



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 at 7.30pm by VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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

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

The Chairman spoke about the sad death of the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and reported that the Council had sent an official message of condolence to HRH the Queen, the Royal Family, and the Royal Household through the online book of condolence. The Council had also posted a condolence message on the Parish Council website and had observed the period of mourning with temporary landing page on the website.

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

**2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr O'Donoghue.

**3. Minutes:** To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. View minutes of the meeting at <https://goostrey.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GPC-Minutes-23032021-draft-v1.pdf>

**Motion 1 -Resolved:** *The Parish Council accepts the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings on 23rd March 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.

**Highways Schemes** - The area highways group which had a budget of £80k per year is being replaced by a scheme of £4,200 per councillor which will give a total of £8,400 for Dane Valley.

Bus services can now have their routes varied or increased but any increase in service or route change would result in the town or parish council being liable for the marginal cost. This will also apply to highway maintenance services. Pricing examples are gully emptying between £8 – £12 each, ranger services £500 per day and road surface patching between £80 and £120 per square metre. Cllr Kolker was concerned that CEC Highways will cut back on schedule maintenance and this would result in double taxation. The impact on the rural areas could be significant.

KM commented that this matter had been covered in the ChALC meeting with Highways (report on page 1200 under ITEM 14 i).

TR – Commented that he had heard that Cranage PC had paid for the footway on the A50 to be cleared. AK replied that Cranage had done this a number of times because it was not routine maintenance. AK further commented that the danger was the routine maintenance would be reduced with the expectation that Councils would pay for these services. Disparity in cycles of maintenance for Towns and Rural areas could be a result.

**Actions:** KM to write to CEC Highways to challenge the scheme and also asked AK to raise these issues with CEC on our behalf.

5. **Committee Matters:** To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees:
- i. **Finance Committee Meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> March & 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
View Minutes of the Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March at <https://goostrey.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Finance-Minutes-06042021-Draft-v1-with-appendices-Public-version.pdf>  
View Minutes of the Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April at <https://goostrey.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Finance-Minutes-06042021-Draft-v1-with-appendices-v3-Public-version.pdf>
    - o **Motion 2 – Resolved:** - *The Parish Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Finance Management Committee Meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> March & 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, and all the motions and actions therein, including the draft year end accounts and budget vs actual report for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.*
  - ii. **Amenities Committee Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
View Minutes of the Meeting at <https://goostrey.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Amenities-Committee-Minutes-v1-draft.pdf>
    - o **Motion 3 – Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021, and all the motions and actions therein.*
  - iii. **Staff Committee Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021** – View Minutes of the meeting at <https://goostrey.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Staff-Committee-Minutes-15042021-draft-v1.pdf>
    - o **Motion 4 - Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Staff Committee Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021, and all the motions and actions therein.*
6. **Planning Matters:** To consider the following Planning applications
- **21/1797C** - 2, MAIN ROAD - Addition of dormer structures to front and rear elevations to include amendment to roof pitch and associated internal alterations. Comments due by 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.  
**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved not to make any comments on application 21/1797C.*  
**Action:** Clerk to make a return of No Comments to Cheshire East Planning.
7. **Financial Payments:** To approve payments in Schedules 04/21 (see **page A3**). Includes: Salaries & expenses (payment schedules are available at <https://goostrey.info> ).
- i. **Defibrillator Batteries and pads** - To approve the purchase of 2 defibrillator batteries at a cost of £230.00 + VAT each and one set of adult pads @ £44.00 + VAT. One is indicating it is running low and the other will need replacing by September.  
**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to support the emergency purchase of the defibrillator battery and to approve the purchase of the second battery and pads at a total cost of £504.00 + VAT and delivery.*
  - ii. **Motion 5 - Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to approve the payments listed on Schedule 04/21.*
8. **Clerk’s Report – including Actions from the Last Meeting and Correspondence received** (See Appendix 04/21 item 04.21.08 Clerk’s Report on **page A1 – 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.
    - **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road - Summary Report March 2021** – See report on **page A5**

- ii. **Meeting with CEC Highways on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021** - To receive a report from the meeting – TR/KM delivered a verbal report. A written report can be viewed on **page A5**.
- iii. **Water on Main Road – Update – TR** – Following the report from the owner of the land adjoining main road, indicating that investigations by his drainage contractor found that the water was not draining from his land onto Main Road, the Parish Council wrote to CEC Highways with this response and enquired how the issue would be resolved. No reply for CEC Highways as yet. The Clerk added that she had asked for a meeting with the Local Highways Officer and there had been no response to her request.

- 10. Police Matters:** To receive a report of any key recent developments and to answer Councillors' questions – TR.
- 11. New Bowling Hut** – To consider a motion regarding the Parish Council funding for the project. **Motion 6 – Resolved:** *Following representations at the Parish Council meeting on 23rd March 2021, the Parish Council resolved to withdraw the 'in principle' decision to donate £10,000 towards a new VHPFF bowls club building. The Parish Council remains willing to consider a future application for a donation when there is agreement between the bowls club committee and the VHPFF trustees on the way forward.*

**Action:** Clerk to inform the Chairman of the VHPFF

- 12. Scheme of Delegation** – To review the Scheme of Delegation to be put to the council at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – See proposal on **page A7**. There were no comments on the proposal. This item will be added to the Agenda of the Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 for consideration.

**Action:** Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

- 13. Parish Council Domain Name for Website and E-Mail** – To consider changing the current domain Goostrey.info to GoostreyParishCouncil.gov.uk - See report on **page A8**.

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to change the domain name for the website and the email account from Goostrey.info to GoostreyParishCouncil.gov.uk at a cost of £110.00 + VAT.*

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

- i. **ChALC Meeting with CEC Highways on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021** – To receive a verbal report from the meeting. The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended the ChALC Meeting with CEC Highways that afternoon. There was feedback from the previous meeting and items on the following items.
  - CEC Asset Transfer Policy : This is a draft policy to be put before the Council for approval on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The policy does not indicate that assets would be transferred freehold to town and parish councils, but that long term leases would be arranged. However, there was a commitment that the assets could not then be sold by Cheshire East during the term of the lease. Councils need to keep in mind that if they decide to take on an asset, they will be responsible for all aspects of its maintenance and upkeep which could be extremely costly.
 

**Resolved:** *The Parish Council resolved to submit an expression of interest to transfer the Bog Bean to the Parish Council to further investigate the implications to the Council of such a transfer with the understanding that submitting the form made no commitment to the completion of the transfer of the asset.*
  - Proposed Approach to Service Contributions – CEC Highways Pilot : This is being proposed as a one-year pilot. There will be a base level of service defined which will be provided free of charge by CEC Highways. This includes repair of potholes

more than 50mm deep, scheduled gully clearance and other schedule maintenance work. However, in addition there will be a menu of costed options to upgrade that service, which would include repair of potholes less than 50mm deep, surface road patching which does not meet the CEC Highways criteria, footway clearance etc. The pilot will be run by two local Highways Officers.

- CEC Carbon Reduction Toolkit : CEC has designated climate change as Environmental Emergency. The toolkit was presented as a resource for town and parish councils and associated working parties to use to assist them in becoming Carbon Neutral. KM did point out at the meeting that a reduction in public transport and recycling centres did not support CEC's commitments in this area.
- Connected Communities Strategy : Information about CEC Connected Communities and the strategy can be viewed at [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/connected-communities/Connected-Communities.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/connected-communities/Connected-Communities.aspx)

There is a public consultation for Day Opportunities the survey can be found at <https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/CEDayOpportunities/>

**Action:** KM to circulate papers from this meeting to all councillors.

- ii. **Friends of Goostrey Station** – To receive a report from DR – See report on **page A9**.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** To confirm the date of the next Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

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

**Public Session**

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

**APPENDIX 04/21****ITEM 04.21.08. - CLERK'S REPORT****Actions from Last Meeting**

- a. Clerk to arrange a Finance Committee Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, to resolve the insurance issues.  
**Completed** - see minutes of the Finance Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 on the website.
- b. Water on Main Road - Clerk to write to Cheshire East Highways to request they resolve the situation.  
**Completed** – as yet there has been no response.
- c. 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. **Completed.**
- d. Clerk to draw up an agenda for the Annual Meeting to include election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and members of Committees.
- e. Clerk to draw up the scheme of delegation for review at the April Parish Council meeting. **Completed**

Cllr Morgan was actioned to review the Gigabit Broadband information and report back to the Council.  
**Completed** - See report below:

The Government is rolling out superfast internet connections across the UK but recognises there are areas that are harder to reach that may not become connected to a larger network quickly enough. To address this a voucher scheme for residents and businesses in rural areas to contribute towards connections was devised. Residents could receive a voucher to the value of £1,500 and businesses to a value of £3,500 help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband.

The Government website (<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>) provides an explanation of how the scheme works but in brief a resident or business checks if they are eligible for a voucher, talks to a supplier to see if they are putting a 'voucher project' together in the area (a postcode check suggests several are doing so in and around Goostrey but not all postcodes may be eligible), if happy you sign up and the supplier installs the connection. Vouchers can be pooled.

It is when you delve into the scheme's terms and conditions that you find:

If you are a SME beneficiary and your construction and installation charges are above £3,500 or if you are a residential beneficiary and your construction and installation charges are above £1,500 (inclusive of VAT), then you will be liable for paying the difference to the supplier.

Evidence from other applications suggest that the shortfall (on a community basis) could be significant and any resident or business considering this scheme should make sure they are aware of all potential costs before fully committing.

Other articles:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-54718673>

[https://www.alderleyedge.com/news/article/21446/villagers-could-face-nearly-500000-bill-for-faster-broadband?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter1296](https://www.alderleyedge.com/news/article/21446/villagers-could-face-nearly-500000-bill-for-faster-broadband?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter1296)

PM

27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Correspondence

- a. ChALC - Zoom Discussion about speeding - some clarifications 23/03/2021
- b. ACRE - Restart Grant and Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG): April 2021 23/03/2021
- c. BRUCE, Fiona Re: Cheshire East SAPD 23/03/2021
- d. National Association of Local Councils NALC ONLINE EVENTS 24/03/2021
- e. Resident Re: Re: Cheshire East SAPD 24/03/2021
- f. Goostrey Primary Admin RE: Buildings Insurance for the School and Village Hall 24/03/2021
- g. INSURANCE TEAM (EAST) [OFFICIAL] RE: GOOSTREY PRIMARY SCHOOL MAIN ROAD GOOSTREY CW4 8PE  
Fw: Buildings Insurance for the Village Hall 24/03/2021
- h. CCR FOI Investigation Team - Information request (ref: 11271741) Re CEC Building Insurance
- i. Came and Co - Renewals FW: Confidential: Goostrey Parish Council - Pen Underwriting Limited - Insurance  
Renewal [Contact Ref: 40554316] - Revised Renewal Terms 24/03/2021
- j. PKF Littlejohn CH0081 Goostrey Parish Council - 2020/21 AGAR external auditor instructions
- k. SLCC Daily Digest - 25/03/2021 25/03/2021
- l. CEC Highways - Meeting Regarding the Goostrey Station Bridge Traffic Scheme 26/03/2021
- m. Resident Street signs and possible fly posting 29/03/2021
- n. ACRE Community Building & Village Hall Updated Information. 29/03/2021
- o. Holmes Chapel Parish Council Notes from Parishes Meetings 31/03/2021
- p. Mail from resident re Littering 01/04/2021 **Comment:** IO'D has visited the resident and Clerk has sent  
information regarding grants for hedging. The Council consulted with Cllr Kolker to see if there are any CEC  
initiatives or local groups that could assist with the littering issue. However, the advice is to report any fly  
tipping to CEC Highways using the Report IT app on the website or by telephone. **Action:** Clerk to write to  
resident regarding the Council's decision on Fly Tipping on Bridge Lane.
- q. Community & Voluntary Services Cheshire East CVS Membership renewal 01/04/2021
- r. Resident re Chestnut trees for donation 04/04/2021
- s. Insurance Broker re: Goostrey Parish Council - OSR - Cyber Quotation 06/04/2021
- t. PCSO Chadwick RE: Registration Plate Identification Cameras & Speed Watch 07/04/2021
- u. Residents Re: Village hall planting 09/04/2021
- v. CEC Chief Executives Office [OFFICIAL] Death of HRH Duke of Edinburgh 09/04/2021 579 KB
- w. ChALC FW: HRH Prince Philip 10/04/2021
- x. payphones@bt.com Read: Adopted Phone Box Wed 14/04
- y. Legal RE: Contracts of Employment Review Wed 14/04
- z. ChALC Weekly Bulletins
- aa. Resident Re: Goostrey Play area S106 £40k funds for development Sat 17/04
- bb. CEC[OFFICIAL] RE: Electricity and Oil Charges for the year 2020/21 Mon 12:13
- cc. Resident Re: Gigabit Internet **Action:** Clerk to write to resident regarding the Council's decision on Gigabit  
Broadband and to include a link to the public consultation.

**ITEM 04.21.07. - FINANCIAL PAYMENTS****Payment Schedule 04/21 - April 2021**

<b>Payment</b>			<b>Money Out</b>	<b>Description</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>				
01/04/2021	<b>1</b> Staff Salaries		£1,053.85	Staff salaries for March 2021	Paid
01/04/2021	<b>2</b> HMRC		£100.82	Tax & NI for March 2021	Paid
29/04/2021	<b>3</b> Viking Direct		£172.58	Stamps and envelopes	
29/04/2021	<b>4</b> CTS Systems Ltd		£50.00	VH Cleaning & Maintenance March 2021	
29/04/2021	<b>5</b> St Luke's Church		£250.00	Parish Magazine Subscription	
18/04/2021	<b>6</b> Plusnet		£38.99	Telephone & BB March 2021	Paid DD
29/04/2021	<b>7</b> Clerks Expenses		£609.15	see Caxton Card Report Below	Paid
15/04/2021	<b>8</b> Nat West Bank Plc		£25.85	Bankline Monthly Fee April 2021	Paid
	<b>9</b> Caxton FX Card Top Up		£200.00	Survey Monkey fees and general top up	
29/04/2021	<b>10</b> The Leaflet Team		£140.00	Village Questionnaire Delivery	
29/04/2021	<b>11</b> Civic Voice		£50.00	Annual Membership	Paid
29/04/2021	<b>12</b> ChALC		£800.00	Annual Membership 2021/22	
29/04/2021	<b>13</b> Netwise		£132.00	.gov.uk Domain Name(£110+VAT)	
21/04/2021	<b>14</b> Defib Warehouse		£283.96	Defibrillator Battery	Paid
29/04/2021	<b>15</b> Defib Warehouse		£328.80	Defibrillator Battery & Pads	
31/03/2021	<b>16</b> Came & Company (A Gallgher)		£681.34	PC Insurance Premium 2021/22	Paid
			<b>£4,917.34</b>	<b>inc VAT</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>					
	Cheshire East - Precept 2021/22 first half year		£22,168.50		
	Resident donation to VH Planting Project		£30.00		
	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£22,198.50</b>		
<b>Account Balances on 26th April 2021</b>					
	Current Account		£47,796.35		
	Santander Capital Account		£77,193.08		
	Skipton Capital & General		£40,865.83		
	Nat Savings General		£30,592.09		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£196,447.35</b>		

## Caxton Card Report April 2021

Transaction Date	Description	Amount	Description
	Balance brought forward	£309.08	
	Transfer from Current Account	£520.00	
27/03/2021	The Engravers Guild	£29.89	Gift for retired member VHMC
29/03/2021	The Trading Post	£8.99	Blue Rolls
30/03/2021	Eurocarparts	£15.99	Hand Sanitizer & wipes
30/03/2021	Paperstone	£66.68	Gloves, batteries, cloths (COVID supplies)
30/03/2021	ASPLISAFETY	£40.77	COVID PPE
01/04/2021	Trade Print	£223.88	Village Questionnaire printing
03/04/2021	Kashflow Account Licence	£27.00	Kashflow Accounts Monthly Fee April 2021
04/04/2021	Land Registry	£6.00	Title search (Amenities)
16/04/2021	Aqualogic	£34.20	Batteries (VH mens toilets)
16/04/2021	Ebay	£8.20	Red Reflectors for Bollards
18/04/2021	iTunes Gift Card	£10.00	Top up for iTunes Credit for iCloud Storage
19/04/2021	Amazon	£9.16	White Reflectors for Bollards
23/04/2021	Survey Monkey	£99.00	Personal Subscription for 1 month
23/04/2021	Zoom.US	£14.39	Zoom Conferencing Licence Fee - April 2021
	Caxton FX	£15.00	Card transaction fee x 10
	<b>Spend</b>	<b>£594.15</b>	
	<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>£15.00</b>	
	<b>Total Spend inc Fees</b>	<b>£609.15</b>	
	<b>Card Balance at 26th April 2021</b>	<b>£219.93</b>	



**ITEM 04.21.09. - HIGHWAYS & SPEEDWATCH** - To receive reports on any items of interest – TR/CR**i. Speedwatch Report**

- **SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road - Summary Report March 2021** (with revised data for February 2021)

Month	Total Number of Vehicles	% Travelling at over 35MPH	Highest Speed and time	Comments
February	20,931	24.1	61.3mph 21.00	Highest previous Speed 88.3mph 02.00 January 2021
March	27,630	23.9	60.3mph 01.00 & 18.00	

Revised 02/04/21

**ii. Notes from the Meeting between Goostrey Parish Council, CEC Highways and Ward Councillors****Regarding Safety Scheme for Goostrey Station Bridge**

**on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 2.00pm via Zoom**

**Present:** Cllrs Morris (KM)(Chairman), Rathbone (TR)(Vice-Chairman), Gilbert (LG)(CEC Dane Valley Ward Councillor), R Welch (RW)(CEC Highways) & B Smith (BS)(CEC Highways)

**In attendance:** S Jones – Clerk to the Council

The meeting was called by the Parish Council to discuss the reasons why the plan for traffic lights and a safe walkway for pedestrians on Goostrey Station Bridge were cancelled and if it was possible to look at alternative schemes to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety over the bridge.

RW started by reviewing the cancelled scheme which was proposed by CEC Highways and would have been funded from monies allocated to the Rail Incursion Scheme.

The scheme had been cancelled due to technical difficulties arising from the width and limitations of the structure of the bridge. The funding available is no longer in place as although Northern Rail still consider there to be a high risk of rail incursion, their current position is that nothing more than the completed improved signage and installation of rumble strips can be done to overcome that risk. There was general agreement that there are safety issues, particularly for pedestrians, to be resolved

BS said that, in his opinion, installation of traffic lights to improve safety, might cause traffic to 'jump the lights' resulting in a head on collision. KM said that there was no evidence of this happening in more than a decade at Peel Lane Congleton where very similar traffic lights are installed on a railway bridge, neither had there been any accidents when temporary traffic lights were installed at Goostrey in 2020. KM also said that if nothing is done, there is still a risk of a head on collision due to the narrowness of the bridge (see photo below) and there is an additional risk to pedestrians as there is no footway to cross from one platform to the other.

In RW opinion the way forward is to look at alternative schemes and sources of funding.

Action: RW to add the scheme to the Cheshire East Transport Local Delivery Plans this would mean that the earliest possible date for design and investigation funding is April 2022.

BS pointed out that the steps from the bridge to the platform would not meet any current standards for disability access. There is an accessibility scheme via Northern Rail "Access for All" to improve access for disabled passengers.

Action: KM agreed that the Parish Council should write to Northern Rail to start enquiries into funding to improve the safety of the bridge of disabled passengers.

SJ, TR & KM

27<sup>th</sup> April 2021



**ITEM 04.21.12. - SCHEME OF DELEGATION** - To review the Scheme of Delegation to be put to the council at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The COVID-19 legislation allowing Parish Council meetings to be held virtually comes to an end on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This means that from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the Government will expect that all Parish Council Meetings are carried out in person, following any Government Restrictions in place at that time.

Meetings indoors will not be possible due to Government Restrictions, until 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and it is likely that any guidelines in place at that time would not allow the flexibility required to hold a Parish Council meeting giving access to the public effectively unless hybrid meetings are used which require the councillors to be present, but members of the public can attend virtually.

Given that not all councillors will have received their vaccinations by 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and it may not be possible or practical to hold hybrid meetings as specialist equipment is needed to facilitate such a meeting, it is likely a properly convened meeting of the Council will not take place until after 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

The Council needs to consider how it will operate between 7<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Lawful decisions can only be made by Full Council or in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, which allows for the majority of functions to be delegated to a committee, sub-committee, or officer. It is not lawful for councillors to exercise a function on behalf the council outside a lawfully duly convened council, committee, or sub-committee meeting.

To facilitate the lawful and efficient operation and continuation of council function during this period, it is recommended that council approves a temporary delegation of authority to the Parish Clerk. This will lawfully give her the power to make decisions which would otherwise be taken by council or committee.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council considers passing a motion at the Parish Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as follows:

That until either:

- a. The government advises that virtual meetings can resume, or
- b. Government restrictions are eased sufficiently for meetings to take place safely.

The Clerk be authorised to exercise any function that would normally be exercised by Full Council or a committee excepting any which statute prescribes may only be exercised by Full Council.

That this authority be subject to the following conditions:

- i. No decision shall be made which would constitute a permanent change in established policy
- ii. No decision shall be taken prior to the Clerk having sought counsel from the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the relevant committee's Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman
- iii. Should the Clerk or the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or the relevant committee Chairman or Vice-Chairman consider it appropriate, the Clerk shall prepare a report on a proposed decision and circulate it to all members of a committee or the council by email and no decision shall be taken prior to all members having indicated their view or one calendar week having passed.
- iv. A record of all decisions made under this authority shall be kept and reported to all members by email weekly and to the first relevant meeting
- v. Where authority is already delegated through Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, existing policy or previous resolution, any conditions attached thereto shall continue to have effect.

### **3.0 CONNECTED MATTERS**

The council is still required to approve the Annual Governance and Accounting Review (AGAR) by 29<sup>th</sup> June, this approval must take place at a Full Council meeting. <sup>1</sup> - Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 7(2)

**Draft Agenda for Annual Meeting of the Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

1. Elect a Chairman
2. Elect a Vice Chairman
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Apologies for absence
5. Minutes of the Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021
6. Cheshire East Council Matters
7. Motion to suspend standing Order 5. Ordinary Meetings item K section v, vi, viii to xxi (inclusive) until the next meeting of full council. Any appointment not considered at the Annual Meeting shall remain as they are until the items are considered at a meeting of full Council.
8. Appointment of Councillors to Committees
9. Committee matters
10. Payments
11. Clerk's Report
12. Motion to approve the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk
13. Grant Applications
14. Planning Applications

**ITEM 04.21.14 - PARISH COUNCIL DOMAIN NAME FOR WEBSITE AND E-MAIL** – To consider changing the current domain Goostrey.info to GoostreyParishCouncil.gov.uk

There have been some issues with a number of emails from the Parish Council email account going straight into recipient's spam folders in recent months. Chasing up replies to these mails is time consuming and there is a risk that important mails are not reaching the addressees in a timely manner. There are potentially a number of reasons for our mails going into spam, and our email supplier has already tried to resolve this by adjusting some settings on our current domain. It is also possible that the .info suffix on our domain name Goostrey.info may be seen by recipient's email systems as an indicator of junk mail. On investigation it seems that very few Parish Councils use a .info suffix on their domain names, they are mostly .org.uk, or .gov.uk.

Parish Councils are eligible to use .gov.uk domain names which can be requested from the Secretary of State. These domains are subject to a number of rules including website design guidelines which domain owners must adhere to. However, a .gov.uk domain name does indicate the local government connection and a number of local Parish Councils are using these domains (e.g., Holmes Chapel).

If we changed the domain name for the email address it would also be appropriate to apply it to the web site for continuity otherwise, we would need to pay for two domain names annually.

Our current domain name costs approx. £20 per year.

A .gov.uk domain name (e.g., GoostreyParishCouncil.gov.uk) would cost £110 for the first year (this includes a £50 set up fee) and £60 for subsequent years.

Our current website provided is authorised to set up the .gov.uk domain, prices are the same or more from other providers.

**Motion:** The Parish Council resolves to purchase a .gov.uk domain name for use with the Parish Council website and email account at a cost of £110 + VAT.

**ITEM 04.21.15 – MINOR ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA** - To take any points from Members and to note urgent items of interest

ii. **Friends of Goostrey Station** – To receive a report from DR

The FOGS are pleased to announce that the rental of the refurbished ticket office is progressing well. A rental agreement has been prepared Northern Rail which has been reviewed by the prospective tenants (Debbie Goldsmith and Sian Jones) and comments fed back to Northern Rail – a revised agreement will be available by the end of April/early May and if the content is acceptable, it is anticipated that Debbie and Sian will be able to move in soon after.

The Friends of Goostrey Station are also pleased to announce that they have secured full funding for the acquisition and installation of two lockable display cabinets in the Manchester to Crewe line waiting area. A number of groups will benefit from this funding. The artwork generated by the Primary School pupils is exhibited in this waiting area. The provision of sealed, lockable display cabinets will preserve their artwork from adverse weather conditions e.g., damp/wind and will stop any vandalism to the paintings etc.

The second group will benefit from this funding are the rail users; the exhibitions put on by the school have been well received and a number of positive comments have been received by the school. Our Community Rail officer has commented that the long-standing relationship between the FOGS and the Primary School is outstanding and has in the past been the basis of several awards that the group has received, both regionally and nationally.

Finally, the acquisition and installation of a covered cycle rack at the station is also progressing well. Following discussions with Northern Rail, the FOGS have reviewed various options and have sent in their preferred shelter design/cycle capacity and have requested helmet storage and CCTV. At this stage, the installation date has not been confirmed but should be completed in a couple of months.

Comments from the prospective tenants:

"What we hope to build is an exciting creative space where we can not only house both our working studios but also hold a host of workshops, exhibitions and educational activities both with and for the local community. Once we are in there will be a bit of work to do initially on the space before we can have the public inside, but we are already planning ideas and we are really hopeful this can be a real benefit to the local people, including the primary school. The Old Ticket Office is such a wonderful building, and we cannot thank those people, both at FOGS and the Parish Council, enough for all their help in getting this venture off the ground. Hopefully, we can act as guardians of the building after the wonderful work that has already been done on its restoration and really engage people locally. These are very exciting times!"

With the continuing relaxation of Government regulations, the FOGS have been informed that the 2020 Cheshire Best Kept Station (CBKS) award will be presented to the FOGS at the station on Wednesday 26th May at 12.50. The original award ceremony in 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

The FOGS have invited Fiona Bruce to the event - she has accepted the invitation.

The planning for the event has started but will not be finalised until the revised lockdown restrictions have been released on May 17th.

CIlr D Roberts  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2021