

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 18 March 2004 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

Invited Member: Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members were in attendance.

11 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

12 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 February 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

13 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 5 - Chester City Council's Housing Register Policy

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask the Chester and District Housing Trust to provide a list of their housing stock in Saughall.

14 LOCAL INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

- CONSULTATION BY THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON REGULATIONS UNDER SECTION 60 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2004

- CONSULTATION BY STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND ON GUIDANCE TO MONITORING OFFICERS ON LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS

Members considered the documentation provided and their first impression was that the draft regulations were excessive. It was considered appropriate to obtain an executive summary and the views of Chester City Council's Monitoring Officer before a response to the consultation was formulated.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) consideration of this item be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (2) Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be requested to obtain an executive summary and to ask the City Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer, Mr Ian Mason, to attend the next meeting to make a short presentation on the contents of the document.

15 APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CLERK

The Chairman reported that a third party would consider a proposal in respect of the appointment of an Assistant Clerk on 26 March 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the item Appointment of an Assistant Clerk be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting so Members can receive a progress report.

16 PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SAUGHALL

The County Property Officer had informed the Clerk that the "in principle" proposal to approve the land sale behind Lodge Lane for affordable housing was agreed by the County Farms Panel on 23 February 2004, subject to Arena coming up with an acceptable scheme. This had also been approved by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Arena was not currently in a financial position to come forward with an appropriate scheme.

Mrs Alison Amesbury of Chester City Council had agreed to speak to Arena to ascertain their options.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the current position be noted; and
- (2) contact be made with Arena from time to time to check on progress.

17 PARISH PLAN

The Cheshire Community Council had provided the questionnaires and pre-paid envelopes in respect of the questionnaire. Members had subsequently delivered them to every house in Saughall on Saturday, 13 March 2004.

Unfortunately, it was then discovered that the envelopes provided for the questionnaires' safe return were too small and questionnaires could only fit in with great difficulty.

The Chairman had informed Mrs Rachel Cowan of the Community Council of her mistake and she had apologised. She had ordered envelopes of the same size to those used by Cranage Parish Council for the same purpose. However, their questionnaire had been smaller.

RESOLVED:

That in an attempt to retrieve the situation the following actions be agreed:

??The Chairman to draft a one side special newsletter and send it to the Clerk.

??The Clerk to contact the Standard Newspaper and make arrangements for the special newsletter to be distributed with the Standard at the first opportunity.

??The Clerk to get Warrington Borough Council to print the newsletter the next day and leave the copies in the Parish Room.

??Councillors C Wynne-Eyton and Mrs J Young to arrange to deliver the special newsletters to the Standard and to the houses of those people who don't receive the Standard.

18 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

Councillor RA Storrar and the Project Manager, Mr Derek Bird, would deliver the site layout, photographs and a letter from the Clerk informing of revisions following consultations that had taken place with local people to the Planning Authority. By the end of the week the submission would be made and it was hoped that the Council's planning application would be considered at a meeting of the Planning Board in April 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park's planning application be noted.

19 DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE 2004/05

Members considered the first draft of the Council's meeting schedule for the 2004/05 Municipal Year. Members were also informed of holiday dates in respect of the Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That the draft schedule be noted at this stage (Appendix 1) and be further considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

**SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE
JUNE 2004 - MAY 2005**

**Parish Council meetings are held in the Vernon Institute, Saughall
Committee and Parish Plan Steering Panel (not shown here) meetings are held
in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall**

Date	Parish Council 7.30pm	* Planning Committee 7.00pm	Finance & GP Committee 7.30pm	Golden Jubilee Park Committee 7.30pm	Environment & Highways Committee 8.30pm	Annual Meeting 7.30pm	Budget Meeting 7.30pm	Parish Assembly 7.30pm
07-Jun	X	X						
17-Jun			X					
24-Jun				X				
05-Jul	X	X						
19-Jul				X	X			
22-Jul			X					
02-Aug	X	X						
19-Aug				X				
06-Sep	X	X						
16-Sep			X					
23-Sep				X	X			
04-Oct	X	X						
14-Oct				X				
01-Nov	X	X						
11-Nov				X	X			
18-Nov			X					
06-Dec	X	X						
03-Jan	X	X						
10-Jan							X	
13-Jan				X	X			
20-Jan			X					
07-Feb	X	X						
10-Feb				X				
07-Mar	X	X						
14-Mar				X	X			
24-Mar			X					
04-Apr	X	X						
14-Apr				X				
02-May		X				X		
12-May				X	X			
19-May			X					
23-May								X
06-Jun	X	X						

* Planning Committee meetings will take place if planning applications have been received from Chester City Council. Therefore it may be necessary to cancel scheduled meetings if no plans have been received and call other meetings at a later date if plans are received, with the agreement of the Chairman and to fit in with the Planning Authority's tight consultation timescales.