

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 9 May 2005 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 C Moss
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

Mr K Stinson, Homewatch

67 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be appointed Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

68 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received.

69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

County Councillor D Rowlands

70 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

71 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Young be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

72 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr Ashbrook informed that Council that an Action Group had been formed to oppose the installation of a Radio Base Station comprising a 15m high telegraph pole, three antennas, 300mm diameter dish antenna, radio equipment and housing.

It was considered that perceived health hazards outweighed commercial interests. It was noted that the Parish Council's Planning Committee had considered the planning application at its meeting earlier that evening and would be objecting to the proposal as its siting was unfavourable, not in keeping with the area and would be an eyesore.

Councillor RA Storrar informed that a decision on the planning application would be made by Chester City Council's Planning Officers under delegated authority.

73 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 April 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

74 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 54(c) – Police/Homewatch – Crime and Disorder

The Chairman informed that he had not yet had the opportunity to bring the incidents detailed in the Minute of the last meeting to the attention of the Constabulary and request regular police patrols. He would do this as soon as possible. Also, the Council would pursue a campaign to stop motorists parking on pavements.

Minute No 60 – Affordable Housing

At the last meeting it had been reported that Arena had been in discussion with the Housing Corporation to try to get the Saughall scheme designated as a reserve project within its Housing Corporation Partnership Programme.

It was noted that Alison Amesbury of Chester City Council would inform the Council of the outcome once she heard from Arena.

75 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

It was proposed by the Chairman that the Council's Environment and Highways Committee no longer meet and that the issues it considered be referred instead to either the Council or the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Council's Committee structure be as follows:

Finance and General Purposes Committee
Golden Jubilee Park Committee
Planning Committee

Parish Plan Steering Panel

(2) membership of the Committees and Panel at (1) be as follows:

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

Golden Jubilee Park Committee

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young
plus co-opted members

Planning Committee

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

Parish Plan Steering Panel

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs J Young
plus co-opted members

and

- (3) Councillor Mrs D Whitton's request to exchange her place on the Golden Jubilee Park Committee for a place on the Planning Committee be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

76 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the first draft of the Council's Calendar of Meetings be noted along with the fact it is subject to change to accommodate the Clerk's new post with Sefton Council.

77 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillors A Bailey, Mrs JE Storrar and RA Storrar be requested to represent the Council at the Chester Area Meetings of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils;
- (2) Councillor RA Storrar be appointed to represent the Council at meetings of the Vernon Institute Management Committee and Councillor Mrs J Young be appointed reserve;
- (3) Councillors A Bailey and A Warrington be nominated to represent the Council at the Chester Police Forum meetings;
- (4) Councillors C Moss and RA Storrar be nominated to represent the Council on the Saughall Youth Club Management Committee;
- (5) the Clerk be appointed as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer;
- (6) Mr H Dobson be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor;
- (7) Councillor C Wynne-Eyton be appointed Tree Warden; and
- (8) Mr T Leach be appointed Parish Paths Warden.

78 ACCOUNTS

- (a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 April 2005:

<u>Financial Year 2004/2005</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Litter picking and grass cutting)	1,049.67	101781
Cheshire Association of Local Councils (Membership fees, etc.)	647.38	101782
Cheshire County Council (Bus Shelter Maintenance – Part payment – work still to be completed – Minute No 78(f)/2005 refers)	2,500.00	101783
Mr DJ Francis (Golden Jubilee Park – ground works – part payment following completion)	804.87	101784

<u>Financial Year 2004/2005</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Allianz Cornhill Insurance (Insurance premium)	1,169.47	101785
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	51.70	101786
Cheshire Community Council (Membership fee)	57.00	101787
Saughall Guides	100.00	101788
(Distribution of Newsletter and Parish Plan Snapshot Report)		
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,049.67	101789
(Litter Picking and Grass Cutting)		
United Utilities (Water Rates)	38.34	101790
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	77.10	101791
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	555.54	101792
Vernon Institute Management Committee	2,000.00	101793
(Grant to aid refurbishment works – Minute No 85/2005 refers)		
Fixed Rate Loan Payment (16 May 2005)	1,828.09	DD
(PWLB – Purchase of land on Fiddlers Lane)		

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 April 2005 (14 Day Account)	66.49
Interest to 23 April 2005 (Treasurer Account)	0.62
Parish Precept 2005/2006	37,681.00
Double Taxation Grant	1,586.00
Rate Rebate	777.11
Councillor R Shukla – Parish Footpath Booklets	50.00
Street Cleaning Grant – October 2004 to September 2005	4,617.60
VAT Refund	3,449.83

(c) Accounts 2004/2005

The Accounts for the financial year 2004/2005 be received and signed as appropriate by the Chairman and Clerk.

(d) Insurance Cover Review

RESOLVED:

That the Council's insurance cover be noted.

(e) Double Taxation Grant 2005/2006

A letter dated 7 April 2005 from Chester City Council's Strategic Director (Resources), Mr Jim Cassin, provided the Council with guidance on spending the "double taxation grant" – a contribution from the City Council towards the reimbursement of parish expenditure on functions where double taxation may exist.

Parish Councils could spend double taxation grant at their discretion but it must be within each Parish's existing legal powers. It was anticipated that such expenditure would be incurred on concurrent functions. Members were advised that expenditure on such items as insurance premiums and incidental administrative costs of running the Parish Council should also be included as concurrent functions.

Mr Cassin also informed that the City Council had resolved to consider the level of double taxation grant for 2006/7 prior to setting next year's budget. He would contact the Clerk about this around December time.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of Mr Cassin's letter dated 7 April 2005 be noted.

(f) Bus Shelter Scheme

The Council was in partnership with Cheshire County Council who was running a Bus Shelter Replacement Scheme. Cheshire County Council had requested part payment in respect of bus shelter maintenance with a promise that outstanding work would be completed soon. Consequently, a cheque for £2,500.00 had been dispatched.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to bring the inordinate and unacceptable delay in completing this scheme (well over a year) to the attention of Cheshire County Council's Chief Executive, Mr Jeremy Taylor and request his comments.

79 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) PC Robin Fisher

PC Robin Fisher had e-mailed the Clerk and the Chairman to inform that policing boundaries in Chester had changed and he was no longer responsible for Saughall. Saughall's policing was now being carried out from Blacon Police Station and PC Fisher was moving to Kelsall and Delamere.

Police contacts were now Acting Inspector Barter and Sergeant Jackson.

RESOLVED:

That the new policing arrangements be noted.

(b) Homewatch

Mr Stinson informed that villagers were disillusioned at the Police's ability to effectively detect and prevent crime.

Issues of concern this month in the village included:

- ? a report about children glue sniffing however no evidence had been found
- ? continuous vandalism at the Church Road bus shelter
- ? a stone had been thrown through a window of a house in Darlington Crescent
- ? signage had been poor during recent footpath works and had obstructed the pavement after work was completed causing a hazard to pedestrians

The Homewatch's Annual General Meeting would take place on 14 June 2005. Mr Stinson informed that he did not want to take on the Chairmanship of the Homewatch and unless someone else came forward the Homewatch would have to be wound up.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Crime and Disorder

The Chairman reported that he had met with Police Officers on a couple of occasions to discuss effective policing of the village.

Saughall was now being policed by the Outer Sector based at Blacon Police Station.

The Chairman had attempted to meet with Inspector Woodward. He had met with Acting Inspector Barter last week and showed him around the village. The Acting Inspector had agreed to attend the Annual Parish meeting and make a short presentation on arrangements to police Saughall from Blacon Police Station.

All Police Officers concerned with Saughall would be in place in Blacon Police Station by 1 June 2005. There would be six in all in the team.

Members raised a number of questions and reported incidents and ongoing concerns about certain areas of the village.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Shooting Rights - Shotwick Park Estate

Councillor B Kerr reported that Cheshire County Council's Property Management Department had confirmed that there was a shooting tenant on the Estate. The tenant had approached a gentleman who had strayed from the public footpath. The tenant did not shoot within 50 yards of a footpath.

Councillor A Marsden informed that shooting was being carried out by a syndicate who appeared to be shooting every day of the week and parked all over Lodge Lane. There were public safety issues were raised on this matter that needed to be addressed.

RESOLVED:

That County Councillor D Rowlands be informed of the situation and he be requested to discuss the problems with the Council at their next meeting.

(e) Community Warden's Scheme

Chester City Councillor Mia Jones had informed that Chester City Council's Cabinet had secured additional funding to help enhance the service. She would continue to keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

80 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Planning Committee

There had been unsubstantiated reports that a planning application had been submitted to the Flintshire Planning Authority for permission to have a Pub/Club opposite the entrance to the cycle track, just passed the Windy Nook housing development.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 April 2005 be received; and
- (2) the Clerk and Councillor RA Storrar be requested to ask Chester City Council Planning Officers, Messers Brain Hughes and Andrew Farrell, for a progress report on the protocol Mr Hughes had offered to draw up that was to be followed when planning applications were being determined on the Welsh Border by Flintshire's Planning Authority.

(b) Golden Jubilee Park Development

There were concerns over the drainage on the existing field on Fiddlers Lane. It was considered that the drain was too high to take the water from the existing ditch.

Mr Crouch had written to the Clerk because he had noted that in Minutes of the Council in 2002 reference had been made to a proposal to build a BMX track.

Members had suggested at that time that a makeshift bicycle track be made available to children during the summer holidays. However, this initiative had not got off the ground because of concerns over insurance cover, etc.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Committee held on 14 April 2005 be received;
- (2) drainage of the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field be discussed at a future meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Committee; and

- (3) Mr A Crouch be invited to a future meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Committee to discuss his ideas about laying a BMX track.

(c) Parish Plan Steering Panel

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Panel held on 25 April 2005 be received.

81 SPEEDING TRAFFIC – JUNCTION OF LONG LANE AND FIDDLERS LANE

Members gave initial consideration to this issue but agreed that more information was required before it could be discussed fully.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) speeding traffic at the junction and outside the Thomas Wedge (CE Controlled) Junior School be discussed at the next meeting of the Council;
- (2) Councillor C Moss be requested to obtain information, in the form of a written report, on the number of incidents of road/traffic collisions on the main road through Saughall over the last three years; and
- (3) the next time the Gowy North Area Committee's speed detector is made available to the Council it be used to survey speeds outside Oaktree Nursery on Fiddlers Lane and also on Long Lane.

82 LOCAL BUS SERVICES – NEW ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk had written to the Managing Director of ChesterBus, Mr Stuart Hyslop, raising concerns over the Bus Company's decision to terminate the No 15 bus service at the Town Hall in Chester. This meant that bus users had to carry their shopping quite a distance from the shops on Frodsham Street and Eastgate Street, etc. back to the bus stop.

Mr Hyslop had attended a Council meeting on 10 January 2005 and had outlined new proposals in the form of a presentation. However, the problem was that Members could not remember Mr Hyslop telling them that he intended to terminate the No 15 bus service in the City Centre. Mr Hyslop insisted that he had told them that the time saved by terminating the service earlier would be used to provide a 15 minute service with the 15A.

Although the Council had asked for the previous No 15 service to be re-introduced, Mr Hyslop informed that currently there was no intention to restore the link to the Railway Station or round the City which would have to terminate again in 2006 when the Bus Exchange was demolished. He further informed that elderly residents experiencing a problem could book Dial-a-Ride for their return journey to Saughall and that half fare passes were accepted on this service.

It was also reported that residents of the Ridings Estate were not happy with double-decker buses passing through every 30 minutes.

With the benefit of hindsight, Members agreed that they should have realised that ChesterBus could not run a 15 minute service if it was running to the Railway Station. It was considered that the new service benefited Blacon not Saughall. Buses terminating at the Bus Exchange was a serious disadvantage to older people and the infirm.

It was noted that no bus services other than the revised No 28 were feeding into the Railway Station.

RESOLVED:

That further consideration be given to the new arrangements for local bus services at the next meeting of the Council.

83 CHURCH ROAD BUS SHELTER

The Council's stated policy was eventually to have a bus shelter at every bus stop in the village.

However, the bus shelter on Church Road was attracting anti-social behaviour and local residents were asking for it to be removed because of this – to stop youths congregating and causing a nuisance and a disturbance.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) before any decision is made on whether or not to remove the bus shelter the opinion of bus users be sought;
- (2) Councillor B Kerr be requested to discuss the issue with bus users, canvas opinion and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council;
- (3) the Chairman be requested to send out an e-mail and include an item on the next Newsletter asking for views; and
- (4) removal or otherwise of the Church Road bus shelter be the subject of debate at the Parish Meeting on 23 May 2005.

84 ODD JOBS

The Clerk reported that three men had expressed an interest in undertaking odd jobs for the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to interview the applicants and bring a report setting out his recommendations to the next meeting of the Council.

85 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Clerk had received several sets of Minutes from the Secretary of the Vernon Institute Management Committee.

A quotation had been obtained for levelling the car park and the Council was requested to give consideration to making a grant to assist the work.

RESOLVED:

That grant aid of £2,000 be awarded to the Vernon Institute Management Committee to assist refurbishment works to the Vernon Institute and its environs.

86 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

(i) Chester Police Forum – 18 April 2005 at the Chester Town Hall

Members were informed of proceedings of the meeting.

87 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- two letters from Miss D Carline setting out concerns over the new bus service arrangements.

Details had been forwarded to the Managing Director of ChesterBus, Mr S Hyslop, by the Clerk.

88 CIRCULARS

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

The Countryside Agency North West – Landscape Access Recreation
Chester City Council's Ethics & Standards Committee Agenda
Chester City Council's – The Key – Winter 2004/05
Cheshire County Council's – Cheshire Matters April 2005
Highway Agency's Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement A5117
Deeside Park Junctions Improvement
The Countryside Agency – Landscape, Access Recreation – The Countryside Agency North West
Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee Agenda in respect of the meeting held on 14 April 2005

89 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Councillor C Moss informed that Mr Ashbrook had been the only parishioner to attend the last Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 7 May 2005. He had raised concerns over the proposal to site a radio base station comprising a 15m high telegraph pole at K's Nursery. (Minute No. 72/2005 refers)

RESOLVED:

That Councillors C and M Wynne-Eyton be requested to hold the next Parish Council Surgery between 10:00am and 10:45am on Saturday, 6 June 2005 at the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

90 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business listed below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Paragraph	1	Particular Employee
	11	Industrial Relations

ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

91 CLERK'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT AND JOB DESCRIPTION

The Council considered proposals to revise and vary the Clerk's Contract of Employment and Job Description. The last review had been carried out in 2003 when a revised Contract had been agreed and signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

A decision had been taken at a previous Council meeting not to award the Clerk a salary increase in accordance with the Local Government Annual Pay Award until her Contract and Job Description had been revisited.

RESOLVED:

That a draft Contract and Job Description be drawn up using the models provided by the National Association of Local Councils and taking account of Members' comments.