

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 1 November 2004 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

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

Mr K Stinson, Chairman Saughall Homewatch

185 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor B Kerr
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor A Warrington
Mr D Bird - Golden Jubilee Park Project Co-ordinator

186 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

187 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 October 2004 be confirmed as a correct record subject to it being noted that in respect to Minute No 176 – Christmas Festivities, that both the vicar and Mr Choi, Headteacher at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School, would be invited to the official switching on of the Christmas lights and Mr Choi would be asked to switch the lights on.

188 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

189 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 October 2004:

Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning & Grass Cutting)	1,049.67	101745
Hacker Young (Annual Audit of Accounts)	317.25	101746
Claire House Children's Hospice (Donation – Monies raised on Saughall Walking Day – 18 September 2004)	60.00	101747
Chester City Council (Parish Plan Snapshot Report printing)	487.00	101748
United Utilities (Water Rates)	31.21	101749
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	76.99	101750
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	555.54	101751
Mr A Bailey (Travelling to NALC Conference – Expenses)	80.00	101752
Public Works Loans Board	1,826.09	DD

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 October 2004 (14 Day Account)	72.99
Interest to 23 October 2004 (Treasurer Account)	0.20
Tree Council – grant aid in respect of new trees Planted in the Golden Jubilee Park	348.47
Footpath Booklets – Councillor R Shukla	10.00

(c) Audit of Accounts 2003-2004

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter dated 13 October 2004 from Hacker Young informing that the annual audit return for the year to 31 March 2004 was a clean report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

190 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Chairman reported that the website was currently down and that there had been problems associated with Cheshire County Council's offer to host the Parish Councils website free of charge. It now looked as though the problems had been solved and it was hoped that the website would be up again soon.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

191 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

RESOLVED:

That as PC Robin Fisher was not in attendance at the meeting his report be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Homewatch

Mr K Stinson reported that on 20 October 2004 a member of the public had alerted him to the problem of youths drinking alcohol in the new bus shelter in Church Road adjacent to the footpath from Saughall Hey. He had reported the matter to the police, had been impressed with the prompt way his call was answered and he had been given an incident number.

Mr Stinson also informed that the Homewatch initiative to delitter rural footpaths was being discontinued due to lack of interest. He was delittering the footpath through Pigeon Wood himself and intended to continue with this. There had been further vandalism in the wood and a large amount of litter had been deposited after a drinking party.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Stinson's report be received

(c) Crime and Disorder

The Chairman reported that the police had powers to confiscate alcohol. Also, a large pane of glass had been broken in the Church Road bus shelter on 20 October 2004. It had since been replaced.

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey detailed the regular problems with youths congregating around Wain House.

Councillor Mrs D Whitton informed that there were youths hanging around the vicinity of the Ridings Community Infant School.

Councillor Mrs J Johnson informed of the problems on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field on the previous Saturday night until 3:45am.

Councillor RA Storrar told the meeting that youths were causing a nuisance in the All Saints Churchyard where they were kicking footballs, and in the car park on Parkway.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be received;

(2) the public be encouraged to phone the police and inform them of nuisance youth activity/antisocial behaviour;

- (3) CCTV footage be checked;
- (4) the Constabulary be encouraged to undertake spot checks in the village and confiscate alcohol as appropriate; and
- (5) Chester City Council be requested to add Saughall bus shelters to its list for consideration the next time it reviews the existing coverage of Alcohol Control Designations.

(d) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

It was reported that Mr Mike Lee of Chester City Council had added the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field to the list for consideration the next time his Council reviewed the coverage of Alcohol Control Designations.

Mr Lee had informed that the offence in designated areas was to continue to drink alcohol after being asked not to do so (by a police officer). So the benefit of a Liquor Licence would override the designation powers during the period of the licence. This clarified the position in respect of possible social events in the Golden Jubilee Park in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(e) Project Rural Matters

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed of a policing initiative scheduled for 30 November 2004 – Community Liaison Day. On this day the Rural Inspector, Geoff Williams, assisted by local people would identify specific areas that were problematic and would draw up and agree action plans to deal with them.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(f) Informal Meeting

The Chairman reported that he had been unable to progress arrangements for an informal meeting with Chief Inspector Dave Hill. He still intended to facilitate a meeting however.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

192 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 October 2004 be received.

193 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Partnership Agreement

Members noted the content of a partnership agreement drawn up to assist funding bids to improve the quality of sports and recreational facilities for all age groups within the Saughall area, with a particular emphasis on school-age children.

RESOLVED:

That the Council sign up to the Partnership.

(b) Golden Jubilee Park Funding

It was reported that Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar, Mr David Parry, and the Project Co-ordinator had met with Richard Smith of WREN. They had reviewed the bid and made some revisions on Mr Smith's advice. WREN could not grant anymore than £50,000 in respect of Phase 1 of the project. This could cover the drainage and the environmental project. WREN would only fund multi-use games areas and not car parks.

Members were reminded that the Principal Authorities did employ External Funding Officers whose advice could be sought on who to approach for grants.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to obtain a new application form and revise the bid to WREN for funding in consultation with the Project Co-ordinator for re-submission by the end of November 2004; and
- (2) an External Funding Officer be invited to a future meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Committee to offer advise on how to attract funding.

194 PARISH PLAN

The Council received the Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Panel held on 20 October 2004 and noted their content.

It was reported that it was important that the Council debate and agree its Policy in respect of the following two issues so that they could be included in the Parish Plan:

- ??Future employment in the village
- ??Future planning and development in the village

RESOLVED:

That the following be included in the Parish Plan:

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT IN THE VILLAGE

- ??The Parish Council recognises the importance of jobs in the rural area.

??The Parish Council will seek to maximise appropriate employment opportunities both in the village and on its borders for the residents of Saughall and Shotwick Park.

??The Parish Council will work with perspective employers to create employment and develop new jobs within the village for its residents.

??The Parish Council will support regeneration of derelict sites within the village and encourage new industry/businesses etc. to establish themselves there and provide job opportunities.

??The Parish Council will aim to increase the level of entrepreneurship within the local community and try to foster growth at a local level. This may include activity to increase the potential for social enterprises and community based business start-ups, enable community businesses to grow and sustain growth and to improve the operating environment for existing businesses.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGE

??The Parish Council wants to see the village developed for the benefit of the local community.

??The Parish Council wants to be fully consulted on any proposed development in Saughall and Shotwick Park.

??The Parish Council will seek to encourage residential developments within the village and especially affordable housing to meet local needs.

195 CHURCH ROAD – PARKING AND SPEEDING

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that she had received a letter from a lady who lived in Church Road who was very concerned over both speeding traffic and parked cars on Church Road.

It was noted that when cars were parked on Church Road they did act as chicanes and forced speeding traffic to slow down. However, it was also noted that parked cars did make it difficult for the lady to get on and off her drive and that there were also pedestrian problems associated with parked cars.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to respond as soon as possible to Councillor Mrs JE Storrar's letter informing of the content of the Parish Plan that is shortly to be published, in respect of these issues.

196 CHESHIRE VALUATION TRIBUNAL – NOTICE OF HEARING

It was reported that the 2000 Rating List in respect of the Parish Room had now been altered. The content of the Certificate of Rateable Value for Transitional Purposes was also noted.

The rateable value of the Parish Room was now £1,250 as opposed to £2,400 previously. The Certificate stated that this reduction should have been shown in the List for 1 April 2002.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the Council's annual review of its occupation of the Parish Room be carried out at its next meeting.

197 SAUGHALL PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP PLAY AREA PROJECT

The Playgroup was trying to raise funds to enable it to level the wasteland (formally the Doctor's Surgery) at the Vernon Institute. It aimed to turn this unused land into a large outdoor play area for the children who attended the Playgroup.

Planning permission was required in respect of this initiative and the Playgroup was requesting the Parish Council to submit the plans on its behalf. This action would save the Playgroup money as the Parish Council would only be charged half of the planning fee and this would help this fund raising effort.

In effect the Parish Council would act as the applicant and the Playgroup as the agent. It was noted that this arrangement was perfectly legal.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council comply with the Playgroup's request and submit the planning application in its name in due course.

198 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar informed that the next meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee would be held during the following week.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to bring a report on the proceedings of the next Vernon Institute Management Committee to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

199 PLANNING APPLICATION BY COSTCO WHOLESALE UK LTD

It was reported that a Planning Inquiry had now been arranged. It would be held at 10:00am on 11 January 2005 at the Town Hall, Chester. The local Inquiry was expected to last for 5 days.

RESOLVED:

That this Council make no representations at the Inquiry.

200 PLANNING APPLICATIONS OVER THE BORDER IN WALES

The Clerk had written to the Head of Development Control at Flintshire County Council on 20 October 2004 following the last meeting of the Council (Minute No 170/2004 refers). She had informed that in recent times planning applications had been determined just over the Parish border in Wales and that these consents had significant implications for Saughall in terms of its infrastructure.

Although Flintshire did consult Chester City Council on developments it deemed affected it there was no statutory obligation placed on it to consult a Parish Council outside of its administrative area. The Clerk had urged the Head of Development Control to consult the Parish Council in future on applications on its border, as a matter of courtesy and good practice and requested comments and confirmation on whether he would do so.

It was noted that as yet no response had been received to the Clerk's letter.

RESOLVED:

That a response from the Head of Development Control at Flintshire County Council to the Clerk's letter be chased up and awaited.

201 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Attendance at Meetings

Members provided the Council with reports on proceedings of meetings at which they had represented the Council during the last month.

- (i) Funding and Managing of Community Projects
Monday, 20 September 2004, 10:00am-3:15pm, Kendall

It was reported that Mr Derek Bird had found it useful but not relevant.

- (ii) Cheshire Community Council's Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 7 October 2004, 7:30pm, Northwich Memorial Hall

An error had been made and two agendas had gone out on the same day with two different venues detailed. Unfortunately, the Chairman's agenda had said Winsford but the meeting had been held in Northwich!

- (iii) Chester Police Forum
Monday, 18 October 2004, 7:00pm, St Theresa's Parish Centre, Blacon

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar had attended. She informed that quite a lot of people were there and that it was reported that the Constabulary would re-organise into new Policing Areas in April 2005.

- (iv) A5117 Deeside Park Junctions Improvements
Tuesday, 19 October 2004, 2:00pm, Backford Hall

A number of Members had attended this meeting about the improvements scheme. The meeting had been very interesting. Traffic would be kept flowing as much as possible. Road closures were programmed to go ahead during the night. Properties affected by the Scheme had all been visited. The Cheshire Railings would need to be claimed prior to the work commencing. It was expected to begin late in 2006 and be completed in 2007.

- (v) Chester City Council's Parish Partnership Reception
Wednesday, 27 October 2004, 7:30pm, Town Hall, Chester

Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar had been in attendance. The event had been very interesting and there had been a number of stalls to visit. It had provided a good opportunity to network.

- (vi) Invitation from Chairman of Cheshire County Council
Tuesday, 26 October 2004, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Council Chamber, County Hall, Chester

Hosted by County Councillor Barry Harding there had been 6 people in attendance including the Chairman. The aim had been to promote Cheshire as a unitary authority.

- (vii) Gowy North Area Committee – Single Issue Meeting of Draft Licensing Policy
Wednesday, 27 October 2004, prior to the Parish Partnership Reception, 49 Northgate Street, Chester

Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar had been in attendance at this meeting and informed that in the Autumn 2005 licensing would transfer from Magistrates to the City Council.

(b) Attendance at Future Meetings

- (i) Seminar on New Planning System
Saturday, 6 November 2004, 9:30am-4:30pm, The Civic Hall, Victoria Buildings, Lewin Street, Middlewich

Vice-Chairman to attend.

- (ii) The Countryside Agency – Using Housing Needs Toolkit
Thursday, 11 November 2004, 10:00am-3:00pm, Lancaster House Hotel, Ellel, Lancaster

No-one could attend so the Clerk was requested to ask the County Secretary, Mrs Jackie Weaver, for any feedback from member Parish Councils who had sent representatives.

- (iii) Review of Chester's Way Ahead
Wednesday, 10 November 2004, 11:45am, Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Chester

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar to attend.

- (iv) Gowy North Area Committee
Thursday, 11 November 2004, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Kelsall Community Primary
School, Flat Lane, Kelsall

Councillor Mrs D Whitton to attend.

202 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- letter dated 1 November 2004 from Mrs J Davies, Headteacher, Saughall the Ridings Community Infant School requesting a financial contribution towards the Memorial Garden Project in memory of Shereen Hanby.

The Clerk to inform Mrs Davies that the Council, although very sympathetic, is unable to make a financial contribution.

- letter dated 14 October 2004 from Mr Paul Rowsell of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister informing that the New Ethical Framework Regulations come into force on 4 November 2004.

Noted.

203 CIRCULARS

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

Chester City Council's The Past Uncovered – October 2004

Cheshire Training Partnership – Training Update – October 2004

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 23 September 2004

Letter dated 15 October 2004 and Annual Report from the Chester & District Housing Association

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association's Annual Report 2003/04 and the Playing Field – Autumn 2004