



Goostrey Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 11th DECEMBER 2007

Present: Cllrs. Salmon (Chairman), Craggs, Collins, Mitchell, Nicholls, Padley, Richardson & Sturman

In attendance: Cty. Cllr. Oliver
Boro. Cllr. Furlong
Denise Draper, Clerk to the Council

12.07.1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Nicholls declared an interest in Planning Application 07/1048/FUL and took no part in its consideration by the Council or the Planning Committee.

12.07.2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Boro. Cllr. Kolker and from Cllr. Leake.

12.07.3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

12.07.4. COUNTY MATTERS

Cllr. Oliver reported that there had been no decision regarding the Local Government Review in Cheshire. The Secretary of State and the Treasury were still considering the material submitted and no decision was expected until January at the earliest.

Cllr. Oliver had attended the launch of the TLC (Transforming Learning Communities) exercise for Alsager, Congleton, Sandbach & Holmes Chapel. It would be 18 months before the first primary indications were published with the whole process taking much longer.

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

Parish Clerk: Denise Draper

He reminded members of the Congleton Locality Board meeting being held at the AP Health & Fitness Club, Station Road, Holmes Chapel on 13th December at 6.30 pm. Items on the agenda were the Local Government Review update, Cheshire Year of Gardens & Anti-Social Behaviour.

Cllr. Oliver had been asked to report on CCC's Minerals Development Framework and in particular on the inclusion of Rudheath Lodge Farm as a possible site for silica sand extraction in the Site Specific Policies and Allocations document. He explained that this document contained a list of sites as identified by the minerals industry but that no planning applications had been submitted. CCC would accept comments from interested parties up until Christmas.

Resolved: The Chairman to draft a letter to CCC setting out the Parish Council's concerns in order to have these comments on file in the event of this matter being taken further.

12.07.5. BOROUGH MATTERS

Boro. Cllr. Furlong reported on the roll-out of the new Recycling Scheme. Participation by householders had been very high but there had been problems with the issuing of boxes and with collection. Members agreed that a good scheme had been poorly managed. Cllr. Furlong was asked to relay comments back to CBC.

12.07.6. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

AMENITIES: Minutes of the meeting of 14th November had been circulated.

Plans for the Senior Citizens' Lunch had been finalised and the event had taken place on 25th November.

It was considered a great success with an excellent meal and wonderful entertainment.

Letters of thanks had been sent to all contributors and two letters of thanks had been received from guests.

A revised quote of £1650 had been received from CBC for providing a tarmac surface in the Booth Bed Lane play area for the picnic tables.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with CBC to ensure the work was in progress.

The Clerk to order the tables as soon as CBC could take delivery.

The Chairman had met with Mark Bone from CCC Highways to assess locations for further planting of shrubs on roadside verges. A response is awaited.

Cllr. Sturman reported apparent vandalism of the bushes on Shearbrook verge. She had replanted several of the bushes.

FINANCE: Minutes of the meeting of 20th November had been circulated.

Staff salaries had been discussed. It was considered appropriate to ensure that the Clerk's salary was in line with National Association of Local Council guidelines.

Resolved: To increase salaries by 3% backdated to April 2007.

Ex-councillor Rebecca Kennington had agreed to act as the council's internal auditor, the payment to be in the form of a donation to charity.

VILLAGE HALL: Minutes of the meeting of 22nd November had been circulated.

A timetable was in place for the design and procurement program for the work on the toilets. Building work was expected to begin in mid-March and continue for 3 months.

The Chairman reported that CCC were awaiting estimates for a handrail on the footpath steps.

12.07.7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Report 166 had been circulated, there being no objections to the two applications considered.

A further meeting of the Planning Committee was arranged for 9.00am on Saturday 15th December.

A reply had been received to the Council's comments to CBC Planning Department regarding the scale of the development at Owl's Hoot. It had been established that the development differed from that which gained approval and revised plans had been requested.

Action: The Chairman of the Planning Committee to follow up.

12.07.8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE NUMBER 12/07

Resolved to accept Payment Schedule 12/07.

12.07.9 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk referred to Appendix 12/07 listing her actions resulting from the last meeting and correspondence received.

- a) There had been no action yet regarding the overhanging tree at Fieldside Close.
Action: The Clerk to contact CCC Highways again.
- b) Bakers Coaches had replied to a complaint about a speeding school bus, saying that the driver had apologised for his unintentional speeding. Bakers instruct their drivers to adhere to all speed limits and other road traffic directives, take any infringements seriously and will be carefully monitoring the driver concerned during the next few months.
- c) There had been no reaction to notification to CCC Highways about two inoperative street lights.
Action: The Clerk to follow up and also report another inoperative light on Main Road.
- d) There had been no reaction to notification of dog fouling at Booth Bed Lane corner.
- e) A letter from CCC Children's Services acknowledged receipt of the Council's comments that TLC should not delay permission for building of the new Youth Centre, saying these points would be taken into account.
- f) A letter from CBC Planning Department asking what name was preferred for the lane leading from Booth Bed Lane at Boots Green to Blackden Lane.
Resolved: To recommend the name Boots Green Lane.
- g) CCC Strategic Environmental Assessment of Cheshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, to be circulated to members and placed on agenda for the next meeting.

12.07.10 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None to report.

12.07.11 WEB SITE UPDATE

The 'Local Information' section was now available on the live website listing local services and contacts. Cllr. Sturman asked members for suggestions for further information to be included.

12.07.12 STATION BUILDING

A safety briefing for leaders of groups likely to be involved in gardening work at the station had taken place on 1st December. Cllr. Craggs had been able to make a brief inspection of the building and would have greater access in future.

12.07.13 G.Y.P.P.

At a meeting of G.Y.P.P. on 10th December, group members had acknowledged that the TLC process was likely to cause lengthy delays in gaining permission to build on the school field and it would be necessary to consider alternative sites.

12.07.14 SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

Further speedwatch sessions were planned for January. Invitation to Tender documents were being prepared for both the 'SID' devices and the posts.

12.07.15 MILLENNIUM GARDEN at 29-41 MAIN ROAD

The Council had received a letter from Westview Tenants Association which erroneously stated that the Parish Council would assume responsibility for the upkeep of the garden as from 1st October 2007.

Action: The Chairman to inspect the garden. The item to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

12.07.16 BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2008/9

Cllr. Nicholls took the meeting through a document showing budgeted income & expenditure for the year 2008/9 with 2007/8 figures for comparison. Although the Council had considerable cash reserves at the present time, these were allocated to specific major projects which should be completed within the next year.

Resolved: To accept the proposed budget for 2008/9, with the precept unchanged at £28,000.

12.07.17 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2008

The Chairman asked members to consider suitable speakers for the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting. The item to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

12.7.18 POST OFFICE

The Council had sent a letter to the Network Development Manager of Post Office Ltd. in support of keeping Goostrey Post Office open in its present location even if opening hours were reduced.

In view of information received about the level of uptake and return of response forms from the Post Office itself, it was not considered helpful to produce another draft letter for residents to use as an example when making their wishes known.

12.07.19 MINOR ITEMS & ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. Craggs commented that it was good to see the butcher's shop open again and hoped that all residents would support it.

Cllr. Collins reported a query about plans for facilities for older children at the Booth Bed Lane play area. The Council had previously decided to await developments at the new Youth Centre to see what facilities would be provided there but in view of likely delays now thought this would be too long to wait.

Action: The Chairman & Clerk to write to Lady Winterton, MP about the government's announcement of funds for play areas.

12.07.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Confirmed: Tuesday, 8th January, 2007

12.07.21 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.25 pm.