to the right of the tree away from the bench.**

### 3.1.7 Refurbishment of the Cheshire railings

Forming the boundary between the adjacent residential property and the corner is a sandstone cobble wall topped with a set of rusting/corroding traditional Cheshire railings. The history of these railings is somewhat lost in time but they are the property of, and therefore the responsibility of, the residential property owners.

The property owners did speak to the Amenities Committee and stated they were not considering refurbishing the railings but if they were refurbished they would take on maintenance.

To refurbish the railings they need to be thoroughly sanded to remove rust and painted in the traditional black and white manner. The hedging that sits behind the railings in several places interfere with the ability to refurbish them. This hedging would also need committed maintenance to prevent the railings becoming engulfed again.

Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	GPC does not undertake the work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost to the GPC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unsightly railing potentially remain unimproved</li> </ul>
2	GPC undertakes/funds the work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a distinctive backdrop to the corner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost</li> <li>Questionable whether GPC has the powers to undertake the work (capital investment on an asset it does not own/lease)</li> <li>Ongoing maintenance?</li> </ul>
3	Keep any refurbishment work under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not close the door on renovations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No immediate improvement</li> </ul>

**SUGGESTED APPROACH: Keep under review.**

### 3.1.8 Public art

An additional suggestion for the corner is the installation of a piece of public art. One suggestion is to tie in the goose theme with the Booth Bed Lane play area gates and have a goose statue or repeat the millennium village entrance sign. Other suggestions could revolve around signage.



Suggestion number	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Installation of a piece of public art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eye-catching addition to the corner</li> <li>Could commission a piece from a local artist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection of the right piece and satisfying different tastes</li> <li>Location may conflict with location of flower beds</li> <li>Cost</li> <li>Theft and vandalism</li> <li>Maintenance</li> <li>H&amp;S</li> </ul>
2	Do not install public art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not incur cost</li> </ul>	

## SUGGESTED APPROACH: For discussion.

### 3.1.9 Maintenance of 'the backline'

To the rear of the corner is a strip of grass where a telegraph pole, the bench and the bins are located. This leads to the low 'drystone wall' that forms the boundary with the adjacent property (see the image below taken before the oak tree was attended to).



The grass verge contains bulbs flowering in the spring but the levels are uneven as material that has washed off the land above has built up in places. It is suggested that this is levelled where the banking is most prominent.

## 4 SUMMARY

The Committee needs to grasp the opportunity to finalise a design for implementation as this is a test bed for the Main Road/Booth Bed Lane corner (which itself will present a number of challenges).

Decisions are required on the following aspects of the development:

- The verge-side bollards
- Replacement of the bench
- New planters and planting
- Bike rack
- Re-location of the litter and dog waste bins
- Installation of public art
- Refurbishment of the Cheshire railings that form the boundary between public and the adjacent domestic property
- The 'backline'