

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE held on 1 November 2001 in the Parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson
Councillor H Dobson
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor RA Storrar

53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Bailey and A Warrington.

54 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 July 2001 be confirmed as a correct record.

55 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 47 – Matters Arising from the Minutes
- Minute No 41 – Crime and Disorder Audit

Members were reminded that a meeting would take place on Thursday, 8 November 2001, facilitated by PC Gareth Cooper, with some young people of the village in order to find out what provision they would like made for them in Saughall.

Councillor Mrs Young had requested that representatives from those who ran Saughall Colts be invited to attend this meeting as they could provide an important input to the discussions.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to contact Councillor Mrs Young so that invitations can be sent as appropriate.

56 PARISH PLAN

The Committee reviewed progress made towards the compilation of the Parish Plan and suggested additional consultees. The Parish Action list was revised accordingly. (Appendix 1)

RESOLVED:

That progress to date on the compilation of the Parish Plan be noted.

57 MILLENNIUM PARK LAND

The Committee was reminded that County Councillor Rowlands had undertaken to facilitate a meeting between himself, Parish Council representatives, the County Council's External Funding Officer, Mr Steve Wright, and Waste Recycling Environment Ltd (WREN). No date had yet been set for this meeting.

It was noted that Mr Wright had informed in his letter of 18 September 2001 that the County Council could meet the cost of the survey to examine the grading of the land. In principle this cost could be met using monies derived from the sale of the land identified for the low-cost housing development. Quotations for the reclamation work that was necessary could not be obtained without this survey.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of introducing a scheme which would see the Council receiving a cash benefit when any new housing developments were built in the village.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to remind County Councillor David Rowlands that the meeting with WREN is awaited;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to Cheshire County Council's Director of Community Development requesting that his Council let a contract and pay for the survey work needed on the land to the North of Lodge Lane, Saughall;
- (3) the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to adopt a policy which would ensure that any future development in the village could only go ahead if a sum of money was commuted to the Parish Council by the developer for the benefit of the village as a whole; and
- (4) initial approaches be made to two owners of land in Saughall to ascertain if they are willing to open negotiations on possible disposal for recreational use by residents.

58 BEST KEPT VILLAGE/CIVIC PRIDE COMPETITION 2001

The Committee considered the marks the village had received noting that it had come last in its class and analysed the judges comments.

It was agreed that the Council should provide some hanging baskets next year in strategic parts of the village.

One area of the village was very untidy and it was agreed that the Council, with the permission of the owner, should arrange for it to be tidied up.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Chairman be requested to approach a nursery with a view to agreeing an arrangement on the provision of hanging baskets next year; and

(2) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to take action in an attempt to tidy parts of the village.

59 IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHESHIRE

The Committee considered the Cheshire Partnership Community Strategy which was out to consultation noting that consultees had said that in rural communities activities for young people were given a higher priority than for Cheshire as a whole. Providing local facilities for young people was the main action proposed. 56% of young people interviewed in the rural areas were dissatisfied with the facilities available to them.

RESOLVED:

That the Cheshire Partnership be informed that this Council believes that the provision of recreational facilities for young people in rural areas should be a major priority.

60 FIDDLERS LANE – PLAYGROUND

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar had received an approach from Chester City Council's Environmental Officer, Mr Tim Braithwaite. He had been to a presentation organised by WREN and wondered if WREN funding could be sought to provide a children's playground facility similar to the one in Dodleston.

It was noted that WREN required 11% of the cost of a scheme to be financed by someone other than itself but would issue grants up to £50,000.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Braithwaite be invited to a future meeting to provide a presentation after Members have met with WREN. (Minute No 57/2001 refers)

61 HSBC'S BANKING CHARTER

Members noted the Charter received from the bank and that the Co-op Bank was currently offering competitive banking packages keen to acquire new customers from amongst local councils.

RESOLVED:

That the Charter be referred to the Audit Panel for consideration.

62 CHESHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S PARISH TRANSPORT GRANTS WORKSHOP
– SAUGHALL TO THE COUNTESS OF CHESTER HOSPITAL

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Mrs Young be requested to provide a report on proceedings at the workshop to the next meeting of the Council; and
- (2) Councillor Kerr be requested to obtain bus timetabling details and both transport grants and the proposed bus service to the Countess of Chester Hospital be considered further at the next meeting of the Committee.

63 COMMUNITY SAFETY PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL PANEL AREA

The Committee received a report on proposals on how Panel 7 funding could be used. Any scheme had to fit in with the aims of the Crime and Disorder Strategy.

The Council had not been able to propose a scheme in the time available but the Chairman had been in contact with Mr Clive Roberts of Chester City Council and laid down a marker that Saughall would wish to submit a scheme which could attract Panel 7 funding in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

64 MODEL BYELAW – NO BALL GAMES

Members considered the detail of a consultation process that would be put in hand before it could apply for a byelaw - no ball games.

Also, discussed was a proposal to provide adaptations for a resident of Saughall Hey.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to compose a letter to affected residents for distribution by Members; and
- (2) Mr C Rutter of Chester City Council be informed that the Council can not support the adaptation proposal in its current form but that it will look sympathetically on an alternative proposal so long as it does not involve crossing the grassed area.

65 WWW.SAUGHALL.GOV.UK

The Clerk reported that the website had been launched on 11 October 2001. She could now also be contacted on the following e-mail address:

clerk@saughall.gov.uk

Members considered a print off of the website noting that it was evolving and any request for additions or revisions should be made to the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

PARISH PLAN – ACTION LIST

Action	Timescales
Register intention to compile a Village Plan with the Countryside Agency.	July 2001
Members to draw up list of consultees.	August 2001
Initial Consultation process begins. Local groups, businesses and individuals are encouraged to have their say on what they would like to see provided in the village in the short and longer term.	August 2001 - Letter out September 2001 - Newsletter out
Initial Consultation Process ends.	30 November 2001
Public Meeting held to inform what the Consultation has thrown up. (in the form of a social evening – tea and cakes.) Volunteers to be invited to serve on the Parish Plan Working Party.	Early January 2002
Working Party established to take the initiative forward. Will meet regularly.	February 2002 Council meeting
Professional support – decision to be taken on whether or not to commission Cheshire Community Council or another agency to carry out a survey into all aspects of village life in Saughall or whether or not the Parish Council will undertake such a survey itself. Alternatively, it may decide that the consultation already carried out will suffice.	End February 2002
Grant aid be sought from the Countryside Agency in respect of costs involved in the compilation of the Plan. – Apply	February 2002
Further data collection and analysis if appropriate.	Mid March 2002
Feedback to community. Mapping exercise underway.	End of March 2002
Production of first draft of Parish Plan.	End of April 2002
Initial soundings taken, comments and feedback.	End of May 2002
Incorporated into final version of Plan.	End of June 2002
Launch and distribution.	July 2002
Projects prioritised and pursued.	August 2002 onwards
Annual review of Plan and revision as necessary.	Nov/Dec 2002