

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 10 June 2002 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor JA Marsden  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor R Shukla  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar (Part)  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor Mrs J Young

PC J Guest – Project Rural Matters, Cheshire Constabulary  
Mr B Jones (Acting Homewatch Co-ordinator)

105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs M Anderson  
Councillor CW Eyton  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
PC G Cooper  
Mr C McIlwrick (Homewatch Co-ordinator).

106 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

107 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 May 2002 be confirmed as a correct record.

108 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

109 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Calendar of meetings for the ensuing Municipal Year be approved (Appendix 1);

(2) the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 20 June 2002 be cancelled due to lack of business; and

(3) the Calendar of meetings be kept under review and amended as and when necessary.

110 NALC NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, PRESTON GUILDHALL, 14-16 JUNE 2002

RESOLVED:

That as Councillor C Moss is not now able to attend the NALC Conference, Councillor Mrs J Young be authorised to attend with the Chairman.

111 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 13 May 2002:

Financial Year 2002/2003	£	Cheque No
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (Local Council Review for the Clerk)	9.99	101507
Cheshire Community Council (Membership Fee)	50.00	101508
United Utilities (Water Rates)	9.39	101509
Saughall Homewatch (Annual contribution)	150.00	101510
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning)	763.75	101511
Mr C Moss (Brackets for hanging baskets)	11.94	101512
JB Joyce & Co (clock maintenance)	176.25	101513
Mr A Bailey (reimbursement for hotel Accommodation at NALC Conference)	236.00	101514
K2 Network Services Ltd (toner cartridges)	158.63	101515
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	441.01	101516
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	81.68	101517

(b) Receipts

Interest to 23 May 2002 (Treasurer Account)	0.13
Interest to 22 May 2002 (14 day Interest Account)	76.93

(c) Internal Auditor

Mr H Dobson has been invited to be the Council's independent Internal Auditor. Although he had not yet officially accepted the appointment Councillor Mrs P Humphrey informed that he had indicated to her that he was willing to take up the position. Councillor Mrs Humphrey agreed to ask Mr Dobson to contact the Clerk.

(d) External Auditor Appointment from April 2002

The Clerk informed that she had received the official appointment of the External Auditor from April 2002 – Hacker Young – from the Audit Commission.

## 112 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

### (a) Police

PC J Guest, assigned to Project Rural Matters by the Constabulary, informed the meeting of two recent burglaries in Kingswood Avenue. PC Guest was asked and agreed to visit a resident of the village who was experiencing problems with nuisance youths.

PC G Cooper, who was not in attendance at the meeting, had sent a written report informing on a small amount of car crime and some burglary of dwellings in the area. He urged people to remember to close and lock windows and doors during warm spells.

### (b) Homewatch

Mr Brian Jones represented the Homewatch at the meeting as its Acting Chairman in the absence of Mr McIlwrick. A garden had been trashed in Smithy Close and some cars had been burnt out and left in the village.

It was noted that the Homewatch was in limbo currently and not much was happening.

Members conveyed their best wishes to Mr McIlwrick and his family at this difficult time and offered any support they could.

## 113 PROPOSED BYELAW – NO BALL GAMES

The Council noted the content of a report to Chester City Council's Cabinet Meeting on 30 May 2002. Councillor RA Storrar reported that the Cabinet had approved the proposal.

The proposal would now go before Chester City Council for determination. It was noted that the City Council did not wish to set a president for other Parish Council's in its area.

Councillor RA Storrar also reported that he understood that a condition had been laid down and the new byelaw would only come into force when the additional land, recently purchased by the Parish Council, was brought up to an appropriate standard and available for recreational use. The Parish Council was not happy about the condition as it considered that there was already recreational land available at Fiddlers Lane Playing Field and at the bottom of Sea Hill Road to accommodate ball games until the recently acquired land could be developed for the purpose.

Councillor B Kerr reported that there had been extensive press coverage which had been encouraging. Also he had received a lot of telephone calls from people who supported the introduction of the byelaw.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

114 PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Golden Jubilee Park Panel be the core membership of the Parish Plan Steering Group to take the Parish Plan initiative forward and make recommendations to Council;
- (2) the Parish Plan Action List be revised (Appendix 2);
- (3) arrangements to be put in hand to hold the inaugural meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group once the organisations in the village asked to nominate representatives to the Group have considered the request and responded to the Clerk; and
- (4) a report be made on the Parish Plan to the next meeting of the Council.

115 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road Junction

The Council considered the current state of the road surface at the junction. It was noted that there were a number of potholes on Fiddlers Lane and on Hermitage Road too.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk arrange for the District Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, to contact Councillor B Kerr with a view to arranging an inspection of the village highways with Councillor C Moss also in attendance.

(b) Replacement Bus Shelter Scheme

It was noted that the Countryside Agency had now made a formal offer and the Clerk had accepted it.

Concerns were raised over the length of time Cheshire County Council's contractors were taking to carry out the necessary work associated with the bus shelters' erection.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ascertain a completion date for the work being carried out.

(c) No 28 Bus Service

Councillor RA Storrar reported that not a lot of progress had been made since the last meeting. He would continue to make representations over the re-routing of the service. He reminded the Council that no complaints had been received about the revised service at the Annual Parish Assembly.

(d) Deeside Park Junctions Study

The Highways Agency had informed the Clerk that it did not have the funds to undertake temporary works i.e. a temporary traffic light scheme on the roundabout - A540/A5117 junction. The Clerk had replied registering the Council's dissatisfaction over the decision not to introduce temporary measures. The Highways Agency had responded informing that it had limited funding.

The Council considered that the Highways Agency's response was less than adequate. There had been serious accidents on the roundabout in the past. It was felt that it was only a matter of time before there was a fatality at the junction unless interim measures were put in place, pending the major scheme scheduled for completion in 2007, at the earliest.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Christine Russell MP (and copy the letter to the Member of Parliament for Ellesmere Port and Neston, Andrew Miller MP, whose constituents were frequent users of the junction) asking her to try to obtain a more satisfactory answer from the Highways Agency than the one the Parish Council had received.

(e) Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee for Chester, Thursday, 30 May 2002 at 6:60 pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chester

RESOLVED:

That the detail of the agenda for the above meeting be noted.

(f) Proposed Pelican Crossing at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School

It was reported that the School's Governing Body was still keen to see the introduction of a Pelican Crossing on the road outside the School on Church Road. It was feared that there was an accident waiting to happen.

The Council was reminded that Miss Kay Hallas, a technician in Cheshire County Council's Traffic & Transportation Section, had carried out an initial assessment using the County Council's revised pedestrian crossing criteria. The result had failed to reach the minimum criteria value contained in the County Council's Pedestrian Crossing Policy and consequently Miss Hallas would not take any further investigative action.

As Members and School Governors remained unhappy that there was no crossing on a very busy stretch of road the Council considered what further action it could take.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk request, on behalf of the Council, that an item be included on the next agenda for the Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee for Chester so that concerns about lack of crossing facilities on a very busy road can be aired.

(h) Overgrown Hedges

It was reported that hedges at 123 and 158 Hermitage Road were obstructing the pathway and pedestrians had to step onto the road to pass by.

RESOLVED:

That the overgrown hedges be brought to the attention of the District Engineer and he be asked to take appropriate action.

116 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

(i) The Spring Rocker

It was noted that the Spring Rocker had still not been mended and returned to the field. The delay was unacceptable. Also there were cracks on the seats of some of the swings and the paint work was in a poor condition.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council and bring the situation to its attention, obtain a date for the return of the spring rocker and raise concerns that the weekly inspection report had not identified problems with the swings.

(ii) Drainage Problems

There were no problems identified with the field drainage at the current time.

(iii) The Future of the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the future use of the field be deferred until after the Saughall Parish Rural Housing Working Group has met on 24 June 2002.

(b) Golden Jubilee Park

(i) Golden Jubilee Park Panel

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference proposed by the Golden Jubilee Park Panel be approved.

(ii) Land in the Ownership of Mrs J Johnson

The Clerk had received a letter from Mrs Johnson's Solicitor formally enquiring when the Council expected to commence work needed to fence off her land and asking about fencing specifications.

RESOLVED:

That Mrs Johnson's Solicitor be informed that as soon as Mrs Johnson obtains the necessary planning approval the Council will put up a gate and an appropriate fence will be provided in due course.

(c) Street Cleaning and Litter Bins

Members were concerned that the Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council employee who delittered the village was selective in what he picked up.

It was reported that the pathway from Smithy Close to Church Road needed urgent delittering.

It was also noted that the litter bin at the bus terminus had been vandalised and had now disappeared.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Mr Archie Drummond at Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council regarding the issues raised above and authorising the provision of a new litter bin at the bus terminus.

(d) Notice Boards

The notice board at the Woodvale Store would not lock.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Ebbrell be requested to attend to the notice board at the Woodvale Store.

(e) Supporting Local Shops

The Countryside Agency had not replied to the Clerk's letter asking for detail of any progress made in respect of the Saughall Pharmacy.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Countryside Agency again.

117 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Minutes of the following Committees and Panels meetings be received:

Planning Committee held on 13 May 2002;  
Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 May 2002;  
Golden Jubilee Park Panel held on 27 May 2002; and

(2) the decision to decline the offer to purchase land adjoining that recently purchased by the Council, at the present time be reaffirmed. (Minute of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 38/2002 (3) refers)

118 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Minutes of the meetings of the Vernon Institute Management Committee held on 9 April and 14 May 2002 be received;

(2) Councillor A Warrington be requested to attend the next meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee scheduled for 11 May 2002 on behalf of the Council; and

(3) a response from Mr Brain Huxley, Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee, in respect of the Council's request for a meeting about the work plan and fabric of the Vernon Institute building be awaited.

119 SAUGHALL YOUTH CLUB

Councillor RA Storrar informed that the Youth Club since it re-opened was only attracting the younger village children between the ages of 11 and 16 year old. The older children originally expected to use the facility were not attending primarily because it was frequented by the younger element.

There was a shortage of volunteers and consequently the Youth Club was only able to open one evening a week.

To date the Youth Club had been unable to obtain residual funds of the previous youth project. Councillor RA Storrar was pursuing this with those concerned.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

120 YOUTH FORUM

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Youth Forum initiative be put on hold for the present; and

(2) Councillors RA Storrar and Mrs D Whitton be requested to invite one or two of the older youths of the village to sit on the Parish Plan Panel.

121 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
15 June 2002	Councillor A Warrington
22 June 2002	Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar
29 June 2002	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
6 July 2002	Councillor A Bailey

## 122 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- letter dated 14 May 2002 from Public Works Loan Board confirming a fixed rate loan.

Noted.

- letter dated 20 May 2002 from Allington Hughes Solicitors informing that the purchase of land on Fiddlers Lane has been completed and asking if the Land Certificate is to stay in their strong room or whether it is to be forwarded to the Clerk.

Clerk to ask that the Land Certificate be sent to her.

- letter dated 31 May 2002 from Chester City Council's Local Panel North – Lead Officer Mr Clive Roberts, regarding grant aid opportunities in respect of the Local Panel Project Funding.

Bid made in respect of the Saughall Youth Club. Noted.

- letter dated 29 May 2002 from Public Works Loan Board regarding its change of address.

Noted.

- letters dated 30 May 2002 from Chester City Council's Development Support Officer regarding grants in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park.

Noted.

- letter dated 6 June 2002 from Mr DF Bell agreeing to represent the Youth Club on the Golden Jubilee Park Panel.

Noted.

- letter dated 6 June 2002 from Mr Ian Gould, County Property Officer, re. land to the North of Lodge Lane, Saughall

Clerk to reply to further clarify the situation.

- letter and consultation paper from DLTR on Local Investigation and Determination of Misconduct Allegations – comments by 1 July 2002.

Noted.

## 123 CIRCULARS

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

Chester City Council's The Past Uncovered - June 2002

Cheshire Police Authority Minutes of the Chester Police Forum held on 15 April 2002

Cheshire Community Council's Parish Network

Cheshire Community Council's Membership Benefits

Cheshire Community Council's Cheshire Cauldron Newsletter