



Goostrey Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER 2007

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

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

09.07.1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests registered.

09.07.2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

09.07.3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 10th July 2007 as a true record and to take them as read.

09.07.4. COUNTY MATTERS

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

09.07.5. BOROUGH MATTERS

Boro. Cllr. Furlong commented that there was still great uncertainty about the future structure of local government in Cheshire but urged the Parish Council to consider the role it wanted to play within any new structure.

The Chairman informed members of the sudden and untimely death of Nick Shatwell, Principal Electoral Services Officer at CBC. He expressed appreciation for the help received from Nick in the past. Letters of condolence had been sent to his family and to his colleagues at CBC.

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

Parish Clerk: Denise Draper

09.07.6. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

AMENITIES: Minutes of the meeting of 4th September had been circulated. Cllr. Collins reported that, after comparing prices from 3 garden centres, 200 box bushes had been ordered from Grasslands @ £2.85 each. Cllrs. Craggs and Padley reported that both scout and guide groups had agreed to help with planting. Cllr. Robertson agreed to have the plants delivered to her home.

Actions:

The Clerk to arrange payment to Grasslands and ask for delivery on 5th October.

Volunteers to assemble at 10.00 on Saturday 6th October.

Cllrs. Craggs and Padley to inform scouts and guides of the arrangements.

Arrangements for the Senior Citizens' lunch were progressing. Members approved the notice for inclusion in the October newsletter and took tickets for distribution as from 1st October.

FINANCE: There had been no meeting since the last Parish Council. A date for the next meeting of 4th October was agreed. Warranty for the PC office computer was considered as the initial 3 year period expires on 23rd September.

Agreed: To take a further 2 years' warranty at a cost of £139.

VILLAGE HALL: There had been no meeting since the last Parish Council. Cllr. Craggs had attended a meeting with CCC and Purple PM regarding the damp problem in the Village Hall toilets and presented a report on investigations and recommended remedies. Very high levels of damp had been found in areas of the floor and walls indicating that the damp proof membrane had been penetrated, probably at the time of installation of the accessible WC. It was also reported that the accessible WC did not satisfy current regulations and that asbestos in some areas of roofing and flooring would have to be removed under controlled conditions. Part of this removal was already planned for the week commencing 22nd October as part of the work involved in replacing the fire alarm. A major program of internal demolition, damp proofing, asphalt flooring, altered layout and complete refurbishment was recommended. The anticipated total cost was £138,000 + fees, the Parish Council being expected to pay 15% of this.

Agreed: To proceed with the scheme as recommended.

09.07.7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Reports 156, 157, 158 and 159 had been circulated.

Deferment of the date for comments had been requested for two applications which would be considered at a Planning Committee meeting, immediately following this PC meeting.

09.07.8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE NUMBERS 08/07 & 09/07

Resolved to accept Payment Schedule 08/07 and 09/07.

09.07.9 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk referred to Appendix 09/07 listing her actions resulting from the last meeting and correspondence received.

- a) Enquiries to Highways and Scottish Power resulting in repair to street light on Woodlands Drive.
- b) Invitation to the Annual Meeting of Cheshire Association of Local Councils – 18th October, to be attended by Cllrs. Salmon, Craggs and Richardson.
- c) Invitation to Transforming Learning Communities (TLC) review of the Alsager, Congleton, Sandbach and Holmes Chapel locality – 21st November.
- d) Invitation to Cheshire Planning Forum – 5th October, passed to Cllr. Craggs.
- e) Reply from CBC Grounds & Cleansing Manager re. request for dog waste bin on Dromedary path.
The dog warden had inspected the site and found no evidence of a dog fouling problem. He could not support the request for a bin at this time but would continue to monitor the situation. Signs have been placed at both ends of the path.

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

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- f) A copy of CBC's Local Development Framework Site Specific Allocations, to be circulated to members. Notification of an Area Forum 3 meeting on 24th September at 7.00 pm at Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre and an invitation to Holmes Chapel Parish Council meeting on 27th September At 7.30 at Holmes Chapel Library, 3 members to attend.
- g) Further correspondence about the proposed diversion of the footpath at Dromedary Lodge. An amended application for diversion of the footpath is expected in September. An alternative route will be provided regardless of whether the existing path remains open or not.
- h) An informal opinion from CBC's tree expert that the oak tree in Bank View had been appropriately and sympathetically pruned.
Action: The Clerk pass on this view to the concerned residents of Bank View and advise that the Council could take no further action.

09.07.10 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Action: The Clerk to contact CCC Highways to report potholes marked during the last survey had not all been filled, to request a further survey and to report redundant road signs.

09.07.11. WEB SITE UPDATE

Nothing further to report.

Cllr. Leake had received compliments from a member of Hanwood Parish Council on the layout of the web site.

09.07.12. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Resolved:

To adopt the compulsory provisions of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 insofar as it relates to Town & Parish Councils (the Model Code) with immediate effect.

To adopt optional paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code with immediate effect.

To exclude optional paragraph 7 of the Model Code.

Action: The Clerk to circulate Registration of Interests forms to be completed within 28 days.

Members were advised of training arranged by CBC's Monitoring Officer.

09.07.13 STATION BUILDING

Cllr. Craggs reported that the new shelter had been erected, the gutters had been cleared and the canopy cut back, although this work had not yet been completed.

Action: The Clerk to report inoperative lights on the Crewe-bound platform approach.

09.07.14 G.Y.P.P.

Cllr. Craggs reported that the new planning application was being prepared. A site meeting with CCC was to take place on 2nd October and the next meeting of G.Y.P.P. on 8th October. A draft Constitution and Rules of Management was being considered by members of G.Y.P.P. and would be made available to the PC when finalised. Cllr. Craggs had attended a briefing by Manchester Airport Community Trust and considered that the Youth Centre could be a suitable project for funding.

09.07.15 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Several positive comments had been received following distribution of the Summer 2007 Newsletter.

Resolved: To continue regular Newsletters delivered to every property.

To continue publication of a monthly Newsletter in the Parish Magazine for the time being.

09.07.16 SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

Copies of a letter sent to Lady Winterton, MP and her reply had been circulated to members. The response she had received from the police was considered to be defensive and highlighted discrepancies between police involvement in Speedwatch matters and what the Council had been lead to expect.

Action: The Chairman and Cllr. Leake to formulate reply.

Cllr. Leake reported that the next Speedwatch activity would be at the end of September/beginning of October with police officer Roger Need in attendance.

Seven of the eight suggested sites for Smiley Sid indicators had been approved. Cllr. Leake recommended placing permanent posts at these sites and was making further enquiries. He reported that Goostrey's speedwatch initiative had been influential in Lincoln's adoption of a similar scheme.

09.07.17 QUALITY STATUS

The Clerk hoped to submit her CiLCA portfolio by the end of the year.

The Chairman reported that production of the Newsletter was a useful step towards gaining quality status and other matters required only fine-tuning. The need for a 80% elected Council should be addressed early in 2008.

9.7.18 CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE BOGBEAN

Members were in favour of lighting a tree on the Bogbean at Christmas 2007, if possible, and in future years. In past years, power for the lights had been provided by Cllr. & Mr. Robertson with a cable from their house being supported over the road. They would make this option available again, if appropriate.

Action: The Clerk to make enquiries with Scottish Power and other Councils/Clerks about a power supply. The Clerk also to research the availability of solar or battery powered lights.

9.7.19 MINOR ITEMS & ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. Sturman raised the matter of parking at the Booth Bed Lane play area and also reported use of the area late at night. A meeting with the Senior Supervisor of CBC Grounds department was already being arranged to discuss the provision of picnic tables at the play area. These issues would also be raised at that meeting.

Actions:

The Clerk was asked to contact CBC's tree expert about the tree at the junction of Fieldside & Main Road to determine if it was subject to a preservation order and if any work on it was needed.

The Clerk to contact Highways about the sharp corner at the narrow exit from the parking area at the shops.

Cllr. Padley to advise a resident of Booth Bed Lane to contact Dane Housing about her damaged hedge.

9.7.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Confirmed: Tuesday, 9th October, 2007

09.07.21 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45 pm.