



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2021 at 7.30pm by VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**Present:** Cllrs Morris (KM)(Chairman), Rathbone (TR)(Vice-Chairman), Beckham (NB), Lord (SL), Morgan (PM), O'Donoghue (IO'D), Roberts (DR), Ross (CR) and Sulej (JS)

**In attendance:** Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Council, Cllr Kolker (CEC) and 6 members of the public.

The Chairman announced that it was National Day of Reflection, and that a minute's silence had been observed earlier in the day for those people who have died during the COVID-19 pandemic. He observed that there was to be a further tribute at 8pm and asked if anyone wanted to pause the meeting at that time so they could participate. Members decided that as the minute's silence had already taken place the meeting would not need to be stopped at 8pm.

**03.21.1. Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests declared.

- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Williams.
- 3. Minutes:** To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. Minutes are available on the website at <https://goostrey.info> under the Parish Council Documents menu item.

**Motion 1 -Resolved:** *The Parish Council accepts the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings on 23rd February 2021 as a true record of the meeting.*

- 4. Cheshire East Council Matters:** To receive a report on Cheshire East Council Matters. To deal with any questions by Members relating to the report and any questions by Members notified in advance to the Chairman and the CE Councillor.

**Housing Land Supply** - Cllr Kolker report that Cheshire East Council (CEC) has confirmed a Housing Land supply of 6.4 years which is vital in making a case for planning refusals.

**Leisure Centres in Cheshire East Re-opening** - Leisure Centres across the borough will be re-opening according to government guidance on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. However, Congleton Leisure Centre will no re-open as it will be rebuilt later this year.

The Chairman commented that residents had raised concerns about two large housing developers who have been reported to be looking at developing plots of land in Goostrey. One of the companies is Bellway Homes, who are investigating the possibility of building 150 houses at the Grange, and Wardle Armstrong is looking into building 100 houses on New Platt Lane, opposite Blackberry Gardens. Cllr Morris indicated that there were no applications made as yet but it is a cause for concern, and as CEC has identified a 6.4 year supply of housing land already it seems incredible that developers are looking at these sites which are so near to Jodrell bank. AK reported that developers can apply but he would be very surprised if any applications were successful given the Secretary of State's support for Jodrell Bank's world heritage status.

- 5. Committee Matters:** To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees (all minutes are available at <https://goostrey.info> under the Parish Council Documents menu item.
  - i. Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)– 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – Minutes are available on the website.

The main item was the VHMC was proposing not to open before 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at the earliest.

- **Motion 2: Resolved** - The Parish Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, and all the motions and actions therein. (See summary report on page A1)
- **Motion 3: Resolved** - The Parish Council resolved to approve the purchase of a gift to the value of £30 for a retiring member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

**6. Planning Matters** - To consider the following Planning applications

- **21/0927N** - COURTLANDS, SANDY LANE - Application for ancillary accommodation - surrender of extant approval for certificate of lawful use (ref 20/4902C) for a proposed single storey side and rear extension. Comments due by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. **Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to object to the application (see below).

**Objection:** We note that Jodrell Bank Observatory has objected to this application because it “would impair the efficiency of the telescopes”. It therefore conflicts with Goostrey Neighbourhood Plan Policy SC2: “Developments will not be permitted which can be shown to impair the efficient operation of the radio telescopes.” For this reason the Parish Council objects. If however the application were to be allowed, we ask that there is a Condition which prevents the building being sold, let or otherwise used as a dwelling independent of the main dwelling.

- **21/0466C** - 26, MEADOW AVENUE - Bungalow attic conversion to create first floor. Full length dormer windows built on both sides of existing roof. Comments due by 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. *There were no comments on this application as they had been submitted at the Planning Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.*
- **21/1081C (& 21/1082C Listed Building Consent)** - BLACKDEN HALL, BLACKDEN FIRS - Proposed replacement of 2 windows, external door, rooflight and internal alterations to kitchen and utility, renovation of gym/games room in Coach House with internal alterations and replacement windows and entrance door and renovation of garage to accommodate guest bedroom, study and plant room with new garage doors and glazed screen. Comments due by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021. **Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to submit comments (see below)

**Comments:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment. As we are not experts on Heritage we defer to the Council’s Heritage/Conservation Officer’s opinion. Please note the Neighbourhood Plan Policy OCEH3 which states that “The conservation and enhancement of the setting and character of the historic elements and clusters of built form in Goostrey will be supported. This includes heritage buildings, archaeological sites, historic designed landscapes and boundaries. All proposals for development must take into account the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of any designated or local heritage assets. Such proposals will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that substantial public benefits will be achieved when weighed against any harm or loss

**7. Financial Payments:** To approve payments in Schedules 03/21. Includes: Salaries & expenses (payment schedules are available at <https://goostrey.info>).

- i. To consider Subscribing to the Civic Voice** - £50 per annum (KM) – **Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to purchase membership to Civic Voice at a cost of £50 per annum.
- ii. To approve the Parish Council Insurance Renewal for the year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.** The Clerk reported that there was a query regarding the level of buildings insurance for the Village Hall which would require further investigation. **Resolved:** The Parish Council delegated the responsibility for investigating the Village Hall Buildings insurance cover and the renewal of the Parish Council insurance to the Finance Committee.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange a Finance Committee Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, to resolve the insurance issues.

iii. **To consider the purchase of a Parish Council Notice Board for the Village Hall**

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to purchase the new notice board at a cost of £338.40 + VAT.*

iv. **Motion 4: Resolved** - *The Parish Council resolved to approve the payments listed on Schedule 03/21.*

8. **Clerk's Report – including Actions from the Last Meeting and Correspondence received** See Appendix 03/21, Item 03.21.08 Clerk's Report, page A2).

9. **Highways & SpeedWatch** – To receive reports on any items of interest – TR & CR

i. **Speedwatch Report** - There is no new data to report as Speedwatch Sessions remain suspended and resumption will be considered when the Cheshire East Council area is designated something better than COVID-19 Tier 2.

a. **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road - Summary Report February 2021** – See report on Page A3.

ii. **Chalc Speeding Discussion Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – To receive a report from the Meeting – TR (See report on Page A3).

iii. **Meeting with Holmes Chapel Parish Council 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – To receive a report from the Meeting. The Chairman summarised the meeting and said that the other Parish Council's in the area are equally disappointed with the service they receive from CEC Highways. KM has sent details of our outstanding issues with Highways to Holmes Chapel Parish Council and he also mentioned the motion passed at the ChALC annual meeting to request a service level agreement from Cheshire East Highways. The lack of school places in Holmes Chapel was also raised.

iv. **Water on Main Road** – Update – TR (See report on Page A3). Since this report the Landowner has reported that the contractors have been on site and have said that the water is not coming from his land. The contractor has referred the matter back to Cheshire East Highways. **Action:** Clerk to write to Cheshire East Highways to request they resolve the situation.

10. **Police Matters:** To receive a report of any key recent developments and to answer Councillors' questions. Cllr Rathbone reported that a new Chief Constable has been appointed.

11. **New Bowling Hut** – To receive a report from the Chairman of the VHPFF on the current status of the project.

The Chairman of the VHPFF sent his apologies and KM presented the updated report sent to the Council. The Chairman invited comments from the members of the Bowling Club who were present at the meeting (see Public Forum on page 1197).

**Action:** Clerk to add an item to review the Parish Council's donation to the Bowling Club at the April Parish Council Meeting with input from the Finance Committee.

12. **Parish Council Meetings** – Making provisions for the Council to operate if the COVID-19 Regulations regarding the ability of Parish Councils to hold meetings remotely are not extended from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This includes holding the statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council virtually before 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and a scheme of delegation to the Clerk.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and for the Clerk to draw up a scheme of delegation.*

**Action:** Clerk to draw up an agenda for the Annual Meeting to include election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of Committees. Clerk to draw up the scheme of delegation for review at the April Parish Council meeting (see page A4)

- 13. Annual Parish Meeting** – To consider holding the Annual Parish Meeting for 2021 as a virtual meeting before 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (see proposal on page A4)

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as detailed in the proposal.*

- 14. Minor Items & Items for the Next Agenda:** To take any points from Members and to note urgent items of interest

- i. **Rudheath Lodge Quarry Liaison Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021** – To receive a report from the Meeting – DR. The slides are available in the Meeting Document pack on the website at <https://goostrey.info> under the Parish Council Documents menu item.

- 15. Date of Next Meeting:** To confirm the date of the next Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

- 16. Closure of Meeting:** To formally close the Meeting.

#### **Public Session**

Members of the Bowling Club commented that there had been attempts to raise funding for the new Bowling Hut from organisations including the Crown Green Bowling Association, the National Lottery and Sport for All, but the level of funding required had not been realised. The COVID-19 pandemic had also hindered progress with funding further. Repairs to the existing hut should extend its life for a year or so. The Bowling Club is awaiting a meeting with the VHPFF to discuss how they should proceed with the project.

A resident voiced concern regarding the issue of the possible housing developments.

*Minutes of the meeting remain draft until approved at the next meeting of the Council.*

**APPENDIX 03/21****ITEM 03.21.05. - COMMITTEE MATTERS****i Village Hall Management Committee Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021****Summary Report****Recharge**

Cheshire East has implemented a new finance system and there have been issues for the School accessing information. The School Manager committed to providing the outstanding invoices for the recharge for 2019/20 and any charges made to the recharge account for 2020/21 by 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The split between the School and the Parish Council with regard to electricity charges are made according to the Joint Use Agreement percentages. The Clerk will contact Cheshire East to find out if a reduced percentage can be agreed for the period when the Village Hall has been closed.

**Re-opening of the Village Hall**

The VHMC accepted the updated Plan to re-open the Village Hall with a reduced timescale of 8 weeks. A Zoom meeting with regular hirers will take place in May.

The re-opening date will be no earlier than the start of phase 4 of the Government Plan. Currently this date is estimated to be 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

**Employing a new Village Hall Supervisor**

The VHMC is asking the Parish Council to consider approving recruitment of the Supervisor to begin at the end of April, and to delegate responsibility to recruit the new employee to the Staff Committee, with the assistance of the Chair of the VHMC and Cllr O'Donoghue.

The terms of employment would be a variable hours contract of between 5 and 20 hours a week, with a six month probationary period.

The start date of the new Supervisor would be in the first week of June 2021, on 5 hours a week in order to start work, be trained and to carry out the cleaning of the facility.

**School Use of the Main Hall**

The VHMC recommends the Parish Council considers extending the Schools use of the main hall until the beginning of the May half term holiday, with the exception of the PCC Elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May, and if the Parish Council needs to use the Village Hall (giving 1 week's notice).

**Village Hall Border and Planting Project**

The VHMC recommends the purchase and planting of 25 shrubs and 300 non stop begonias to be supplied and planted by Northwich Town council at a cost of £410 + VAT. Village organisations have been asked to sponsor the shrubs and the sum of £115 has already be raised in donations for the project.

The second part of this project is to install a 22 slab path along the front of the Village Hall Lounge, to allow for access to clean the windows. Northwich Town Council has quoted £494 + VAT to supply and install the path.

Both of these items are under £500 + VAT and therefore are not subject to additional quotes however, for the planting a price comparison is available in the appendices of the Minutes of the VHMC on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 on the website.

**Notice Board** – The VHMC supports the proposal to purchase a Parish Council notice board to mount on the wall at the front of the Village Hall.

**VHMC Committee Member Resignation** - One of the VHPFF representatives on the VHMC has resigned due to ill health. The member has been on the Committee for some years and was previously the Village Hall Manager.

In recognition of his service to the Village Hall it is proposed that the Parish Council approves the purchase of a card and gift for Terry to the value of £30.

**ITEM 03.21.08. - CLERK'S REPORT****Actions from Last Meeting**

- a. JS mentioned deep potholes at the top end of Main Road near the cattery. He has reported these to Highways but no action yet. **Action:** Clerk to check progress with CEC Highways Officer.

**Correspondence**

- a. National Association of Local Councils NALC CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 23/02/2021
- b. Resident Goostrey Play area S106 £40k funds for development 23/02/2021
- c. National Association of Local Councils NALC ONLINE EVENTS 24/02/2021
- d. Plus Dane Housing RE: Garages and parking on the verge 24/02/2021
- e. Came & Company Local Council Insurance Insurance Renewal 25/02/2021
- f. Consultation response received - Response ID: ANON-2CN7-MXQE-N 25/02/2021
- g. National Association of Local Councils CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN 26/02/2021
- h. ChALC Weekly Bulletin 26.02.2021 26/02/2021
- i. Holmes Chapel Parish Council Meeting with Holmes Chapel Parish Council 02/03/2021
- j. Chalc RE: Annual Parish Meeting 03/03/2021
- k. Chairman of VHPFF Re: Parish Council Meeting on 23rd March 2021 03/03/2021
- l. ChALC Weekly Bulletin 5.03.2021 05/03/2021
- m. Civic Voice civic update - 5th March 2021 05/03/2021
- n. Chalc Zoom Meeting about Speeding - 16th March 2021 Mon 08/03
- o. Sibelco - Rudheath Quarry Community Liaison Committee Wed 10/03
- p. Cheshire SLCC Cheshire SLCC Branch meeting 24 March 2021 Wed 10/03
- q. CVS Basics of Employment Training - Monday 15th March, 10:30am-12:30pm Thu 11/03
- r. Appleton Parish Council Re: Telephone Box Refurbishment Thu 11/03
- s. CEC Highways CEC Highways Enquiry Received - Enquiry 3424583 Sun 20:50
- t. ACRE Revised ACRE Model Hiring Agreement Mon 16:46
- u. Cheshire East Tree Department RE: Chain sawing of TPO protected trees in Goostrey
- v. Cheshire East Highway Mill Lane Bridge, Goostrey Wed 12:08
- w. PCSO Chadwick RE: [EXTERNAL] A Couple of issues ~[OFFICIAL]~
- x. Enquiry regarding the Parish Council's position on improving Broad Band Speed in Goostrey.  
**To consider:** Cllrs are asked to consider if they would be interested in researching the possibilities of improved broadband in Goostrey and if they have received any information which would support a need for faster broadband in the village. **Action:** PM to look into this and report back to the Council.
- y. Request from Resident for the Parish Council to fund the purchase of an outdoor table tennis table to be installed at the Booth Bed Lane Play Area.  
**To consider** - A resident has asked if the Parish Council would consider funding a commercial outdoor table tennis table, at the Booth Bed Lane Play Area. The resident has estimated the cost including the base to be in the region of £1,000?  
**Initial Thoughts** – This idea warrants further investigation, however, it should not be considered in isolation but should be considered as part of the Booth Bed Lane Play Area Improvement project, to be funded with the S106 monies for the Bloor Homes development.  
**Motion: Resolved** - *The Parish Council resolved to investigate the provision of an outdoor table tennis table as part of the Booth Bed Lane Play Area Improvement Project.*

**ITEM 03.21.09. - HIGHWAYS & SPEEDWATCH****i. SpeedWatch Report****b. SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road – Summary Report February 2021**

Total number of vehicles monitored 20,931. Highest recorded speed 61.3mph at 9.00pm. (highest previous speed 88.3mph January 2021 at 2.00am), 50% of vehicles were travelling at over 35mph.

**ii. Chalc Speeding Discussion Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Report from the Meeting (TR)**

This meeting was exclusively for Councils in Cheshire East as there was a separate meeting for Councils in Cheshire West & Chester. There were approximately 25 attendees at the Cheshire East meeting, which was chaired by Steve Jones of ChALC, who is also a Member of Plumley with Toft and Bexton Parish Council and has voiced concerns about speeding and speed cameras at the Police and Crime Commissioner's liaison meetings.

I voiced Goostrey PC experience of SpeedWatch data and no support from Police or CEC for average speed cameras in Goostrey.

The main policy is DFT 01/2007 – Use of Speed and Red-light Cameras for Traffic Enforcement Guidance for Deployment, visibility and Signage. This is National guidance, but Steve Jones refers to a handful of Councils (he high-lights Bedford) who have prepared their own local guidance documents and believes that Cheshire may wish to do the same. ChALC is to produce a note of the meeting and presumably also for the Cheshire West & Chester meeting.

**iv. Water on Main Road – Report from TR**

The owner of the field at Dromedary Lodge informed Cllr Rathbone that the contractor expects to be on site in a couple of weeks.

**ITEM 03.21.12. - PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS****Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

The Parish Council must hold the Statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May each year. At present, the Government has informed NALC that there is no parliamentary time to extend the COVID-19 legislation allowing Parish Council (and other bodies) to hold meetings virtually. This legislation is in force until 7<sup>th</sup> May, which means the last date when a virtual meeting of the Parish Council can be held is 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

It is suggested that we hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on one of the following dates:

- c. 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm (we have a VPMC meeting already scheduled for 6pm)
- d. 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm
- e. 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

Our Standing Orders state that there are a number of items of business to be considered at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council however, the only Statutory item is the Election of a Chairman. It would be preferable to also include the election of the Vice Chairman.

The agenda can be varied by means of a motion to suspend Standing Order K (except K i), which describes the items of business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. These items can be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council or whenever the Parish Council sees fit.

We can select the internal auditor at the April Parish Council meeting after discussing it at the Finance Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April as this is an urgent item of business.

**Motion:** The Parish Council resolves to hold its Annual Meeting on XX May 2021.

**Scheme of Delegation**

In addition, we need to look at creating a scheme of delegation to the Clerk which can be voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in order that the Council can continue to function if it is not possible for the Council to meeting virtually (legally) or in person (safely) for some time.

If the legislation allowing remote meetings changes before the 6<sup>th</sup> May we can revert to the normal date to for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Motion:** The Parish Council resolves to ask the Clerk to draw up a scheme of delegation to be proposed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on XX May 2021.

**ITEM 03.21.13. - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June each year and where there is a Parish Council in existence, the Parish Council should arrange the meeting.

NALC has now advised that the Annual Parish Meeting or Annual Assembly should be held virtually, prior to the expiry of the legislation to hold meetings virtually on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as it is unlikely that a large meeting could be held in person safely between 7<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

In the last 9 years the maximum attendance at an Annual Parish Meeting has been 70 people, and in more recent years significantly less people have attended. With our current Zoom licence we can hold meetings of up to 100 people including the organizer. For an additional fee for £40 plus VAT we could expand that to 500 people, this would be a one-off payment and it would last for one month.

The Council needs to decide:

1. If we should hold the Annual Parish Meeting virtually
2. Do we need to increase the Zoom meeting capacity to 500 at a cost of £40 + VAT
3. On which date the meeting should be held options are 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm.
4. Approve costs of £169 no VAT for printing and delivering 1000 x A5 (170g) leaflets to advertise the meeting plus £39.60 no VAT postage (to be delivered by 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021).

**Motion:** The Parish Council resolves to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on XX April 2021, and approves costs for invitation printing and delivery to £208.60.



