



GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2020



A Huge THANKYOU to our Goostrey Volunteers

The Parish Council would like to thank the Goostrey Volunteers who have selflessly helped residents needing to shield or isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We cannot thank you enough for supporting your fellow residents.

And hope that you are able to continue assisting those in need through the winter months.

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

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We Will Remember Them

St Luke's had planned a church service for Remembrance Day on 8th November, however, due to the COVID-19 lockdown the service was cancelled. Fortunately, the laying of the Poppy Wreaths by local groups was permitted with a short reading at the War Memorial in St Luke's Church Yard (all socially distanced!).

Representatives of the Royal British Legion Local Branch and Women's Section, Goostrey Scouts, Goostrey Guides, Twemlow and Goostrey Parish Councils met around the War Memorial at 10.45am to lay the Poppy Wreaths to remember those who lost their lives in all conflicts. Readings were led by Reverend Heather Buckley, followed by Arthur Lamb (Royal British Legion) and Cllr Craig Brandreth read out the names



Wreath Laying at the War Memorial, St Luke's Church, 8th November 2020
Photograph by kind permission of John Williams

of those who were lost from Goostrey and Twemlow. A single bell tolled at 11.00am and a two-minute silence was observed.

John Williams filmed the wreath laying for the Goostrey Parish Archive.

Goostrey Parish Council Meetings

During the pandemic the Parish Council is continuing to hold all its regular meetings online using Zoom. We welcome all attendees. Details of how to join are included in the agendas which are published

on the Parish Council website and village noticeboard.

The Parish Council hopes that everyone can enjoy the Christmas period and that 2021 will bring a return to a more normal way of life.

Goostrey SpeedWatch Activity Summary

Since the beginning of the Council year in April 2020 fifty-six one hour duration sessions have been held. A total of 8713 vehicles have been monitored with 151 vehicles logged at 35mph and above. The maximum speed monitored is

47 mph, highest speed in October was 43 mph. In October 0.9% of the vehicles monitored were travelling at 35mph and above. The comparative figures for 2019 and 2018 were 2.6% and 2.4% respectively.

Terence Rathbone,
SpeedWatchTeam Leader

BE SEEN, BE SAFE!

If you are walking, running or cycling in poor light or at night, please ensure that you wear hi viz or reflective garments in

addition to headlights so that you can be seen by motorists from the front and from behind. It is better to be safe than sorry!

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, Wednesday & Friday 13.00 to 16.00 (phone only)

- **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](https://twitter.com/GoostreyPC)

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 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

Sibelco Sand Quarry

Sibelco have been very helpful in dealing with a few incidents of lorries passing through Goostrey to or from the sand quarry.

However, to enable them to investigate, residents who spot such vehicles should try to obtain a registration number, company name or a photograph.

Christmas Lights on the Bog Bean

Sadly no event this year but the lights will be on from 29th November until 6th January 2021

Goostrey Environmental Group Needs You!

There has been some great work in the village to further improve and celebrate our local environment, for example the ongoing tree planting by the Scouts and the Wild About Goostrey Initiative. This shows the environment means a lot to the residents of our village and there is a lot of untapped enthusiasm out there.

The Parish Council has adopted an Environmental Policy and got things going with a working group. The group is seeking volunteers to help develop new initiatives and drive existing ones forward. So if you have an interest in environmental issues (and it is a wide subject) why not get in touch with Parish Councillor Paul Morgan (pmorgan.goostreypc@gmail.com) to see how you can help our local and global environment.

Planning Update

Cheshire East Council have recently carried out a further consultation on their Draft of the SADPD (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document). This document includes many planning policies which will apply to Local service Centres (LSC), including Goostrey. There are updates from the previous version, the most significant being that there are no sites or housing numbers allocated for development to any of the 13 LSC's. This is because CE can meet their 5 year housing targets from existing permissions and strategic sites. However, ‘windfall’ planning applications will still be considered. Once all the comments have been reviewed, the document will

be submitted to an independent Planning Inspector in 2021.

At the same time, the Government have proposed some significant changes to the overall planning system. These will require Local Authorities to categorise land into areas for development, so that outline permissions can be granted “automatically” if they meet the conditions. If the proposals go ahead, residents will need to engage with Cheshire East Council at the categorisation stage, rather than when developers apply for permission. It’s not yet clear how our Neighbourhood Plan will fit into the process, however we are watching this closely.

Ken Morris

Chairman, Planning Committee

Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020

The spread of the Covid-19 virus is causing a crisis around the world. To avoid any possible risk to residents and in accordance with Government advice, the Parish Council postponed the Annual Parish Meeting planned for May 2020 and provided a written report instead. This report is still available on our website at <https://goostrey.info/document-category/reports/>. Printed copies can be obtained from the Clerk by email at Parishcouncil@Goostrey.info or by phone on 01477 535 825.

Now that the Annual Audit has been completed by PKF Littlejohn LLP and no items of concern were raised, it seems appropriate to publish the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020.

We very much hope to be able to hold an Annual Parish Meeting in 2021.

Goostrey Parish Council	Audited Accounts		Audited Accounts
	1st April 2019 to		1st April 2018 to
	31st March 2020		31st March 2019
RECEIPTS			
Adjustment	-£19.60		-£52.96
Precept Payment	£44,012.00		£44,012.00
V. Hall Lettings incl VAT	£18,568.51		£17,553.79
Bank Interest	£1,171.17		£1,173.75
Lunch Ticket Sales	£693.00		£700.00
Pay Phone	£9.04		£1.01
Performing Rights	£157.67		£281.54
Exceptional Income	£0.00		£500.00
	£64,591.79		£64,169.13
PAYMENTS			
PAYE Control	-£36.40		£0.00
VAT Control	-£778.98		£1,444.13
Administration	£4,777.23		£6,827.27
Audit	£760.00		£750.00
Donations/Sponsorship	£2,377.00		£3,137.32
Maintenance - around Village	£5,532.26		£5,853.23
Miscellaneous Items	£0.00		£211.42
Parish Projects	£3,209.34		£3,214.33
Salary & Expenses - Parish Council	£12,528.42		£10,712.42
Village Hall expenses	£2,075.80		£4,215.70
Village Hall Salary & Expenses	£10,738.14		£14,136.05
Total Payments	£41,182.81		£50,501.87
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£23,408.98		£13,667.26
Balance at 01/04/19	£157,395.78	Balance at 01/04/18	£185,784.82
Excess of Receipts over Payments plus	£23,408.98	plus	£13,667.26
Less spend from General Reserves less	£10,840.96	less	£36,102.53
Less spend from Capital Reserves less	£12,159.99	less	£5,953.77
Balance of accounts at 31/03/20	£157,803.81	Balance of accounts at 31/03/19	£157,395.78
Capital Reserves*	£96,936.55		£73,027.25
General Reserves*	£60,867.26		£84,368.53
Total Reserves	£157,803.81		£157,395.78

NOTE: *The majority of the Capital and Revenue reserves are committed. This includes maintenance payments to Cheshire East for the Village Hall, Projects, Grants and Emergency Cover (for example loss of income caused by the Pandemic).

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	01477 535825

Parish Councillors

Cllr K Morris - Chairman
 Cllr T Rathbone - Vice Chairman
 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

Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr A Kolker
 Cllr L Gilbert



Goostrey Station is on the right track!

Goostrey Station has won Cheshire Best Kept Stations 2020 Special Award. The Award will be presented at the station when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Members of Friends of Goostrey Station identified the 2019 restoration of the Victorian station building as the project they were most proud to have completed. The work by FOGS and Goostrey Community Primary School to improve the station environment through gardening, mounting railway memorabilia and art displays aided the conversations with Northern, Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust. Even so the negotiations extended over 7 years.

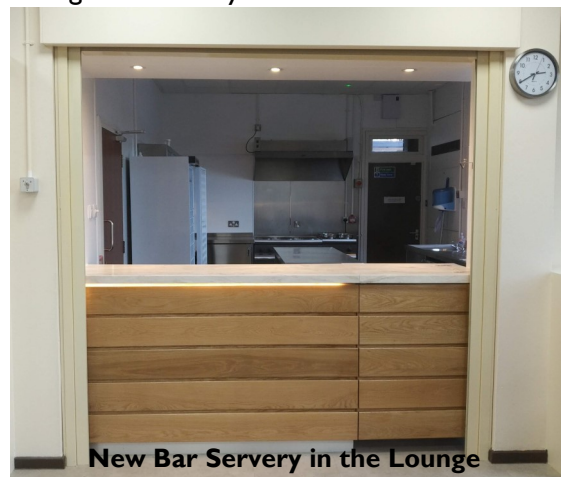
Fiona Bruce MP has described FOGS as 'a model of constructive joint working'. In October 2019, she publicly commended the members through an Early Day Motion in Parliament. *By Chris Burgess*

Goostrey Village Hall News!

We are working towards re-opening the Village Hall in April 2021, subject to any Government Restrictions in place at that time.

In February 2021 we will start consulting with our regular hirers to find out when they would like to resume their bookings. In the meantime, Goostrey School will continue to use the hall.

Sadly the Seniors Lunch and VE Day 75th Anniversary Events had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19, but instead the Parish Council made donations to the Storehouse Food Bank in Congleton and the Royal British Legion Goostrey Branch.



New Bar Servery in the Lounge

Whilst the Village Hall has been closed we have changed the ceiling lights in the hall to warm white LED panels and have replaced the spot lights with new LED fittings. In the lounge the bar servery, has had a modern refurbishment with spot lights.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Village Hall in 2021.