

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 14 October 2002 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson
Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor CW Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor JA Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington

Mr B Jones (Acting Homewatch Co-ordinator)

179 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

180 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor C Moss declared an interest in respect of item 19 on the agenda - Parish Room of which he was the landlord.

The Councillor agreed that consideration of the Parish Room item (amongst others) would be deferred until the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 4 November 2002.

181 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 September 2002 be confirmed as a correct record.

182 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 2 September 2002:

Financial Year 2002/2003	£	Cheque No
United Utilities	12.37	101535
Mr B Ebbrell (Bus Shelter roof repairs)	35.00	101536
Chester City Council (to guarantee two places on A training course, non-attendance will mean return Of the cheque)	20.00	101537
Mr B Ebbrell (Notice Board repairs)	11.00	101538
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	414.61	101539
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	65.73	101540
Mr C Moss (3 months rent for Parish Room)	437.50	101541
Inland Revenue	473.55	101542
Chester City Council (Rates for Parish Room)	105.00	DD

(b) Receipts

Interest to 24 September 2002 (Treasurer Account)	0.08
Interest to 21 September 2002 (14 day Interest Account)	78.24

(c) Friday Club

Mr Keith Stinson had written to the Clerk requesting that the Council give consideration to making a financial contribution to the Friday Club's Christmas Dinner.

RESOLVED:

That the Council contribute £100 towards the cost of the Friday Club's Christmas Dinner.

(d) Street Orderly – Grant Aid Scheme 2002/03

The Council notes that following the Local Government Employees pay rise, the hourly rate for a street cleaner was as follows:

1 April 2002 – 30 September 2002 - £5.00 per hour
1 October 2002 – 31 March 2003 - £5.10 per hour

These amounts would be used when the Clerk claimed the Street Cleaning grant from Chester City Council.

(e) Gratuities

RESOLVED:

That payments be made to Mr W Abram (£25) and Mrs M Abram (£70) in appreciation of the voluntary work carried out winding the clock and in the library.

184 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Gareth Cooper was not in attendance at the meeting and had not sent the Clerk a written report as agreed.

(b) Homewatch

Mr Brian Jones informed of incidents that had occurred in the village since the last meeting of the Council and in particular on a fire at Poplars Farm which had caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

(c) Chester Police Forum

Members who had attended the last Police Forum presented a report on its proceedings. The Council was informed as following:

- ?? Chester City Council was to appoint a full time Homewatch manager
- ?? the mobile CCTV transit van would cover the rural areas
- ?? progress regarding CCTV in the City Centre

Superintendent Steve Ingram had informed that if a Parish Council was concerned about its relationship with the Police it should refer its concerns to Chief Inspector Dave Hill.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

185 BYELAW – NO BALL GAMES

The Council monitored the situation regarding the newly implemented byelaw. Signage was in place and on the whole it was operating well.

RESOLVED:

That this item be removed from future Council agenda.

186 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Area 10, Trunk Roads and Motorway Maintenance
A5117 Shotwick to M56 Carriageway Repairs

The Council received documentation sent by Atkins Highways and Transportation, who were acting as agents for the Highways Agency. They were currently reviewing a road renewal scheme on the A5117 between the Welsh Border (including the small section of the A550) and M56. These works were essential

for the efficient maintenance of this stretch of road as expensive temporary repairs were now being carried out with increased frequency.

The scheme had been designed to keep the carriageway in a safe condition until the implementation of a the major improvement works currently being designed for the A550/A5117, A5117/A540 and the A5117/M56.

Work would be carried out in 4 phases and all through traffic both into and out of Wales would be diverted onto the A55 and M53 to bypass the A5117. Works were planned for mid-November and programmed to last for 4 weeks with all traffic management being restricted to between 21:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided by Atkins Highways and Transportation be noted.

(b) No 28 Bus Service

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had held a meeting with Mr Stuart Hyslop, Managing Director, Chester City Transport to discuss the route of the No 28 Bus Service.

The Service was heavily used and there were no plans to use the old route in the foreseeable future. There were still problems on Whipcord Lane but Mr Hyslop was not inclined to divert the service through the Greyhound Park.

The Council considered it more appropriate for the No 28 bus to drop off at the end of Stadium Way and to go up Sealand Road. The evidence was that few passengers were picked up on the Stanford Road division whilst the bulk of passengers were picked up on the rest of the route.

Councillor RA Storrar also reported that he had discussed Dial-a-Ride with the Warden at Wain House. The residents of Wain House did not see a need for this service at the current time.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to continue discussions with Mr Hyslop in the hope that the No 28 bus can be re-diverted from Whipcord Lane and use Sealand Road instead.

(c) A540 Speed De-restriction Order

This was an initiative of Puddington & District Parish Council. The Chairman had met with the Chairman of that Council and reported that the matter would be discussed at the November 2002 meeting of the Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee for Chester. It was also reported that Mr Eddie Jenkins (Puddington & District Vice-Chairman) had been co-opted onto the Cheshire County Council Committee which dealt with speed limits, etc.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Proposed Pelican Crossing - Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School

There was no progress to report. Councillor RA Storrar and County Councillor David Rowlands intended to pursue this initiative together.

RESOLVED:

That the current situation be noted.

(e) Overgrown Hedges - Hermitage Road to Blacon Boundary

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Gerald Williams to cut back his hedge; and

(2) Councillor A Marsden be requested to approach the owner of a hedge opposite the Egerton Arms Public House and request that it be cut back.

(f) Sea Hill Road Pothole

It was reported that there was a pothole on Sea Hill Road beside Fernlea.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to bring the pothole to the attention of the District Engineer.

(g) Church Road Bus Shelter

It was reported that there was another hole in the roof of the bus shelter. Mr Ebbrell had reported that it was rotten and could no longer be repaired.

RESOLVED: That

(1) new bus shelter provision be discussed with the County Transport Co-ordinator at the appropriate time; and

(2) Councillor Mrs M Anderson be requested to paint the bus shelter roof with anti-vandal paint and put up a notice informing of the action taken.

187 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

The play equipment was being inspected on a weekly basis and was satisfactory.

(b) Golden Jubilee Park

Councillors B Kerr and C Moss had met on site with representatives of contractors WE Parsons and Mike Harris. Both had indicated that they would be submitting quotations for the development work required.

Councillors B Kerr and C Moss had also met with the District Engineer to agree the best position, road safety wise, for the gate needed by Mr & Mrs Johnson to access their land.

Councillor RA Storrar reported that when Chester City Council Planners received the planning application for change of use from agricultural to recreational they would be making a site visit.

The Chairman took the Council through the planning application and the Clerk was requested to submit it.

It was suggested that the Council plan a hedge as well as a fence to divide the land between itself and neighbouring landowners.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the status of the planning application be noted; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to Mrs Johnson requesting that she meet with Councillor B Kerr so she can be shown the best place for her gate so that she can remove hedging in readiness of the gate and posts being erected.

(c) Best Kept Village Competition – Awards 26 September 2002

It was reported that the Council had come fifth in its class.

The nature of the competition would change from next year and awards would be for the most vibrant community rather than the prettiest.

Councillor B Kerr informed that he would be chairing a Chester Community Council meeting to plan the way ahead at 7:30pm on 3 December 2002 at the Hayhurst Room, Northwich Memorial Hall and Council representatives were invited to attend.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the village's position in this year's Best Kept Village Competition be noted; and
- (2) Councillors A Bailey and Mrs J Young be requested to represent the Council at the meeting scheduled for 3 December 2002 on the future of the Best Kept Village Competition.

[Following the Council meeting the Clerk was informed that the meeting scheduled to take place on 3 December 2002 in Northwich had been postponed

due to illness. A new date would be agreed and communicated to the Clerk in due course.]

(d) Litter Bins

It was reported that the litter bin at the Ridings bus stop had been removed. There would now be a cooling off period and neither it nor the bin recently removed from the bus terminus would be replaced at the present time but the situation would be kept under review.

RESOLVED:

That the bin provision be reviewed in 2003.

(e) Tree Warden Report

Councillor CW Eyton reported that the Golden Jubilee Trees continued to survive. He had disposed of a number of trees that had inexplicably died. Also some trees which had fallen on Hermitage Road had been removed. Two trees had been lost at the entrance to Saughall Hey.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received;

(2) the Clerk be requested to alert the District Engineer to the tree with dead branches overhanging the A540, 40 yards from the junction on Long Lane; and

(3) the Clerk be requested to write to the vicar, Revd David Hay, asking him to cut back his tree which is obstructing the street light on Church Road.

(f) Passageway – Lodge Lane

Councillor C Moss reported that the passageway between 12 and 14 Fieldway was being used by young people causing a nuisance. This was effecting the quality of life of the residents. It was not a public right of way and was not adopted. The land belonged to the Housing Trust.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Chester and District Housing Trust informing it that this Council is supportive of the passageway at Fieldway being “shut off”.

(g) Cheshire Playing Fields Association
AGM – 7 October 2002

The Chairman and Councillor B Kerr had attended the Cheshire Playing Fields Association’s Annual General Meeting and found it quite useful. The Council had been mentioned at this meeting when those in attendance were told that the Association was assisting with the Golden Jubilee Park initiative. Mr Ray Easby,

the Association's Technical Adviser, had also been attendance and had informed that when the Council let its contract for development works he would be willing to act as the technical adviser for the project.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(h) Baptist Graveyard, Hermitage Road

Councillor A Warrington reported that the Baptist Graveyard on Hermitage Road was being used as a tipping ground for garden rubbish. Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had informed Chester City Council's Parks and Open Spaces Department who had agreed to tidy up the graveyard and remove the offending rubbish.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the position be noted; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to include an item in the next newsletter to dissuade people from dumping rubbish in the graveyard.

(i) Construction of Vehicular 'Crossover' Point at Saughall Hey

The Clerk had received no further information but Councillor RA Storrar reported that he believed that this proposal would go ahead.

188 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
19 October 2002	Councillor Mrs M Anderson/ CW Eyton
26 October 2002	Councillor C Moss
2 November 2002	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey

189 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- letter dated 13 September 2002 from Ray Dodd, Company Secretary, Cheshire Community Council re. Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 16 October 2002, 7:30pm at Goodwill Hall, nr Nantwich.

Councillor B Kerr to represent the Council.

- letter dated 24 September 2002 from Ms L Jewsbury, Project Support Officer, Chester City Council, enclosing invitations for the Parish Partnership Reception on Wednesday, 27 November 2002, Assembly Room, Town Hall, Chester, 7:30pm.

Councillors Mrs M Anderson, CW Eyton, A Bailey, C Moss and B Kerr to attend and bring a report on proceedings back to the Council.

190 NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting would be as advertised at 7:30pm on Monday, 4 November 2002 and would consider those items on the agenda not considered at this meeting because of time constraints.