



Goostrey Parish

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 2008

VILLAGE HALL, THURSDAY 10th APRIL 2008 AT 7.30PM

Present: Parish Cllrs. Salmon (Chairman), Craggs, Leake, Mitchell, Nicholls, Padley, Robertson and Sturman
County Cllr. Oliver,
Borough. Cllr. Kolker
42 members of the Public.

In attendance: Denise Draper, Parish Clerk
Garry Charnock of Ashton Heyes Parish Council
Diane Eeley, Community Fundraiser, St Luke's Cheshire Hospice

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed all members of the public, County and Borough Councillors and guests present at the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Collins & Richardson, Borough Councillor Furlong, Rev. David Ottley, Mr & Mrs Keith Ashford, Mr Mike Ball, Mr & Mrs Gerald Foster-Clark, Mr & Mrs Ken Gunary, Mr Derek Hurdle, Mrs Mary Leake, Mr & Mrs Lonsdale, Mrs Janet Ollier and Mr & Mrs Bill Owen.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 2007

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2007 were agreed to be a true record and taken as read.

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

Parish Clerk: Denise Draper

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report which is summarised as follows:

The Parish Council

The Council had met 11 times during the year with an average attendance of 7 members. There had also been regular meetings of the Amenities, Finance, Village Hall Management and Planning committees. There had been an Extraordinary Council Meeting in June 2007 to discuss the Local Government Review in Cheshire. The Council had been in unanimous support of an improved 2-tier system in Cheshire.

Parish Council Newsletter and Sponsorship Scheme

The distribution of a quarterly Newsletter to every household in the Parish had been introduced during the year, the public response being positive.

The Council had sponsored Goosfest and made a contribution towards this year's Rose Festival and had also held a very successful Senior Citizens luncheon in November. The Chairman thanked all who had helped with the organisation and entertainment at this event.

Highways Matters

The Council continues to be concerned at the poor state of the village roads. Inspections and meetings with Congleton Area Highways Office had resulted in patching up and making safe but the budget did not allow for more permanent repairs.

Requests for a pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Mount Pleasant Residential Park and for extension of the 30mph limit on Main Road at the junction with New Platt Lane had been rejected. However, Hermitage Lane had been added to a list of sites where a 30mph limit would be considered.

Gardens Open Day

The Chairman thanked the participants in the Gardens Open Day which raised in excess of £200 for charity. This year, Cheshire Year of the Gardens, the Council will be holding a Village Treasure Hunt with a garden theme on Sunday 11th May.

Goostrey Station

During the year a new shelter had been erected at the station and the canopy on the station building cut back to enable train drivers to have a clear view of the signals.

Goostrey Scouts and Guides would be planting a garden on the exit from the platform on the Crewe bound side. Funding for this project had been obtained through Network Rail, the plants and advice being supplied by Hassals Nurseries.

An attempt to have the station building designated as a listed building had not been successful but it was hoped that the building could be brought back into some form of public use.

Goostrey Post Office

The Council, along with many residents, had put forward strong arguments in favour of retaining the Goostrey office with a successful outcome, although with reduced opening hours.

Booth Bed Lane Play Area

Two picnic tables had been installed at the play area, partly funded by a grant from the Cheshire County Council small grants scheme. Congleton Borough Council had agreed to install a goal post and a litter bin. The Government recently announced the setting aside of funds for play areas and the Council will be making an application to the new East Cheshire Authority for facilities for older children.

Local Development Framework

The Council had examined and responded to Congleton Borough Council's proposed Local Development Framework. Whilst Goostrey is not directly affected, the Council considers that an increase in housing and industrial units in Holmes Chapel would affect the infrastructure of the area. No sites in Goostrey were on the 'preferred list' for development.

Parish Council Web Site

The web site had been improved and updated during the year by Cllr. Anne Sturman in conjunction with Mr Doug Crowley, both thanked by the Chairman.

Speedwatch.

Speedwatch activities would shortly be resumed, after a winter break due to limited daylight hours. Tenders had been received for Speed Indicator Devices, installation of this equipment to be progressed at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Village Hall.

Electrical testing had revealed major wiring problems. The fire alarm system had been completely renewed.

Work is due to start soon on dealing with the damp problem in the toilet area. The cause of the problem has still not been 100% identified but there are questions about waste water from sinks in the Committee Room and Parish Office. Once the cause of the damp has been dealt with, the toilets will be refurbished, greatly enhancing the facilities offered by the Village Hall. The Council has reserved £25,000 for its contribution to the work. Re-decoration and replacement of ceiling tiles in the Hall will be considered after this work, and the installation of walk ways in the roof space have been completed.

East Cheshire Council

The Chairman commented on the challenge of changes in local government in Cheshire. On 1st May elections will take place for members of the shadow East Cheshire Authority which will replace Cheshire County Council and the Borough Councils (including Congleton) on 1st April 2009. Goostrey will form part of the Congleton Rural seat, with three representatives. The next elections for both the East Cheshire Authority and the Parish Council will be in 2011.

The Chairman finished his address by thanking:

The Parish Councillors
County and Borough Councillors

Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Salmon

Parish Clerk: Denise Draper

The Parish Clerk, Denise Draper
 The Village Hall Manager, Terry Collins
 The Village Hall Caretaker, Sue Higginson
 The Village Hall Bookings Clerk, Edna Brandreth and
 Mr Rathbone for keeping the Bog Bean in such a beautiful condition.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2007/2008

Copies of an unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2007/2008 were circulated for the information of members of the public.

A member of the public enquired about the £150 income item 'Inland Revenue incentive'. This was an incentive offered by the Inland Revenue for on-line filing of end-of-year returns.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

Ray Owen asked for confirmation of the correct course of action for dealing with overgrown hedges and damaged grass verges. Boro. Cllr. Kolker advised that the Parish Council should first make contact with the owner but if this did not result in any improvement the Area Highways Office should be consulted.

Sally Ball asked the Parish Council to again consider maintaining a heart defibrillator in the Village Hall for use by a group of volunteers. This subject had not been progressed in the past due to the need for trained users.

A member of Holmes Chapel Community First Responders, which covers the Goostrey area, advised that they were seeking volunteers and hoped to set up a defibrillator facility. The Chairman advised that the Council had already decided to donate the proceeds from the treasure hunt to the First Responders group. Boro. Cllr. Kolker advised that the group could qualify for funding from Manchester Airport.

Pat Schofield asked if there were any plans for providing facilities for older children at the Booth Bed Lane Play Area. The Chairman referred to his comments about applying for Government funding, when available but said that the Parish Council had no funds available for such a project at present.

Boro. Cllr. Kolker, as Chairman of G.Y.P.P., reviewed the progress towards a new Youth Centre.

The site of the old building had been granted planning permission for construction of a house.

Sale of the site would finance the building of the new centre.

A site at the end of the school field, near the mini-roundabout, had gained support from the school governors and a positive response from Cheshire County Council which was working on details of a lease.

The next step would be to work out the costings of the new building in order to set a reserve price for the sale of the land.

The Chairman added that the site of the new building would be leased to the Parish Council which would also own the building. This use of the proceeds from the sale of the old site might not please everyone in the village but the Parish Plan had identified a Youth Centre as sufficiently important to justify the scheme. He would also like to investigate purchase of the new site at some point in the future.

A member of the public asked if the building would be put to full use.

The Chairman replied that it was intended for use by a Youth Club (with management committee), the uniformed organisations, the school and by members of the public, as an extension of the Village Hall facilities.

The Chairman thanked the guest speakers and invited all present to join the Parish Council for light refreshments, the Meeting closing at 8.45 pm.