

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 8 April 2002 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson  
Councillor A Bailey  
Councillor Mrs BW Bell  
Councillor H Dobson  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs J Young

Mr C McIlwrick – Homewatch Co-ordinator  
Mr CW Eyton – Tree Warden

56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor SS Evans  
Councillor GF Williams  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

57 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The New Ethical Framework, contained in Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, was given Royal Assent on 28 July 2000. Statutory Instrument brought the Ethical Framework into effect on 19 December 2000.

The aim of the Ethical Framework was to ensure high standards of conduct in local government including parish councils in England and Wales.

The Ethical Framework was designed to ensure that the high degree of probity which currently existed was well maintained as well as acting as a safety net to catch the minority of people who acted in such a way so as to bring local governance into disrepute.

A Model Code of Conduct had been drafted specifically for parish councils. The core content of the Model was the same for all local authorities. No local authority could omit anything included in the Model Code.

The National Association of Local Councils, together with the Standards Board for England and the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, strongly advised local councils against adding to the Model Code for parish and town councils. The Code related specifically to ethical behaviour. It had been carefully drafted in an effort to avoid legal pitfalls.

Members of the Council and the co-opted Member on the Crime and Disorder Committee had all received a copy of the Code for information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils be adopted in its entirety; and
- (2) All Members be requested to complete their Forms of Undertaking in respect of the Code and forms relating to their personal interests within the timescales laid down (within 28 days of this meeting).

58 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

59 LAST MEETING OF THIS COUNCIL

The Chairman reminded Members that they were attending the last meeting of the current Council. There were Local Government Elections on 2 May 2002. Some Members were standing for re-election whilst some had decided not to stand.

The Chairman paid tribute to those Members not seeking re-election and thanked them for their efforts and commitment over the years. He made particular reference to Councillor Mrs BW Bell who had served on the Council very conscientiously for a number of years. She was commended for her diligence and wished well for the future.

The Chairman also told the Council that he had been a Member for 27 years, 11 of which he had been Chairman. He informed that although he intended to seek re-election he felt it appropriate that another Member should take on the role of Chairman. He had considered it both a pleasure and a privilege to be Chairman and he offered his support to the Member who would take on the role of Chairman of the new Council.

Councillor RA Storrar on behalf of the Council responded to the Chairman thanking him for his service which was sincerely appreciated by the other Members. He had a wealth of knowledge and experience at both local and national level which was a great advantage at times.

60 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2002 be confirmed as a correct record.

61 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It had previously been agreed that the Council would send two delegates to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Conference in Preston in June 2002.

RESOLVED:

That seats be booked for the NALC Conference after the Annual Meeting of the Council when representation has been agreed.

62 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2002:

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
Inland Revenue	454.67	101482
Chester City Council (Drainage work on Fiddlers Lane Playing Field)	2,200.00	101483
Hacker Young (Audit 2000/2001)	334.88	101484
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning)	763.75	101485
1 <sup>st</sup> Saughall Guides (delivering Newsletters in hard to reach areas of the Parish)	10.00	101486
Standard Newspapers (Newsletter delivery)	19.74	101487
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	105.76	101488
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	55.20	101489
Guy, Williams, Quiggan (contribution to Deeside Planning Inquiry)	1,175.00	101490
Financial Year 2002/2003	£	Cheque No
Mr C Moss (rent for Parish Room)	437.50	101481
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	401.12	101491
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils	5.00	101492

(b) Receipts

Interest to 23 March 2002 (Treasurer Account)	0.09
Interest to 21 March 2002 (14 day Interest Account)	19.95
Parish Precept	32,601.00
Uniformed Groups Annual Rent	12.00

(c) Parish Council Accounts 2000-2001

It was reported that Hacker Young, the Auditors, had responded to the Council's queries on their letter of recommendations as follows:

The missing vouchers were:

Income	£
10 April 2000 Precept	18,213.00
16 April 2000 Parish Paths Booklet	11.00
30 May 2000 Street Cleaning Grant	1,933.76
8 November 2000 Youth Club Donation	10.00
28 February 2001 Burial Ground Grant	400.00

In response to the query on marking of Parish Council property, the Auditors had informed that whilst they realised it was neither possible nor practical to mark all

Council property i.e. the playing field, they thought it would be good practice if the removable items such as the printer were marked with 'Property of Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council' by engraving or writing on the underside with a permanent ink marker or indelible pen.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(d) Accounts and the Audit Regulations 2001 – DLTR Circular

The Council noted that the main change effecting the Council was the requirement to publish the external Auditor's Annual Audit Letter issued at the end of each audit.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(e) External Audit Arrangements from April 2002, including the Overview of the New Annual Return and Fees

The Council noted that Hacker Young had been appointed to audit all local councils in Cheshire on a 5 year contract.

It was also reported that under the new arrangements it would be necessary for the Council to appoint an Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the appointment of the Internal Auditor be made at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

(f) Conservation Area Enhancement Grant

The Clerk reported that Chester City Council had made an offer of £855, representing 20% of the expenditure of £4,275 to refurbish the Vernon Institute Clock. She had accepted the offer.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to consider if the Clock can be better illuminated.

(g) Un-cashed Cheques

There had been no response to the queries regarding the two un-cashed cheques.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

63 PROPOSED BYELAW – NO BALL GAMES

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that the initiative was progressing through Chester City Council's Legal Section. The proposals would be discussed by the City Council's Cabinet and then the Council itself.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

64 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

RESOLVED:

That as PC Gareth Cooper was not in attendance at the meeting the police report be deferred until the Annual Meeting of the Council.

(b) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick reported that the Homewatch's Open Meeting had been well attended. Superintendent Nick Ingram had been unable to attend and had sent an Inspector instead. Mr McIlwrick had made an appointment to see Superintendent Ingram the following Monday where various concerns regarding Homewatch would be aired.

A resident of the Ridings Estate had written to the Clerk informing of recent trouble and damage caused by nuisance youths congregating on the grassed amenity area at Maplewood Grove. Mr McIlwrick had offered advice and provided Police contact telephone numbers. Unfortunately, it had taken 5 hours to alert the Police.

Mr McIlwrick informed on an incident which had occurred at Easter on the Ridings Estate. A door had been damaged and curtains pulled through a window. Youths had been spoken to. He also told the meeting that someone had tried to remove the wheels from a car in Fieldway the previous weekend.

There was an untaxed Volkswagen Golf being driven around the village by young people – registration number G912 DLV. Members were requested to be vigilant and contact the Police if it was seen.

Members raised concerns over the problems experienced by residents living on the Ridings Estate and registered their disappointment that it had taken so long to get

through to the Police. It was suggested that one option to stop nuisance youth activity on the Maplewood Grove grassed amenity area was a landscaping scheme or perhaps the Community Orchard project suggested by the Tree Warden and discussed at previous meetings. The Tree Warden reported that grants were available but the initiative would require the active support of residents.

It was also reported that the Project Rural Matters Vehicle had been in the village the previous Wednesday. It was nice to have a Police presence in the village but because they were perceived to be infrequent, the public was losing confidence.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr McIlwrick be commended for the support he gives to the village as a whole as Co-ordinator of the Homewatch;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to respond to the resident living on the Ridings Estate informing what actions the Council was taking to try to combat nuisance youth activity in the village;
- (3) the Community Orchard Initiative be considered again when the Council sets its 2003/2004 budget; and
- (4) the Clerk be requested to follow the problem experienced on Maplewood Grove grassed amenity area up with PC Cooper in an attempt to discover why it had taken so long to get in contact with the Police.

## 65 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES ETC

The Chairmen of the Planning and the Finance and General Purposes Committees reported on proceedings at the respective meetings held on 20 and 28 March 2002.

There had been some developments since the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting and Members were brought up to date as follows:

### 25 Best Kept Village/Civic Pride Competition 2002

The Clerk had been in contact with the District Engineer who had admitted that it was his fault that the verge on Long Lane was in such a state – the spoil from the ditch had been dumped on the verge when the ditch had been cleaned out during flooding to reduce the overall water level. He would now process an order and Jarvis would clear the debris, rotivate and then seed the soil. He hoped this would be done before 4 May 2002.

The Clerk had written to the Gardening Club passing on the Council's comments on the excellent display of daffodils on Long Lane and the Secretary, Miss Carlile, had responded accordingly.

### 27 Uniformed Groups

The decision on whether or not to allow the Uniformed Groups to extend their car park had been deferred until the next meeting of the Committee because of

developments regarding land which had come up for sale adjacent to the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field.

#### 29 Millennium Park Land

The Chairman reported that 5.51 acres of land on Fiddlers Lane had unexpectedly come onto the market. It was to be sold at public auction on 23 April 2002.

Councillor RA Storrar had spoken to the Land Agents, Denton Clarke, to ascertain if there were any conditions attached to the land and if the owners would be willing to sell in advance of the auction by private treaty.

The Council then discussed the principle of seeking to acquire the land. It was considered that it was an opportunity that should be pursued. The land was adjacent to land already in the Council's ownership, it had access to mains services, had road frontage and was therefore easily accessible.

#### 31 Rural Housing Working Party

The Council agreed that the date and time of the inaugural meeting of the Rural Housing Working Party be considered at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 13 May 2002.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Minutes of the following Committee meetings be received:

Planning held on 20 March 2002

Finance and General Purposes held on 28 March 2002

and

(2) progress made since the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and following actions identified in respect of the proposed land purchase be agreed:

(a) the Council attempt to buy the land for sale on Fiddlers Lane;

(b) details in respect of (a) above be discussed and agreed in Part 2 of the meeting in the absence of the press and public;

(c) the Clerk be authorised to take the necessary steps to obtain borrowing consent for the price of the land plus £2,000 to meet conveyancing costs etc.; and

(d) the Chairman plus one Members of the Council be authorised to sign any legal agreements drawn up in respect of the purchase of the land.

66 CHESTER RURAL NORTH LOCAL PANEL – THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2002 AT 7:00PM

RESOLVED: That

Councillors Mrs M Anderson, A Bailey, Mrs JE Storrar and RA Storrar be requested to represent the Council at this meeting and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council.

67 CHESTER AREA MEETING – 3 APRIL 2002

It was reported that the general consensus of the Chester Area Meeting was a recognition that Parished areas should be amalgamated with other Parished areas. The City Council's suggestion had been to group Blacon with Saughall and the Council agreed that this proposal was totally inappropriate.

The introduction of Area Committees as envisaged by Chester City Council would lead to a significant change to the way in which local services were delivered. It was important to ensure that the change was advantageous for all areas.

The Government proposed to enhance the role of Parish Councils and increase the list of things which they could claim to do. The recent White Paper "Strong Local Leadership – Quality Public Services" stated:

"We want to work with parishes to help them realise their potential. Many parishes themselves want to do more, and some are already making use of opportunities they now have. We need to ensure that the financial framework does not impede them – and frees them where possible."

It seemed probable that Quality Parish Councils would be able to carry out other functions in addition to those listed by the City Council as suitable for delegation to Area Committees. Concerns had been raised over what the City Council envisaged as the role of the Area Committees in parished areas if they were not to duplicate Parish Council's work. Parish Councils welcomed help and support from Ward Members on local issues, but these were best discussed at Parish Council meetings as at present. The Chester Area Meeting agreed it would be very unhappy if the City Council sought to use Area Committees to take decisions on matters which were the right of the parishes.

The only role that the Chester Area Meeting could see for Area Committees in parished areas was that of co-ordinating and disseminating information. Whereas in non-parished areas they might also act as organiser and provider of services – a completely different task. Because of this fundamental difference the Chester Area Meeting had been unanimous in requesting the boundaries for Area Committees should be chosen so that each Area was either all parished or all non-parished. It thought that the effectiveness of a Committee would be much reduced if it had to deal with the conflicting needs and ways of working of both parished and non-parished parts.

The Chester Area Meeting was also unanimous in urging the City Council very strongly to opt for 9 Area Committees, coincident with its present 9 Local Panels.

Members also reported that discussion at the Area Meeting had focused on Local Strategic Partnerships.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to remind the Secretary, Mr David Norbury, that issues concerning planning proposals and commuted sums to Parish Councils was not discussed at the meeting as promised and suggest an item is included on the agenda for the next Chester Area Meeting.

## 68 HIGHWAY MATTERS

### (a) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road Junction

The Council was monitoring the state of the road surface at the junction. The District Engineer reported that there was no funding available yet for resurfacing work and he would continue to attend to category 1 defects in the usual way.

RESOLVED:

That the District Engineer's report be noted and the state of the road surface at the junction be continued to be monitored.

### (b) School Transport in Saughall

Councillor Mrs BW Bell reported that the school buses were now stopping in the appropriate place.

RESOLVED:

That school transport no longer be monitored on a monthly basis.

### (c) Replacement Bus Shelter Scheme

The Chairman had received a letter dated 5 March 2002 from Ms Joanne Parr, Assistant Countryside Officer at the Countryside Agency. Ms Parr requested the following information before the Council's application could be approved:

“

- ?? Evidence of need – all applications for the Parish Transport Grant required evidence of need from the community. For example, this could be in the form of a simple survey of existing users, asking how the shelters or bus service could be improved, how many people use the bus stops, or letters of support from community members stating how this project would be of benefit, and to how many people.
- ?? A full breakdown of costs, indicating if VAT is applicable (Cheshire County Council will be able to provide this information).
- ?? An indication of how maintenance costs will be met in forthcoming years, I understand this is £250/year/shelter.”

The Clerk had consulted with Ms Jenni Edge, Cheshire County Council's Transport Co-ordination Officer, who had informed that she too had been contacted by Ms Parr for similar information.

Consequently, on 8 March 2002 the Clerk had responded by e-mail to Ms Parr informing her that she was in receipt of both her letters addressed to the Chairman and an exchange of e-mails between herself and Ms Edge and it would appear that some of her questions had already been answered by Ms Edge before she sent the letter to the Chairman!

It had been agreed that the bus shelters were needed following site visits undertaken by officers of the Principal Authority. The very fact it had committed its scarce resources by putting the shelters into the Scheme illustrated they were a priority. The Clerk was aware that Ms Parr had a copy of the Scheme Confirmation letter.

As far as need goes the bus shelter on Church Road was used by 50 people minimum per day and was being replaced because it stood in a puddle and offered no protection from the elements because it faced the wrong way. There was no shelter currently at the Ridings bus stop. The shelter on Hermitage Road was in a dangerous position on a bend and had to be pulled down as a safety measure. 12 people minimum used the bus stop each day so a replacement bus shelter was also considered necessary.

Cheshire County Council had already told Ms Parr that it would pay and then invoice the Parish Council for its contribution. As she was dealing with a parish council then obviously annual maintenance costs would be met from the parish precept.

The Clerk hoped Ms Parr now had all of the information she required to appraise the Parish Council's application.

Unfortunately, the Countryside Agency had failed to respond.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to e-mail the Countryside Agency again to ask why it had not responded to her e-mail of 8 March 2002 and to enquire if it had all the detail it needed to process the application.

(d) Hedge – Aspen Grove

The hedge was still considered dangerous as it was obstructing motorists views.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask the District Engineer if he has had time to access the hedge.

(e) Meadows Lane Verges

Councillor RA Storrar reported that the verges had now been reinstated by the contractor who had lain the gas main.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(f) Church Road – Pedestrian Crossing Assessment

Ms Hallas, Cheshire County Council's Highways Technician, had replied following correspondence regarding the traffic conditions on Church Road, Saughall. She had carried out an initial assessment of the area outside the Thomas Wedge School using the County Council's revised pedestrian crossing criteria.

The assessment was carried out during the two busiest pedestrian hours 8:00-9:00 and 15:00-16:00 as the pedestrian count of these hours would have the greatest impact on the result, and although the two hours 16:00-18:00 had greater traffic flow, the lack of pedestrians crossing would reduce the result. Ms Hallas felt the two hours used would be the hours which would yield the highest results.

The average pv2 result found was 0.13 X 108

The new criteria stated that a result of less than 0.2 X 108 did not require a formal crossing facility, a result over this figure would require further investigation. To reach this figure the number of pedestrians crossing within 50 metres of the proposed crossing point would need to average 135 per hour where it currently averaged 86.

Ms Hallas was sorry she could not be more positive at this time but as the result fell below the minimum criteria value contained in the County's Pedestrian Crossing Policy Highway officers intended to take no further investigative action.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

(g) No 28 Bus Service

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had met with Directors of Chester City Transport and informed of the Parish Council's views over the re-routing of the No 28 bus service.

One of the Directors was going to Wain House on 16 April 2002 to explain about Dial-a-Ride and to discuss the No 28 bus service.

Members considered other possible routes the No 28 bus could take but it was agreed that the Greyhound Park was a more appropriate route.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to progress this matter and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council.

(h) A5117 Deeside Park – Woodbank – Shotwick – Saughall Improvement Scheme

It was reported that the Roads Minister, John Speller MP, had announced that the improvement scheme would comprise new two-level junctions on the A550 (Woodbank), A540 (Little Chef) and the M56 (Dunkirk). Comprehensive facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders would be built. The improvements would cost £22 million and would be completed in 2007, subject to satisfactory completion of statutory procedures. The Highway Agency was also to look at short term measures to improve facilities for local people.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to write to the Highway Agency (copying the Highways Authority in) informing that this Council is delighted with the Improvement Scheme and requesting a traffic light scheme on the Little Chef roundabout as a short term solution.

(i) Cheshire County Council's Draft Interchange Strategy

The County Transport Co-ordinator had written to the Clerk to inform on the Draft Interchange Strategy.

Bus stops, railway stations, park and ride sites, etc. were the places where people joined and left public transport and change between services. These interchanges were a key element in retaining passengers and attracting new ones. Therefore, to meet the Local Transport Plan objective of doubling patronage by 2011, the County Council had ensured that these were to a high standard, convenient and safe to use.

In order to achieve this, the County Council had drafted an Interchange Strategy that set out the range and standard of facilities required at each type of interchange, together with an outline plan for implementation.

Views were now being sought on the Draft Interchange Strategy.

The Chairman reported that he had read the publication and that it was an excellent reference document.

RESOLVED:

That no views be submitted to Cheshire County Council in respect of the Draft Interchange Strategy.

69 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

It was noted that the spring rocker was in two pieces. Mr C Moss of 2 Fiddlers Lane was in attendance at the meeting and was asked to retrieve the broken off part of the rocker and keep it safe.

It was also noted that no quote had yet been received in respect of goal nets, fencing, etc. from Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council.

Currently, there were no drainage problems on the field following the work undertaken by Chester City Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to ask Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council to repair the spring rocker if possible and if it was not possible to supply a quotation for replacement play equipment;
- (2) the Clerk be also requested to ask Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council for a quotation in respect of goal nets, fencing etc.; and
- (3) the field's drainage continue to be monitored on a monthly basis.

(b) Millennium Park Land

The County Property Manager, Mr Ian Gould, had not provided details of the survey work carried out at the County Council's expense on land to the North of Lodge Lane.

RESOLVED:

That if the Council is successful in respect of its purchase of land on Fiddlers Lane, consideration be given to whether or not the Council wishes to buy any part of the land to the North of Lodge Lane, Saughall which is linked to land for affordable housing.

(c) Water Quality

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor the water quality at Hermitage Court.

(d) Street Cleaning and Litter Bins

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor the street cleaning arrangements and litter bins.

(e) Grassed Amenity Areas

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that the Deputy Mayor had planted 5 Jubilee trees on Saughall Hey's grassed amenity area.

Subsequently, one had been uprooted and the Tree Warden had arranged its replanting with Mr Duncan Henderson of Chester City Council. Three residents had volunteered to water the trees.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(f) Notice Boards

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor its notice boards.

(g) Supporting Local Shops

Still no progress had been made and the village Pharmacist had not received any correspondence from the Countryside Agency.

It was also noted that the Winery had now closed. The premises were available to let and if another tenant could be found the Council agreed to do all in its power to support the business and make it a success.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the Countryside Agency and request a progress report.

(h) No Dog Fouling Signs – Aspen Grove

The signs had still not been erected.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

(i) Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000

In response to comments made on the mapping of open countryside the Countryside Agency had informed that it must use the most recent series published on Ordnance Survey and any changes, alterations or upgrades would have to be registered with it and the local authority, before new maps were published.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

70 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications:

(a) 02/00399/FUL/TK

RE: New Cow Cubicle building and open plan silage storage to replace existing facilities and demolition of disused silage tower.

AT: Pitts Farm, Woodbank Lane, Woodbank, Two Mills

RESOLVED:

That the Council inform Chester City Council, the Planning Authority, that it has no objections to this planning proposal.

(b) 02/00402/FUL/RV

RE: Replacement storage shed and removal of shed and containers.

AT: K's Nursery, Coalpit Lane, Saughall

RESOLVED:

That the Council inform Chester City Council, the Planning Authority, that it has no objections to this planning proposal.

71 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee held on 12 March 2002 were received.

Councillor Dobson reported that it was the intention of the Committee to give the Youth Club three months notice to vacate their premises and the Play Group aimed to move in during the Summer.

Councillor RA Storrar informed that as no notice to vacate the premises had been received and as the rent was paid until the end of the year, the Youth Club intended to reopen after Easter.

A letter would be sent by Councillor RA Storrar on behalf of the Youth Club Management Committee to Mr Brian Huxley, Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee, informing him of the Youth Club's intention to re-open, asking if there was any objections to the Youth Club arranging and paying for the necessary repairs to the toilet facilities.

The Vernon Institute management Committee had decided to meet representatives of the Parish Council to discuss the fabric of the Village Hall on Tuesday, 2 April 2002. Unfortunately, they had neglected to inform the Clerk. Consequently, no Members of the Parish Council had attended.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee with a view to rescheduling the joint meeting as soon as possible.

72 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council's Surgeries rota for the next five weeks be as follows:

Date	Member
13 April 2002	Councillor Mrs M Anderson
20 April 2002	Councillor A Bailey
27 April 2002	Councillor RA Storrar
4 May 2002	Councillor B Kerr
11 May 2002	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey

73 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

letter dated 25 March 2002 from the Minister for Rural Affairs, Rt. Hon. Alun Michael MP

Noted.

letter dated 21 March 2002 from Chester City Council's Head of Culture & Leisure, Mr Paul Glover, regarding Sub-Regional Cultural Strategy for Cheshire. The consultation process runs to middle of April 2002.

Noted.

Ecosert Actors and Beneficiaries Questionnaire from Chester City Council.

Noted.

letter dated 18 March 2002 from Cheshire County Council's Local Support Officer, Ms Alison Armstrong, informing of the Chester Area Committee meeting – Tuesday, 9 April 2002, Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chester – 2:00PM

The Chairman would attend and bring a report on the proceedings to the next meeting of the Council.

74 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received. Anyone wishing to see a copy would contact the Clerk.

Chester International Links Association  
Chester City Council's Meeting – 27 March 2002  
Chester City Council's Equal Opportunity Policy  
Chester City Council's Racist Incident Reporting  
Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters – March 2002  
Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Signpost  
Chester Community Safety Partnership – 2002-2005

75 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Item	Paragraph
Proposal for Land Acquisition	(8) Contract Estimates

PART 2 – ITEMS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE DISCUSSED IN THE ABSENCE OF  
THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

76 PROPOSAL FOR LAND ACQUISITION

The Council discussed the initiative to acquire land on Fiddlers Lane (Minute No 65/2002 refers) along with options for doing so and associated estimated costs.

RESOLVED:

That the clerk be authorised to take the action agreed by the Council in an attempt to acquire the land currently for sale on Fiddlers Lane.