



## ***Goostrey Parish Council***

### **MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY ANNUAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 8th MAY 2007**

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

In attendance: Boro. Cllr. P Kolker & Boro. Cllr. P Furlong (part)  
Denise Draper, Clerk to the Council.

#### **05.07.1. TO APPROVE STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were approved.

#### **05.07.2. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR 2007/2008**

Cllr. Leake proposed Cllr. Gordon Salmon for the position of Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Robertson and agreed unanimously by the Meeting. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Salmon agreed to stand as Chairman for one more year only.

#### **05.07.3. TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr. Salmon then signed a formal declaration of his acceptance of Office.

#### **05.07.4. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2007/2008**

Cllr. Craggs was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Leake and there being no other nominations, Cllr. Craggs was unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

Parish Clerk: Denise Draper

**05.07.5. TO APPOINT COMMITTEES**

The following were appointed to serve on the Committees of the Parish Council:

AMENITIES: Cllrs. Collins, Mitchell, Padley, Richardson & Sturman  
 FINANCE: Cllrs. Leake, Nichols, Richardson & Robertson  
 PLANNING: Cllrs. Collins, Leake, Mitchell, Padley, Robertson & Nichols  
 VILLAGE HALL: Cllrs. Leake, Richardson & Sturman

**05.07.6. TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

VHPFF: Cllr. Craggs  
 ASSOCIATION OF TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS: Cllr. Richardson  
 G.Y.P.P.: Cllr. Craggs

**05.07.7. TO CONSIDER PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**Resolved** to continue subscriptions to:

Cheshire Association of Local Councils  
 Society of Local Council Clerks  
 Cheshire Community Council – Parish Council Membership  
 Cheshire Community Council – Village Hall Membership  
 Performing Right Society

**05.07.8. TO APPOINT CHEQUE SIGNATORIES**

Cllrs. Leake, Richardson & Sturman agreed to continue as cheque signatories.

**05.07.9. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr. Salmon had declared an interest in Planning Application No. 07/0369/FUL and had taken no part in its consideration.

**05.07.10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllrs. Collins & Nicholls and from Boro. Cllr. Furlong, who would be arriving part way through the meeting.

**05.07.11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2007**

**Resolved** to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007 as a true record and to take them as read

**05.07.12. COUNTY MATTERS**

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

### 05.07.13. BOROUGH MATTERS

Boro. Cllr. Kolker reported on the Council Elections which took place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. There had been little change in Congleton Borough Council which now had 26 Conservative members and 22 from other parties and independents.

He confirmed that CBC still favoured an improved 2-tier system for Cheshire County as the lowest cost option which best served local democracy. A single unitary Council based in Chester would be too remote and a move to Winsford would result in major staff problems. One Borough had claimed that the Government was acting outside its powers in imposing a change on Cheshire and was considering requesting a judicial review with costs.

Replying to a question about the time frame, Boro. Cllr. Kolker said that the plan for elections in May 2008, followed by a year of parallel running until the new Council(s) took control in May 2009 was beginning to look unworkable.

### 05.07.14. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

AMENITIES: Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> May had been circulated.

Planting on Shearbrook verge would be delayed until the autumn when availability of suitable plants and weather conditions would be better. CCC Highways inspector had recommended studying service plans of the area before any digging took place.

Promotion of the Open Garden Day on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July was in progress, 5 entries having been promised so far.

Summer bedding plants had been ordered for the village planters.

Catalogues and price lists were being consulted in order to recommend picnic tables and benches for the Booth Bed Lane play area.

A Sunday lunch party for senior citizens was planned for November but a firm date was needed before any arrangements could be made for catering and entertainment. A date of 25<sup>th</sup> November was agreed.

Cllr. Richardson commented that many trees along Main Road were touching electricity cables and was asked to report the precise locations to the Clerk.

FINANCE: There had been no meeting since the last Parish Council.

The date of the next meeting was set for 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007.

VILLAGE HALL: There had been no meeting since the last Parish Council.

Cllr. Leake agreed to make enquiries about any progress on the damp investigation work to be undertaken by CCC before the next meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

### 05.07.15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Reports 150 & 151 had been circulated.

The Committee had made no objections to any of the 5 applications but had expressed concerns about the impact on current drainage problems of application 07/0369/FUL and had asked that Building Control check on this matter.

Application 07/0245/FUL (Sandyacre, Main Road) had been withdrawn.

Cllr. Leake questioned whether the development at Owl's Hook, Blackden Lane was in line with the approved plans.

**Action:** Cllr. Craggs to study plans and consult CBC if necessary.

It had been suggested at the Annual Parish Meeting that the Parish Council should inform neighbouring home owners whenever an application is received. It was decided that this was not necessary in view of the posting of green notices and letters sent out by CBC.

**05.07.16. PAYMENT SCHEDULE NUMBER 05/07.**

**Resolved** to accept Payment Schedule 05/07.

**Action:** The Clerk to remind the graveyard maintenance contractor that all rubbish and cuttings are to be removed.

**05.07.17 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk referred to Appendix 05/07 listing her actions resulting from the last Meeting and correspondence received.

- a) After further consideration of 'establishing ownership by encroachment', the Meeting's view was that there was no real problem.
- b) A member of CCC's Local Government Review Team would attend the June Meeting.
- c) A stall at Rose Day had been requested.
- d) A meeting with a CCC Highways inspector is reported under item 05.06.18.
- e) A letter to G.Y.P.P. confirming the PC's approval in principle of the new plans for the Youth Centre, with suggestions for environmentally friendly features and showers.
- f) The organisers of the Arts Festival had not yet replied to the offer of sponsorship.
- g) CCC Transport Co-ordinator had replied that the 319 bus service offers good value for money because it is operated by a bus also used on school services. Additional journeys would require additional funding, which could lead to the whole service being undermined.

CCC are currently in discussions with Jodrell Bank Visitors Centre about improving access by public transport and will bear the PC's request in mind in these discussions.

**Action:** The Clerk to reply that the PC hopes new bus services to Jodrell Bank are instigated and that stops in Goostrey can be included.

- h) The graveyard rubbish bins are now being emptied on a regular basis.

**Correspondence Received:**

- a) The Footpaths Group has decided not to take up the offer of galvanised steel kissing gates but are negotiating with CCC for some help with the installation of timber gates.
- b) The new Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 to be circulated to members and placed on the Agenda for the September meeting.
- c) A letter from English Heritage rejecting the application for listing of the station building which was not considered to be of special architectural or historic interest.
- d) Information about the 'Cheshire Folk Train' running on 30<sup>th</sup> May, passed to Cllr. Leake.
- e) Notice of Police Forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and an invitation to a meeting at Constabulary Headquarters on 13<sup>th</sup> June to discuss how forums can be improved, passed to Cllr. Richardson.
- f) Notice of a CAT meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May.
- g) Request from CHALC for contact details of all councillors and also 3 representatives to attend Area Meetings.

**Action:** The Clerk to supply details, the 3 representatives being Cllrs.Craggs, Richardson & Salmon.

- h) CHALC's Position Paper on Unitary Government Proposals in Cheshire, to be circulated to Members.

**05.07.18. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The Chairman reported on a meeting with Mark Bone, Highways Inspector, Congleton Area Highways Office, CCC also attended by the Clerk.

The budget for road repairs allowed only patching up and making safe. No resurfacing work could be expected. Some potholes had already been filled and others had been marked for attention. Mill Lane had been cleared of mud and debris. The signpost at Blackden Lane fork would be repaired and a new village sign for the Blackden Lane approach had been requested. Yellow paint

would be removed from the lamp post at Shearbrook Steps but the wall was the responsibility of the adjacent home owner.

The triangle of land at the end of the school drive would be seeded.

Other outstanding matters had been referred back to the District Engineer:

- a) A crossing at Mount Pleasant Park.
- b) Changes to 30 mph restricted areas.
- c) Permission for a Christmas Tree on the Bog Bean.

#### **05.07.19. SPEED WATCH MEASURES**

Cllr. Leake reported that speed watch sessions planned for early May had been aborted as there were only 3 volunteers. The next sessions would be at the end of May or early June. Information was needed from Highways before progress could be made on the 'Smiley Sid' indicators.

#### **05.07.20. STATION BUILDING AND COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr. Craggs expressed disappointment about the rejection of the application for listed status. He undertook to sound out English Heritage and consider an appeal only if there was a good case. Cllrs. Craggs and Leake recommended attempting to lease the building.

**Action:** Cllr. Craggs to conduct survey and make drawings if permitted access.

It was reported that the founder of GRUG had stepped down. Cllr. Craggs was taking the plans for improvements to the station forward with advice from John Hulme. Consideration would be given to improving the appearance of the bottle bank.

#### **05.07.21. WEB SITE UPDATE**

A meeting with the Web Site manager had been arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> May.

#### **05.07.22. G.Y.P.P.**

Boro. Cllr. Kolker thanked the PC for its approval in principle to the new plans. The school had also given approval. The next steps would be:

Organise investigative borings.

Talks with CCC Estates, Childrens and Legal Departments.

Checking with uniformed organisations that the building was still required.

Application grade drawings to be prepared.

Informal valuation of the old site.

**Actions:** The Newsletter to advise that plans can be examined in the Parish Office.

#### **5.7.23. QUALITY STATUS**

The Chairman reported that the PC was well on the way to satisfying the criteria for quality status. CHALC and CBC should be consulted about the implications of holding a by-election. The subject to be placed on the agenda for further discussion in September.

#### **5.7.24 SPONSORSHIP OF PARISH EVENTS**

Cllr. Leake reported that the offer of sponsorship had been well received by the Rose Day committee and could possibly be used for new costumes before the 2008 event. There had been no reply from the organisers of the Arts Festival. The Amenities Committee were progressing the senior citizens lunch event.

**5.7.25 MINOR ITEMS & ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

The Chairman had been approached by Mr John Parsons of The Old Shippon about the problem of dog fouling and loose dogs on the paths and gardens around Dromedary Lodge. He had asked for a dog waste bin and would allow it to be placed on his land.

**Actions:**

The Clerk to write to the Dog Warden reporting concern about this particular location and asking for a dog waste bin, either at the Main Road end of the track (to allow for easier emptying) or near to the houses.

The dog fouling problem to be included in the Newsletter.

The Clerk to write to Mr Parsons reporting the actions taken.

Cllr. Craggs placed information from Cheshire Community Council and also from Northern Rail in the circulation pack.

The Chairman asked for the Parish Magazine to be placed on the agenda for the June meeting if PC information was still missing from the next issue.

**05.07.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Confirmed:** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**05.07.27 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her contribution to date and closed the meeting at 9.20.