



Goostrey Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 13th FEBRUARY 2007

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

In attendance: Cty. Cllr. Price, Chairman, Cheshire County Council & Mrs Price
Cty. Cllr. Oliver
Boro. Cllrs. Furlong & Kolker
Denise Draper, Clerk to the Council

PUBLIC FORUM

Due to other commitments, the County and Borough Councillors arrived at a later stage of the meeting and were warmly welcomed by the Chairman.

02.07.1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interests registered.

02.07.2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Padley.

02.07.3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 9th JANUARY 2007

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 9th January 2007 as a true record and to take them as read.

02.07.4. COUNTY MATTERS

This item was deferred until later in the proceedings but is reported here.

Cty. Cllr. Price thanked the Parish Council for its invitation and explained that he had been very pleased to have the opportunity to visit Cheshire Town and Parish Councils during his year in office.

Cty. Cllr. Oliver reported that at a Special Meeting of CCC on 18th January, the Council had voted to propose a single unitary system for the future of Cheshire. By the end of March, the Government would either rule against this option or begin a 12 week consultation period before giving a final decision in June. If the change went ahead, the new Unitary Council would come into force in 2009, following elections to a 'shadow' Council in 2008 and would need to move to a location outside Chester. In addition to the Unitary Council there would be 15 area committees plus existing Town and Parish Councils.

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

Parish Clerk: Denise Draper

02.07.5. BOROUGH MATTERS

This item was deferred until later in the proceedings but is reported here.

Cllr. Kolker reported that a 50 mph speed limit was to be imposed on the section of the A535 between Terra Nova School and The Yellow Broom.

Cllr. Kolker also reported that publication of the Borough's Local Development Framework had been delayed due to the North West Development Agency's insistence that more housing was needed. Further work was required to incorporate extra housing and services into the Framework. The document would not be completed until mid-year but would feature in the 'Link' newspaper. Cllr. Kolker reiterated his concerns about the increased demands on local medical and other services which would result from additional house building in Holmes Chapel.

02.07.6. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

AMENITIES: Minutes of the meeting of 16th January had been circulated.

Placement of the two new bench seats was nearly completed and they had been well received.

An Open Garden Day was planned for Sunday 8th July.

A letter and several verbal complaints had been received about the cancellation of the H50 bus service.

Action: The Chairman to draft a letter to Lady Anne Winterton, MP with copies to CCC, taking a robust approach.

FINANCE: Minutes of the meeting of 30th January had been circulated together with accounts to 31 Dec 06. Spending in the year to date had been below budget.

Risk Assessment & the Asset Register would be addressed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Action: The Chairman & Cllr. Nichols to make arrangements to carry out a management audit of the accounting records.

VILLAGE HALL: Minutes of the meeting of 10th January had been circulated.

New stage backdrop curtains and storage bags and the CD player donated by Cllr. Robertson were in place. The stage lighting had been cleaned and refurbished.

CCC had confirmed that no additional insurance was required so long as the PC had £5,000,000 Public Liability cover. The Clerk confirmed that this was the case.

Cyclical electrical testing was currently taking place.

A refund was being sent to the Dane Valley Group of WI's to correct overcharging on the last 4 invoices.

Action: Further action was required regarding the overnight parking of vans on the approach to the school.

02.07.7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Reports 146 had been circulated.

02.07.8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE NUMBER 02/07.

Resolved to accept Payment Schedule 02/07.

02.07.9 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk referred to Appendix 01/07 listing her actions resulting from the last meeting and the correspondence received.

a) CCC's invitation to 'An Overview of Grant Funding Opportunities' on Tuesday 27th February.

b) Invitations from Cllr. Neville Price, Chairman, CCC to a service in Chester Cathedral on Sunday 25th March to celebrate Cheshire's Town & Parish Councils, passed to Cllrs. Salmon, Leake & Sturman.

c) Information from CHALC about Quality Council status.

Action: A copy of 'Guide to Becoming a Quality Council' to be circulated to Members.

The Clerk to e-mail this document to all Members with e-mail facilities.

- d) Reply from Lisa Green, CCC accepting invitation to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- e) Reply from Public Rights of Way Maintenance Manager, CCC about the Oak Finger Posts removed from Goostrey byways, offering to help find replacement posts but refusing any financial assistance. Cty. Cllr. Oliver had been told that the oak posts were old and 'past their best'. This opinion was not accepted. Cty. Cllr. Price reported that the new metal posts had been financed by the Countryside Agency and were necessary due to the redesignation of certain byways. The oak posts had been removed as two posts at the same location would have been confusing. This explanation was not accepted as CCC was now offering assistance in the replacement of the posts, just refusing any financial contribution. The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Oliver and Price for their intervention. The Chairman had already written to the Chief Executive of CCC and a reply was awaited.
- f) A request from RBL Women's Section for permission to plant a flowering tree in the burial ground in memory of Mrs Lillian Reeder. They had been asked to give details of the type of tree and proposed location but could not do so until after their meeting on 20th February.
- g) Details of 2007 Community Pride Competition. It was decided that no entry should be made this year due to the unattractive appearance of some parts of the Village. It was hoped that the Village could enter and be successful again in the future.
- h) Renewal invitation for Insurance showing an approximate 5% increase on last year – **Accepted.**

The Clerk reported the following additional correspondence.

- a) Consultation on Amendment to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members, comments to be submitted by Friday 9th March, passed to the Chairman.

02.07.10. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr. Leake commented upon the poor condition of the road surface on Church Bank and the danger to pedestrians.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Highways Office asking for an inspection of all roads in the Village with particular attention to Church Bank.

The Chairman reported a fallen tree in the grounds of Jodrell Bank which was partly obstructing the roadway.

Action: The Clerk to report this hazard to Jodrell Bank.

02.07.11. SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

Cllr. Leake reported on a meeting with the Highways Office and Police regarding the deployment of 'Smiley Sid' speed indicators. All had been supportive and several locations were to be assessed. The devices would have to be attached to posts but removed for recharging and repositioning. An alternative to having fixed posts at every location was to have sockets in the ground and move a post to the position when required. Signs indicating that the Village was a 'Community Speed Watch Area' had been suggested, possibly attached to the Goostrey Village signs. This would have to be agreed by Highways.

The police had conducted speed checking sessions on 19th and 21st January. 5 fixed penalties and 6 verbal warnings had been issued on 19th with 3 fixed penalties and 4 verbal warnings on 21st.

Cllr. Leake had been advised that extending 30 mph restricted areas would need a Road Traffic Order and would take at least a year.

An application for a grant from the Rural Social Community Program – Safety Challenge had not been successful.

The volunteer team would be re-starting speed watch sessions in March as the evenings became lighter.

02.07.12. STATION BUILDING

An application for listed status had been despatched, acknowledged and was being dealt with.

02.07.13 WEB SITE UPDATE

The update was proceeding. All local organisations were being asked to provide up-to-date information and logos/photographs in readiness for this section of the web site.

02.07.14 G.Y.P.P.

Plans for the new building were expected to be completed by the end of February.

01.07.15 ANNUAL MEETING - 2007

Inspector Mark Gammage and Lisa Green of CCC had accepted invitations to speak at the meeting. A reply was expected from Mark Barker of Northern Rail. Invitations, Agendas and distribution lists to be prepared by 2nd April, deliveries to be made in the following week by Members.

02.07.16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER – STRONG AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

This item to be included on a future agenda once the outcome of Cheshire Council's structure was known.

02.07.17 QUALITY STATUS

The Clerk had started the process to gain a Certificate in Local Council Administration. At least 80% 'elected' membership was a requirement. At present Goostrey PC was 50% 'elected'. The matter to be discussed again after Members had studied 'A Guide to Becoming a Quality Council'.

02.07.18 MINOR ITEMS & ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. Richardson reported that the residents of Mount Pleasant had requested a pedestrian crossing. Many of the residents were elderly. Main Road had to be crossed as there was no pavement on the Mount Pleasant side.

Action: The Clerk to pass on request to the Highways Office.

Cllr. Richardson had been approached by West View Housing Association about the garden in front of bungalows 35-39 Main Road. This had been established as a 'Millennium' garden in 2000 but had become neglected. The Parish Council had been asked to take over maintenance of the planted beds but not the grassed areas.

Action: Cllrs. Salmon, Collins and Richardson to visit the site.

Cllr. Craggs reported that during recent road works, the waste bin at the end of Church Bank had been moved, its new position causing disturbance to a resident.

Action: The Clerk to contact CBC to request that the bin be returned to its original position.

Cllr. Leake asked if the PC should still be making a donation to St. Luke's of £50 pa towards Christmas lights.

Action: The Chairman to contact the PCC.

Cllr. Robertson asked if the PC could resume the tradition of having a Christmas tree with lights on the Bogbean.

Action: The Clerk to make initial enquiries with the Highways Office.

02.07.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Confirmed: Tuesday 13th March, 2007.

01.07.21 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45 pm.