

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 5 April 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 R Shukla  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)  
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton  
Councillor Mrs J Young

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Marsden  
Councillor C Moss

63 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.

64 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

65 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

66 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2004:

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,185.35	101683
Warrington Borough Council	95.53	101684
All Saints Parochial Church Council (Burial Grant)	400.00	101686
Saughall Methodist Church (Burial Grant)	400.00	101687
Saughall Guides (Delivery of Special Newsletter)	10.00	101688
Chester City Council (Copies of plans – GJP)	39.95	101689
K2 Network Services Ltd (2 printer cartridges)	157.45	101690
Warrington Borough Council (Printing Special Newsletter)	74.03	101691

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	70.35	101692
Inland Revenue	747.36	101694
Standard Newspapers (Delivery of Special Newsletter)	23.27	101696
Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (Annual Subscription)	643.33	101685
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	540.91	101693
Mr C Moss (Parish Room Rental)	312.50	101695

(b) Receipts

Interest to 22 March 2004 (14 Day Account)	24.53
Interest to 23 March 2004 (Treasurer Account)	0.24
Parish Precept 2004/2005	35,019.00

67 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

The Chairman reported that PC Robin Fisher had submitted his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. He had informed that on the whole the village was very quiet at the moment.

(b) Homewatch

The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with the Homewatch Manager to see if the Saughall Homewatch could be “kick started”. Someone was interested in taking on the role of Homewatch Chairman and a further report on progress regarding this would be brought to the next meeting.

(c) Ball Games

Residents in the vicinity of Wain House were constantly being disturbed by older children playing ball games on the open ground behind this sheltered housing. There were similar problems being experienced by the garages in Rakeway.

It was thought that the land in question did not belong to Chester City Council but to the Chester and District Housing Association.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Chester and District Housing Association asking that consideration be given to erecting “No Ball Games” signs on its land in the hope that the youngsters would take notice of them and play on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field instead.

(d) Bus Shelters

It was noted that the bus shelters had been sprayed by Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council officials to counteract the bad smells emanating from them.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

68 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Planning Committee

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9 March 2004 be received.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18 March 2004 be received;
- (2) the Draft Meeting Schedule June 2004 – May 2005 be considered at the next meeting of the Council re-scheduled for 10 May 2004; and
- (3) the meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 10 May and 17 June 2004 be cancelled.

(c) Environment and Highways Committee

It was reported that the Gardening Club did not require a donation from the Council, recommended by the Committee, to assist its prize giving in respect of its Best Kept Front Garden Competition.

The Committee had recommended that a financial donation be made to assist arrangements for “Saughall Walking Day” scheduled for 18 and 19 September 2004.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the Environment and Highways Committee held on 25 March and 26 February 2004 be received;
- (2) the Environment and Highways Committee be requested to consider what can be done to make the village tidier using the funding that has been set aside to pay for entry to the Best Kept Village/Civic Pride Competition;
- (3) a financial donation to assist arrangements for “Saughall Walking Day” be agreed in principle; and
- (4) the Environment and Highways Committee be requested to give further consideration to the arrangements for “Saughall Walking Day” and make a report to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 10 May 2004.

69 PROPOSED EVENING AND SUNDAY BUS CUTS BY CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Council had not received the official decision of Cheshire County Council on its proposed bus service cuts. There were rumours circulating and conflicting reports.

RESOLVED:

That the official decision be awaited.

70 POST OF ASSISTANT CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that he was to meet with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of a neighbouring Parish Council to pursue the Council's proposal to appoint an Assistant Clerk. He would then bring a report on proceedings to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 10 May 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

71 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group meeting held on 25 March 2004 be received and the recommendation that instead of establishing a Golden Jubilee Park Committee with provisions to co-opt Members as and when necessary, consideration be given to forming a Partnership with a separate constitution using that of the Saughall Youth Club as a model be not considered until the Council receives advice from the National Association of Local Councils.

(b) Planning Application

Members noted the content of the letter submitted with the Planning Application for change of use. It was noted that the City Council's Planning Board would make its determination on the Council's applications at its April meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made in submitting the planning application be noted.

72 GLEESON HOMES – MISREPRESENTATION

The Clerk had written to Mr McGreary, the County Trading Standards Officer, on 2 March 2004 regarding an enclosed advertisement for new homes that had appeared in a local newspaper recently. The address for the housing was referred to as Willow Nook, Saughall, Nr Chester, Flintshire and these houses were being erected over the Parish border in North Wales. Subsequently, she had received a holding letter dated 3 March 2004 from one of Mr McGreary's Officers.

Councillor Mrs D Whitton informed that she had also been in contact with another of the Trading Standards Officers and had received a letter dated 26 February 2004. It informed that St Helens Trading Standards had advised Gleasons to amend all of its sale documentation to read 'Saughall, Flintshire'. This was because of the former Saughall Railway Station. The sales literature also carried a photograph of the Vernon Institute Clock which was in Saughall Parish.

This Council was very unhappy with this misrepresentation and objected strongly. It did not accept the reasoning behind it. The new housing development was not in Saughall, Cheshire, it was most definitely in Flintshire, North Wales.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write again to Mr McGreary to ascertain comments, as soon as possible, on the builders using the Saughall address to sell their properties and his advice on what can be done to stop it.

### 73 PARISH PLAN

The Council received a progress report in respect of the Parish Plan. It was noted that 260 questionnaires had been returned so far and the inputting process would begin very soon (19 and 20 April 2004 between 4-7pm). Members were invited to help input questionnaires and officers of the Cheshire Community Council would provide appropriate training.

It was hoped that the Plan could be launched at the All Saints Church Fete on 3 July 2004. The Chairman would make the necessary approach to request that this be allowed to happen.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress made in respect of the Parish Plan be noted; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to all Members of the Council and the Parish Plan Steering Panel to request their attendance at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School to assist the inputting process.

### 74 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) To agree representation to the following:

- (i) Cheshire Planning Forum, 2:00pm on Friday, 16 April 2004 at offices of Vale Royal Borough Council, Wyvern House, The Drummer Winsford.

RESOLVED:

That no representation be provided for this event.

- (ii) Cheshire County Council's Launch Event for County Structure Plan Alterations: Cheshire 2016 at 9:30am on 7 April 2004 at St Mary's Centre, Castle Street, Chester.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be requested to attend the event.

- (iii) Cheshire County Council's Website Hosting Scheme Event, from 7:30pm-9:30pm on Thursday, 22 April 2004 at Woodford Lodge Professional Centre, Winsford – two representatives are invited to attend.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors A Bailey and Mrs M Wynne-Eyton be requested to attend this event.

- (iv) Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Chester Area Meeting at 7:30pm on 7 April 2004 at County Hall, Chester.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to attend this event.

- (b) Reports from meetings the Council has been represented at:

- (i) Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils Quality Parish Council Scheme Conference 6:30-9:30pm on Monday, 29 March 2004 at Byley Village Hall (near Middlewich)

Councillor B Kerr informed that he had not been able to attend the Conference because of illness. However, he had been informed that it had been oversubscribed. It had been a good event and the messages put out had been well received. Most Parish Councils who had attended had been committed to engaging with the process.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

- (ii) Parish Planning in Action – 10:00am to 4:00pm on 18 March 2004 at the Old Town Hall, Sandbach, Cheshire

Councillor RA Storrar reported on the proceedings of the event run by the Cheshire Community Council on the Parish Plan process. Issues discussed were transport and provision of services in small communities and managing without them. It had been emphasised that provision for such things as GP Surgeries, shops and public transport should be made in the Parish Plan. Land within a Parish should be marked out for specific purposes e.g. affordable housing, light industry, recreation, etc.

Double rating in rural areas was an issue of concern and Chester City Council had set up a Committee to look at it.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor RA Storrar be thanked for his report and attendance at the event;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to Chester City Council's Mr J Cassin, Strategic Director (Resources), to ascertain what progress was being made with the review of the financial arrangements with Parish Council and reminding him that Councillor B Kerr's name has been put forward to represent this Council on any forum charged with taking the initiative forward in association with the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils; and
- (3) Members be requested to consider what they would like to see included in the Parish Plan and put forward ideas at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 10 May 2004.

75 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar informed that the Vernon Institute Management Committee was considering refurbishing the entrance hall. The outside wall facing onto Hermitage Road had not been painted because the Committee was unaware that the road was being closed. However, the District Engineer had said that it would have been dangerous to paint the wall during the closure anyway because of the heavy lorries that were used for the road surfacing work. The painting could not be done on traffic lights so it would cost the Committee £160 to obtain a road closure.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

76 SAUGHALL MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

The Council noted the content of a letter dated 24 March 2004 sent to the Clerk from Mr C McIlwrick, the Millennium Committee Chairman. He informed that he was moving away from Saughall and requested that the Council discuss and make decisions about the future of the Millennium Committee.

There were monies deposited in the Nationwide Building Society (£747.64 as at 27 January 2004), there were plates and mugs still to be sold and the signatories for the building society account required revision. Reverend David Hay had moved away and with Mr McIlwrick's imminent departure the only signatory left was Mr R Leslie.

It was noted that the Council had donated £1,000 to kick start the Millennium initiative. Councillor Mrs D Whitton represented the Council on the Committee and she had volunteered to become one of the signatories.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be requested to make the necessary arrangements in respect of the Millennium Committee and report her actions at the next meeting of the Council on 10 May 2004.

77 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
17 April 2004	Councillor RA Storrar
24 April 2004	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
1 May 2004	Councillor Mrs D Whitton
8 May 2004	Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

78 SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL – ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reported that Ms Christine Lawley, Team Leader (Electoral & Civic) at Chester City Council, had informed that her Council at its meeting on 24 March 2004 had approved the recommendation of its Cabinet to make an Order reallocating the number of Parish Councillors for Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council as follows:

Shotwick Park Parish	1
Saughall Parish	13

The Order would come into effect at the elections in May 2006.

79 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received, anyone requiring a copy would contact the Clerk.

- letter dated 19 March 2004 from the Countryside Agency's Senior Countryside Officer, Lynne Fox, regarding the discontinuation of the Vital Villages Grant Scheme to new applicants.

Noted.

80 CIRCULARS

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

Chester City Council's Council Meeting Agenda – 24 March 2004

Cheshire County Council's response to the Boundary Committee for England on the Local Government Review

letter and booklet dated 5 March 2004 from the Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environmental Quality, The Rt. Hon. Alun Michael MP, and the Minister for E-Commerce and Competitiveness, Stephen Timms MP – partnership for rolling out broadband to rural communities.