

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 5 January 2004 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

County Councillor D Rowlands
Mr C McIlwrick (Homewatch Co-ordinator)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

2 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor B Kerr declared an Interest in any matter that involved the Cheshire Community Council. He was its Chairman.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2003 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not already listed on the agenda.

5 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2003:

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Mr W Abram (Gratuity re. clock winding)	25.00	101664
Mrs M Abram (Gratuity re. library)	70.00	101665
Chester City Council (Newsletter printing)	203.30	101666
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	18.80	101667
ABC Pest Control (Moles)	105.00	101668

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Rural Services (Tree work)	88.00	101669
Mr C Moss (Rent for Parish Room)	312.50	101670
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	72.01	101671
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	540.92	101672
Inland Revenue	747.14	101673

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 December 2003 (14 Day Account)	29.87
Interest to 23 December 2003 (Treasurer Account)	0.35

(c) Business Rates Payment January 2004

The Clerk has received a letter dated 23 December 2003 from Chester City Council's Customer Services Manager, Mr T Marland, informing that the payment due on 1 January 2004 in respect of the rates had been incorrectly taken from the Treasurer Account on 23 December 2003. Arrangements were in hand to rectify the situation.

6 REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH COUNCILS

The Clerk had received a letter dated 26 November 2003 from Chester City Council's Strategic Director (Resources), Mr J Cassin, informing that his Council had agreed to undertake a review of its financial arrangements with parish councils in order to identify possible solutions to avoid "double taxation". A consultation exercise was underway and a response was requested by 26 January 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to respond to Mr Cassin informing that "double taxation" is a significant issue for Saughall, welcoming the initiative and recommending that a Joint Panel be established comprising officers/Members of the City Council and representatives from parish councils to consider the matter in detail.

7 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Robin Fisher was not in attendance and had not sent a report.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact PC Fisher to ascertain why he had not attended the meeting nor sent his apologies.

(b) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick reported on progress being made in respect of the village's Homewatch. There were a number of ongoing initiatives and systems were being put in place. He asked that any missing or faded Homewatch signs be reported to him so that arrangements could be made to improve the signage where necessary.

PC Fisher would be contacted shortly with a view to improving the two way flow of information.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour/Nuisance Youth Activity/Under-Age Drinking – Monitoring

It was reported that the new bus shelter on Church Road was being used as a Youth Shelter on a nightly basis. Youths were causing damage, graffiti and deterring villagers from using the shelter when waiting for the bus.

It was noted that some of the bus shelters were being used as toilets.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to ask PC Fisher to monitor the activity in the bus shelters; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to ask Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council for a quote to spray 3 bus shelters with disinfectant on a monthly basis.

(d) Memorandum of Understanding

The Council welcomed the joint agreement between the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils and the Cheshire Constabulary. This was the result of a motion put forward at the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Town and Parish Councils requesting that such a charter be drawn up.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Memorandum of Understanding be noted.

8 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Committee meetings be received:

Planning Committee held on 1 December 2003

Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 December 2003

9 WILLOW NOOK HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Councillor RA Storrar reported that Gleeson Homes Limited were building 29 luxurious homes on the former Caxios site just over the border in North Wales. Although the new homeowners would pay rates in Flintshire they would be able to enjoy the facilities available in Saughall.

Members considered the possibility of asking Gleeson's to make a financial contribution to the Golden Jubilee Park development that, once completed, would be available to residents of Willow Nook.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Gleeson Homes Limited to inform them of the Council's proposal to develop sports and recreational facilities on Fiddlers Lane and request a financial contribution to aid the scheme.

10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF TWO TIER AREAS IN THE NORTH WEST – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council considered a letter from the Boundary Committee dated 1 December 2003 informing that, after having considered the representations received during the initial stage of the review of the two-tier areas in the North West, the Committee had published its draft recommendation for Cheshire. The Clerk had received a copy of the Draft Recommendations Report and the accompanying Overview Report.

The consultation period would last twelve weeks and any representations must be submitted to the Boundary Committee by 23 February 2004. The draft recommendations may be refined or varied, in the light of further evidence received, in the Committee's final recommendation.

Under the legislation governing this review, arrangements for parish and town councils remained unaffected.

RESOLVED:

That the Boundary Committee's recommendations be considered as an additional item of business at the Council's Budget meeting scheduled for 19 January 2004.

11 CHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S HOUSING REGISTER POLICY

The Finance and General Purposes Committee had recommended (Minute No 56/2003 refers) that Mrs A Amesbury of Chester City Council be requested to suggest an appropriate person from the Chester & District Housing Trust to give a presentation and answer questions on the Housing Register Policy, specifically in relation to Saughall.

The Council was keen to protect the interests of residents of Saughall when affordable housing became available in the village.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee be agreed;

(2) Members of the Committee be requested to bring their Housing Register Policy with them to the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 12 February 2004; and

- (3) County Councillor D Rowlands be requested to ascertain from the County Property Officer what progress, if any, had been made in respect of Arena's offer to buy land off Lodge Lane.

12 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Golden Jubilee Park Funding Working Party

It was reported that the next meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Funding Working Party would be held at 6:30pm on Thursday, 8 January 2004.

(b) Living Spaces

An application pack had been received in respect of Living Space. The Clerk had passed it to Mr Derek Bird and it would be the subject of discussion at the next meeting of the Working Party.

(c) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field – Deeds

The Council had received a letter from Mr Joseph Hourie who requested sight of the deeds for the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field. They had been retrieved from the Bank and were now in the Chairman's possession.

The Chairman reported that the Council was not constrained in its activities in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park development and consideration was given to providing copies of the deeds should be made available to interested parties.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to respond to Mr Hourie's letter, enclosing a copy of the deeds for his information and make copies of the deeds available for the information of any interested parties.

(d) Planning Application

It was reported that provision for overspill car parking must be made available if planning consent was to be obtained. The site layout would be amended and submitted to the City Council's Planning Department after the Awareness Raising Event scheduled for Saturday, 10 January 2004.

There was concern over the oak tree in the hedgerow that would need to be removed to accommodate the two football pitches. Councillors RA Storrar and C Wynne-Eyton had met with Mr Pete Murray of Chester City Council and agreed that the tree would not be removed until planning consent had been given.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

13 PARISH PLAN

(a) Parish Plan Steering Panel

The Council received the Minutes of the Parish Plan Steering Panel held on Monday, 8 December 2003 and noted their contents.

(b) Questionnaire

The Chairman reported on progress being made with the questionnaire. There had been some slippage. Details, distribution and timescales for its return would be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Panel on 8 January 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

14 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Representation

The Council was asked to consider its representation at forthcoming outside body meetings.

RESOLVED: That

(1) as many Members as possible be requested to attend the meeting of the Gowry North Area Committee Meeting at 7:00pm on Thursday, 15 January 2004 at Christleton High School;

(2) it be noted that Councillor A Bailey was now not able to attend Cheshire County Council's Annual Town and Parish Councils Conference at 7:00pm on Wednesday, 21 January 2004 at Northwich Memorial Hall; and

(3) Councillors A Bailey and RA Storrar be requested to attend the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Chester Area Meeting on Wednesday, 7 January 2004.

15 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It was noted that there had not been a meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee since the last meeting of the Council.

16 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
17 January 2004	Councillor RA Storrar
24 January 2004	Councillor C Wynne-Eyton
31 January 2004	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey

17 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The Council noted the following communications received:

Letter re. Step into Cheshire – 18-19 September 2004.

To be considered by the Environment and Highways Committee meeting scheduled for 29 January 2004.

18 CIRCULARS

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

Chester City Council's Grants Guide 2004/2005
Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters
DEFRA – Circular on Equine issues dated 5 December 2003