

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 4 November 2002 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance:

Councillor CW Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor JA Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs J Young

Mr B Jones (Acting Homewatch Co-ordinator)

191 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs M Anderson
Councillor A Bailey
Councillor R Shukla

192 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor C Moss declared an interest in respect of item No 16 on the agenda - Parish Room – as he owns the property. He left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed.

193 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2002:

Financial Year 2002/2003	£	Cheque No
ITK Ltd (Internet Services) (Hosting domain for one year)	147.25	101543
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance)	1,185.35	101544
Chester City Council (Planning Application – change of use)	110.00	101545
Mrs M Abrams (Gratuity - Section 137)	70.00	101546
Mr W Abrams (Gratuity – Section 137)	25.00	101547
Oak Tree Nursery (Hanging Basket Maintenance)	200.00	101548
Mrs J Young (Spring Bulbs)	50.00	101549
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	414.83	101550
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	56.15	101551
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning)	789.21	101552
The Saughall Day Centre (Donation to Christmas Dinner – Section 137)	100.00	101553

Financial Year 2002/2003	£	Cheque No
Mrs P Humphrey (Signage for Golden Jubilee Park)	19.59	101554
Chester City Council (Planning Application – Uniform Group HQ)	55.00	101555
Chester City Council (Rates for Parish Room)	105.00	DD
Public Works Loan Board (Golden Jubilee Park) (From 14-day Interest Account)	1,828.09	DD

(b) Receipts

Interest to 24 October 2002 (Treasurer Account)	0.08
Interest to 21 October 2002 (14 day Interest Account)	71.56

(c) SLCC/NALC Salary Awards 2002/2003

The Council noted that the Local Government Pay Award 2002 and 2003 had been agreed. The new pay scales had been requested.

194 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

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

(b) Homewatch

Mr Brian Jones reported that he had distributed forms and letters to Homewatch Co-ordinators and requested that incidents be logged and forms returned to him on a monthly basis. The Homewatch was to be re-launched and there would be a press release to this effect. The public must be encouraged to report incidents and suspicions to the Police and when appropriate obtain an incident number.

Mr Jones reported the details of a disturbed burglary to the Council, incidents in Greenway where youths had driven cars at speed during the night, along with nuisance activity that had taken place on Halloween. He also informed that there had been an increase in police presence in the village over recent weeks.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

(c) Police Response/Nuisance Activity

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar and Mr Brian Jones had attended a recent meeting with Inspector Geoff Williams in an attempt to iron out communication problems being experienced by both the Parish Council and the Homewatch. The Inspector had been told that the general feeling in the village was that it was not getting adequate police support.

The Inspector had agreed to remedy the situation recognising that communication was a two way process. He promised that when the Rural Police Officer was unable to attend Council meetings he would submit a written report to the Clerk so that the Council could be kept up to date with Police activity in the village and surrounding areas, criminal behaviour and current policing activities and initiatives. The Inspector had provided his e-mail address and request that Councillor Mrs Storrar and Mr Jones contact him direct when they deemed it appropriate.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Inspector Geoff Williams informing him that this Council accepts the fact that the Rural Police Officer is not able to attend all Council meetings but understands that a written report will be submitted if attendance is not possible and telling him that there has been two Council meetings since he met with the Council's representative and no written reports have been received.

(d) Community Safety Committee

RESOLVED:

That the meeting of the Community Safety Committee scheduled for 8 January 2003 go ahead and Inspector Geoff Williams be informed and sent an agenda.

195 GRASSED AMENITY AREA - GREENWAY

Councillor RA Storrar undertook to find out if the grassed amenity area was the responsibility of the Chester District Housing Trust.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to clarify the situation at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 2 December 2002.

196 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) New Access for Mr & Mrs Johnson

Councillor B Kerr and Mrs J Johnson agreed to meet on site to establish where the gateway would be in the interest of safety.

(b) Golden Jubilee Park Planning Application

The application for change of use from agricultural to recreational had been submitted to Chester City Council – the Planning Authority.

(c) Uniform Group Headquarters – Planning Application

The application for permission for junior sporting groups to use the facilities had been submitted to Chester City Council – the Planning Authority.

The Clerk had received a response from Chester City Council's Development Control Manager setting out a number of queries which the Council discussed and decided upon.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to respond to Chester City Council as appropriate.

(d) Quotations for the Golden Jubilee Park's Development

It was reported that four quotations had been received and a decision would need to be made on whom to award the contract.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman agree a mutually convenient date in November 2002 for a Special Meeting of the Council to let the Golden Jubilee Park contract for development and inform Members accordingly.

197 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED: That

(1) the following Minutes be received:

Planning Committee held on 2 September and 2 October 2002;
Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19 September 2002;
Saughall Parish Rural Housing Working Group held on 25 September 2002;
Golden Jubilee Park Panel held on 3 October 2002;

and

(2) a meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Panel be scheduled after the Special Council meeting has taken place in November 2002.

198 NEW LOW COST HOUSING IN SAUGHALL TO MEET LOCAL NEED

It was reported that the situation had moved on since the last meeting of the Saughall Parish Rural Housing Working Group which had been held on 25 September 2002. To clarify the situation exactly in respect of allocation policy for any new low cost housing built in the village Mrs Alison Amesbury of Chester City Council had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Housing Working Group scheduled for 6:00pm on 9 December 2002.

Following the meeting referred to above, the Council would formulate its stance on the proposed development on Lodge Lane for submission to the City Council Planning Department.

It was agreed that although the Council had received a request from Mrs Amesbury that a representative of the Arena Housing Association be allowed to attend the 9 December 2002 meeting and make a presentation, it would not be appropriate at this stage. It was a possibility for a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be considered further by the Council at its 5 January 2003 meeting in light of proceedings of the Saughall Rural Housing Working Group meeting held on 9 December 2002.

199 SAUGHALL YOUTH CLUB

Councillor RA Storrar provided the Council with a report on current activities and attendance at the Saughall Youth Club.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Council be requested to consider making a donation to assist Christmas activities (Section 137) and paying a gratuity as appropriate at its meeting scheduled for 2 December 2002.

200 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
9 November 2002	Councillor CW Eyton
16 November 2002	Councillor Mrs D Whitton
23 November 2002	Councillor Mrs J Johnson
30 November 2002	Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
7 December 2002	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey

201 RURAL SERVICE STANDARDS 2002

The Council received a letter from the Rt. Hon. Alun Howard MP informing of the Government's recent publication Rural Services Standard 2002 and the Countryside Agency's recent publication Rural services Standard First Progress Report 2001/02.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Rt. Hon. Alun Howard MP's letter be noted.

202 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- 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

All Members available to attend.

- letter undated from Chester City Council's Funding Compact Co-ordinator re. Grant Aid to the Voluntary and Community Sector 2003-04.

Noted.

- letter dated 30 September 2002 from Ms S Booth of Chester City Council's Members' Services informing that the next meeting of Chester Rural North Local Panel will be held on Thursday, 21 November 2002 at the Village Hall, Barrow commencing at 7:00pm.

Noted.

- letter from Ms A Stuart thanking the Council for its £50 contribution towards Saughall's entry in the Lord Mayor's Show.

Noted.

- letter informing of 1 day conference – Develop Your Community on 28 November 2002 – Manchester.

No-one to attend.

- letter informing of seminar on Affordable Housing in Rural Areas, 28 November 2002, Earle Street, Crewe.

Councillors B Kerr, Mrs D Whitton and C Moss to attend.

203 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

The following circulars had been received anyone who wanted a copy would contact the Clerk:

Chester City Council's Parish Bulletin - Autumn 2002

Chester County Council's Local Transport Plan 2001 - 2006 Annual Progress Report

Cheshire County Council's - Chester Matters October 2002

Chester City Council's Meeting 18 September 2002

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Approval Documents

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Guidance and Methodology

Housing Trust News – September 2002

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Rural Touring Network Autumn Programme 2002

Commission for Racial Equality – A Guide for Public Authorities (Deposited in the Parish Room)

Cheshire Community Council – Financial Support for Rural Communities

Cheshire Community Council – Making a difference to lives of children and young people in Cheshire – Warrington

Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters September 2002

Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee agenda Friday, 27 September 2002 at 4:30pm, Palatine Room, Twin Hall, Chester

Cheshire County Council's Environment September 2002

Councillor C Moss left the meeting.

204 PARISH ROOM

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to further consider whether or not to give up the Parish Room in the light of a new proposal put forward by the landlord Mr C Moss.
- (2) a recommendation be made by the Committee at (1) to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 2 December 2002.

Councillor C Moss returned to the meeting.

205 VERNON INSTITUTE

The Finance and General Purposes Committee had **RECOMMENDED** that the Council:

- “(a) reassign its priorities to, and through partnership working, offer as much support as it is able to facilitate the improvements needed to bring the Vernon Institute up to an appropriate standard befitting of a village hall in the twenty first century; and
- (b) if the Council is agreeable to (a) above, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the various proposals already considered by the Committee and agree a possible rescue strategy be further explored.”

It was noted that the Vernon Institute Management Committee was holding its Annual General Meeting on 12 November 2002 at 7:30pm at the Vernon Institute.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) as many Parish Councillors as possible attend the Annual General Meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee on 12 November 2002;
- (2) this Council encourage as many villagers as possible to get involved with the Vernon Institute through the medium of its newsletter; and
- (3) this matter be considered in detail at the next meeting of the Council on 2 December 2002 along with the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting and a decision be made.