



Goostrey Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 10th APRIL 2007

Present: Cllrs. Salmon (Chairman), Collins, Craggs, Leake, Mitchell, Padley, Richardson & Robertson

In attendance: Boro. Cllrs. Furlong & Kolker
Denise Draper, Clerk to the Council
2 members of the public

The Chairman opened the meeting by saying it was good to see Cllr. Richardson present despite his recent accident and hoping that he continued to make good progress towards recovery.

04.07.1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interests registered.

04.07.2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cty. Cllr. Oliver and from Cllrs. Nichols & Sturman.

04.07.3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 13th MARCH 2007

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 13th March 2007 as a true record and to take them as read.

Standing Orders were suspended for the following 2 agenda items.

04.07.4. COUNTY MATTERS

In the absence of Cty. Cllr. Oliver, there were no County Matters reported.

04.07.5. BOROUGH MATTERS

Boro. Cllr. Kolker reported that the members of Congleton Borough Council would be studying the facts relating to the Local Government Review in Cheshire and consultations on whether Cheshire should remain as an administrative entity or be partitioned into two, East and West. The matter would be discussed at the next full Council Meeting.

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

Parish Clerk: Denise Draper

Mr. Kolker, as Chairman of G.Y.P.P., confirmed that all Members had seen copies of the latest plans for the proposed Youth Centre and explained that:

The building would be located at the western end of the school field and would not reduce the play area. Various bodies were now being asked their opinions and G.Y.P.P. was seeking the Parish Council's approval in principle.

CCC would be consulted to confirm they were still in agreement with this use of the land.

It was still necessary to establish the positions of drains and services and to drill bore holes to confirm the site was suitable.

It should be possible to make a full planning application by June.

The constitution of a Management Committee was to be considered.

It was suggested that the site of the old Youth Centre be sold by auction 'as is' to avoid the need for demolition. An estimated valuation was to be sought from the Auctioneers.

04.07.6. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

AMENITIES: Minutes of the meeting of 20th March had been circulated.

Planting of shrubs on the Shearbrook verge would take place soon but volunteers were still needed.

Two new seats were now in place at Bank View/Main Road and on Booth Bed crescent.

The Gardens Open Day would be promoted in the May Newsletter, with posters, by direct contact with relevant local organisations and also at the Annual Parish Meeting.

FINANCE: Minutes of the meeting of 27th March had been circulated.

Unaudited accounts for 2006/7 and the asset register had been finalised. The risk assessment document had been accepted. The accounts showed a cash balance of £44,000 which would be used for planned projects in the coming year.

04.07.7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Report 149 had been circulated.

Concerns had been expressed about the increase in size and height of Sandyacre, Main Road and also about the portrayal in the plans of the bordering screen of trees and hedges.

04.07.8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE NUMBER 04/07.

Resolved to accept Payment Schedule 04/07.

03.07.9 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk referred to Appendix 04/07 listing her actions resulting from the last meeting and correspondence received.

a) Two kissing gates were to be requested from CCC. Confirmation of consent from the landowners was still required.

b) Planting of a tree in the graveyard by the RBL (Women's Section) was to proceed now that it had been confirmed that the proposed variety would not grow to more than 10ft.

c) A phone call from Head of Development at Dane Housing confirming that Dane Housing had been approached about the possibility of building low-cost housing on a site on Mill Lane. In view of the need for affordable housing in rural areas, Dane Housing would be interested in a development of up to 10 shared ownership properties. Plans for any such scheme were still in the very early stages and no formal planning application had been made.

The Chairman invited Boro. Cllr. Furlong to comment.

Boro. Cllr. Furlong confirmed that advice from the Government about new housing requirements was expected soon and was likely to call for more building than had previously been expected. A small scheme of low-cost housing would benefit local residents. Plans had been submitted for a similar scheme in Twemlow Green. He stressed that no building was scheduled for Goostrey and that plans for any proposed development were at a very early stage and might not go any further.

d) Representatives from Dane Housing had inspected the oak trees in Bank View and had spoken to the two concerned residents. One of the trees has already been cut back and further work on the second tree was promised.

e) An invitation to Cheshire Community Council's Spring Members Evening on 26th April. The Chairman and Cllr. Craggs hoped to attend.

f) Information provided by Cllr. Sturman about 'establishing ownership by encroachment'.

Action: The Clerk to consult ex-Cllr. Robinson for her opinion on the relevance to Council owned land in Goostrey.

g) A letter from the Chief Executive, CCC about the Local Government Review in Cheshire, offering to talk to the PC during the consultation period which ends on 22nd June.

Action: The Clerk to send an invitation to speak at the June PC meeting.

The Clerk reported the following additional correspondence.

a) A letter to the Chairman from the Footpaths Group, thanking him and the PC for help in persuading CCC to replace three oak finger posts.

b) An enquiry from the Rose Festival Committee asking if the PC would like a stall at Rose Day. It was considered that the PC could produce an interesting display with the involvement of G.R.U.G. & G.Y.P.P. and with information about SpeedWatch and the Gardens Open Day.

Action: The Clerk to request a stall.

04.07.10. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Actions:

a) The Clerk to contact Highways for replies on outstanding issues with particular reference to: Junctions at Hermitage Lane/Booth Bed Lane/Main Road, Mill Lane/Main Road, Bank View/Main Road, and a general inspection of all roads.

30 mph restrictions on Main Road and Hermitage Lane.

The damaged road sign at the Blackden Lane/Bomish Lane fork.

Gutters in Mill Lane need clearing of mud and debris, probably residue from recent major burst.

b) The Clerk to contact Goostrey WI about repainting of the Goostrey sign on the Bog Bean, costs to be met by the PC.

04.07.11. SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

Cllr. Leake reported that a week of SpeedWatch sessions during March had recorded 75 speeds in excess of 38 mph, the highest being 56 mph on New Platt Lane. There seems to be a general reduction in speeding. There will be more speed checking during April. Work on health and safety, logistics and gaining approval for Smiley Sid speed indicators is progressing.

04.07.12. STATION BUILDING

Cllr. Craggs reported that the application for listed status had been referred by English Heritage to the office of the Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media & Sport for a decision. Cllr. Craggs had attended a meeting of the Manchester-Crewe Rail Partnership and had met with a representative of Cheshire Best-Kept Stations. G.R.U.G. had requested permission from Network Rail for additional planting adjacent to the platform and path on the southbound side and also for a display panel/notice board. Network Rail's current plan is to cut back the station building canopy by about half but to re-instate the decorative fringe. They also plan to install a 'bus-shelter' further along the northbound platform but have been asked by the PC to delay any work on this until its desirability can be proved.

04.07.13 WEB SITE UPDATE

Nothing further to report.

04.07.14 G.Y.P.P.

The members discussed the circulated plans for the proposed new youth centre and concluded that the building was a practical, functional and cost-effective solution. The inclusion of a covered veranda along one side and the scope for further accommodation on a second floor within the building in the future were appreciated.

Action: The Chairman and Clerk to send a letter to G.Y.P.P. confirming that the PC are happy with the design but also suggesting consideration of environmentally-friendly features such as solar panels and rainwater collection. It was also to be suggested that showers be included in the designs for the toilets/wash rooms.

04.07.15 ANNUAL MEETING – 24th APRIL 2007

Only a few invitations remained to be delivered.

The invitation was to be displayed on notice boards and in shops.

A combined agenda/accounts document would be available for all attendees.

Arrangements for setting up the hall and for refreshments had been made.

04.07.16 QUALITY STATUS

The Chairman and Clerk had met with Chalky White of ChALC to discuss a future application for Quality Status. Many of the requirements were already being met by the PC, with only minor changes to procedures and documentation being necessary. The Clerk was proceeding towards the CiLCA qualification.

4.7.17 SPONSORSHIP OF PARISH EVENTS

The Chairman outlined his proposals for support of activities for all sections of the community, especially the young and the elderly. He suggested offering sponsorship to the Arts Festival, Rose Day and for hosting a Christmas party for senior citizens. Cllr. Richardson agreed a Christmas event would be appreciated but explained that the existing Social Club had a limited membership and that West View Tenants Association had about 300 members, including residents of Holmes Chapel.

Resolved: To offer sponsorship of up to £1000 each to the Rose Festival & Arts Festival and give further consideration to a Christmas event.

Actions:

a) Cllr. Leake to raise the offer of sponsorship at the next meeting of the Rose Festival Committee.

b) The Clerk to write to the Arts Festival committee offering up to £1000 in sponsorship, and asking for 'Sponsored by the Parish Council' to appear in their program and other documentation.

c) The Amenities Committee to consider a Christmas party.

04.07.18 MINOR ITEMS & ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

The Chairman reminded members that a new Chairman and Vice Chairman would be elected at the Statutory Annual Meeting in May. He urged all members to consider the roles and to let him know if they were interested.

Cllr. Richardson had made enquiries about the usefulness of the cancelled H50 bus service and reported that it had been little used due to unreliability, the route and the journey times. People he had spoken to seemed to be resigned to the ending of the service. He was more concerned that the final return bus from Sandbach on Monday-Saturdays terminated at Holmes Chapel and did not continue on to Goostrey.

Action: The Clerk to write to CCC Transport about this.

Cllr. Craggs reported that the black bin outside the graveyard had not been emptied on 10th April.

Action: The Clerk to enquire if this was an oversight or if there was any objection to the contents of the bin, also the request stickers to indicate permitted contents of the black and brown bins.

04.07.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Confirmed: Tuesday 8th May, 2007.

04.07.20 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45 pm.

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