

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 4 July 2005 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor C Moss
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs J Young

111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Mr K Stinson – Saughall Homewatch

112 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

113 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

RESOLVED:

That Mr M Jones be invited to speak on Police issues at the next meeting of the Council.

114 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 June 2005 be confirmed as a correct record

115 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 96/2005 – Matters Arising from the Minutes – Minute No 91 Clerk's Contract of Employment and Job Description

Because of unforeseen circumstances, the meeting to discuss the above had not gone ahead.

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be rearranged.

116 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey reported that concerns had been raised at the last Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 2 July 2005 over anti-social behaviour on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field.

It was noted that a lot of incidents were not being reported to the Police.

Councillor Mrs Young informed that the fence around the Uniform Headquarters was being dismantled and some of the children who were members of the Uniform Groups had, the previous week, been locked in the building by nuisance youths.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to making the Playing Field an alcohol free zone but it was accepted that the City Council would only be able to do this if sufficient evidence was collected.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and Councillor B Kerr be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 30 July 2005 between 10:00am and 10:45am in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

117 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 June 2005:

<u>Financial Year 2005/2006</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning)	3,148.01	101802
Mr C Moss (Parish Room Rent)	312.50	101803
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	56.07	101804
Inland Revenue	758.64	101805
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	617.55	101806
Rural Services	40.00	101807
Mr C Moss (Replacement window pane)	182.12	101808

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 June 2005 (14 Day Account)	106.44
Interest to 23 June 2005 (Treasurer Account)	0.40

118 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Vandalism – Parish Room Window

Councillor C Moss reported that the window in the Parish Room had been broken by a youth in a drunken state who had subsequently been apprehended. Councillor

Moss had obtained a form from the Police to claim compensation and would make a claim on the Council's behalf.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Homewatch

The AGM was held on 14 June and there were no nominations for Chairman or Secretary. The meeting then decided to retain Homewatch in a de-centralised form with delegated local Coordinators for various small zones within the area encompassed by the previous Saughall & District Homewatch. The principles to be adopted were explained in the following extract from the Minutes of the AGM and details would be finalised by a Sub-Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday 6 July at 10:30 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane. The Parish Council would be notified when the new organisation had been established.

"3. Election of Officers

There were no nominations for the posts of Chairman and Secretary and the current retiring Chairman said that he could see only three alternatives:

1. Disband the HW.
2. Revert to the original system where local groups, perhaps residents of a particular street or area operate as independent bodies with no formal connection with the PC and no overall guidance.
3. Disband the HW for the time being and resurrect it in the future if and when the Police show an interest and interest revives within the village.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the second of the above alternatives was preferable and Keith Stinson agreed to continue as treasurer and for a short time to lead the setting up of the new organisation structure. Preliminary thoughts were defined as:

- ? No formal Minutes of meetings
- ? A number of informal meetings each year
- ? No Chairman or Secretary and consequently no regular formal reporting to or attendance at Parish Council meetings. Homewatch would wish to retain the connection with the PC as its involvement and assistance is appreciated.
- ? The revised system to be based on the Local Street Coordinators System

A small group of volunteers would meet shortly to define the new arrangements. These would be: Keith Stinson, John Hess, Ian Humphrey, Colin Hardy, Jeanne Storrar and Ross Millar".

The Council reaffirmed its support for the Homewatch organisation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) Mr Stinson be thanked for his hard work and commitment in respect of the Homewatch.

(c) Crime and Disorder

The Chairman reported that Mr Jones had written to the Divisional Commander complaining about not being able to get through to the Police Headquarters in Winsford on the telephone number publicised when he wished to report nuisance youth activity/anti-social behaviour.

The Chairman agreed to follow Mr Jones' concerns up with the Police and speak to Sergeant David Barter.

It was noted that problems with local youths continued in the environs of Wain House and the Warden was regularly reporting incidents to the Police.

Members suggested that the grass on the amenity areas in the village, maintained by Chester City Council, be kept at approximately 4 inches long in an attempt to discourage older children from playing on them.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports be received; and
- (2) Mr Philip Davies of Chester City Council be asked to let the grass on the amenity areas grow longer to deter older children from playing on them.

(d) Church Road Bus Shelter

Councillor B Kerr informed that those people he had consulted over the Church Road bus shelter were extremely angry about the criminal damage that had been caused and were frustrated because nothing seemed to be done about it. However, the general feeling was that the bus shelter should remain where it was.

There was a lot of litter strewn around but it was considered that if another litter bin was provided on Church Road beside the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School, opposite Saughall Hey, and Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council emptied all of the litter bins 3 times a week the situation would be rectified.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) the Church Road bus shelter will remain in-situ; and
- (3) Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council be requested to take action on the litter bins as detailed above.

119 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 6 June 2005 be received.

120 BRITISH TELECOM – PAYPHONE PROVISION

Members considered a letter dated 31 May 2005 from BT Payphones Project Liaison Officer detailing proposals to realign payphone provision to meet consumer demand. It was noted that the village only merited one payphone.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to propose to BT Payphones that as an alternative to removing two of the phones all three be upgraded so that the kiosks are WiFi enabled subject to cost.

121 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

It was reported that some progress was being made. The Project Co-ordinator had been kept informed of developments. He was returning from holiday soon.

RESOLVED:

That a Special meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Committee be arranged in the near future to update Members and allow them to monitor progress.

122 PLANNING APPLICATION OVER THE BORDER IN WALES

The Clerk had asked Mr Brian Hughes, Chester City Council's Development Co-ordinator, for a progress report on the protocol he had agreed to draft to be used when Flintshire County Council consulted his Council on planning matters on the Saughall border. Mr Hughes had also been asked if he knew if a planning application had been submitted to the Flintshire Planning Authority for a development on the border with Saughall. Mr Hughes had failed to respond.

Consequently, the Clerk had written to Mr Andy Farrall, Chester City Council's Strategic Director – Development, asking him to look into the situation. Although Mr Farrall had sent a holding letter and the promise of a full response in due course, this response had not materialised.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to send a reminder to Mr Farrall but if all else failed Chester City Councillor RA Storrar be requested to intervene and secure an appropriate response to the issues raised and ascertain why Planning Officers failed to respond to the Clerk's requests.

(a) Speeding Traffic

Councillor C Moss had obtained figures from the Cheshire Constabulary on the number of reported traffic incidents that had occurred on the main road through Saughall over the last three years.

Mr Nigel Wakefield had provided the figures and they showed a reduction in accidents over the period.

Members were reminded that the area of Long Lane where the children's playground was situated was outside the 30 mph speed limit.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council try to build up evidence of speeding traffic when it has access to the speed monitoring equipment; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Graham Morris of Chester City Council if the Chester Joint Highway Committee can give consideration to introducing a 30 mph speed limit from the top of Long Lane to the bottom of Sea Hill Road.

(b) Bus Shelter Maintenance

It was reported that the new bus shelters still had no lights.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to obtain a progress report on the new bus shelters and ascertain which shelter would be replaced in 2005/2006.

(c) Poor Visibility

It was reported that motorists were experiencing poor visibility at the junction of Long Lane and the A540, the Parkgate Road, because of overgrown hedges.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Graham Anderton, the District Engineer, to take necessary action to improve the visibility at the junction.

(d) Local Bus Services – New Arrangements

RESOLVED:

That local bus services be monitored and a report be brought to the next meeting.

(e) Community Speedwatch Programme

The Clerk had ordered a Bushnell Speedster but it had not yet been received.

RESOLVED:

That Ms Anne Lancaster, Chester City Council's Area Manager, be requested to arrange a training event for Members on the use of the Bushnell Speedster in the Autumn.

124 ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES – SAUGHALL HEY

The Clerk had written to the emergency services regarding concerns in relation to access for emergency vehicles to dwellings on Saughall Hey.

The Fire Service had responded previously and informed that there were no concerns as far as it was concerned (Minute No 103/2005 refers).

The Clerk had now received letters from Mr Ian Moses, Mersey Regional Ambulance Service's Locality Manager, and Mr Chris Burnham, Cheshire Constabulary's Roads Liaison Officer, Western Division.

The Ambulance Service had informed that it had issued guidelines to staff telling them not to take ambulances off the road unless they were able to check the ground personally and vouch for its suitability to support a fully laden ambulance. They should park on the road adjacent to the nearest access pathway and then walk to the house. The Service did not necessarily endorse wholesale changes in the layout of the estate but would support some changes that might alleviate future problems.

The Constabulary informed that generally Police vehicles being small could negotiate parked vehicles with care and it was not necessary in the vast majority of incidents for Police vehicles to park within the immediate vicinity of any premises being visited.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the two letters received be noted.

125 CHESHIRE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE

It was reported that Cheshire County Council's Acting County Manager, Ms Paula Yates, had not responded to the Clerk's letter of 9 June 2005 requesting help to conduct a survey of young people in the village to ascertain if they would like a Youth Pod located in Saughall for their use.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write again to Ms Yates.

126 ODD JOBS

The Chairman informed that he had not been able to contact those interested in doing odd jobs, mostly joinery, for the Council.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C Moss be requested to speak to those who had shown an interest in undertaking work for the Council, to offer £7.50 per hour for work done and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council.

127 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee held on 10 June 2005 and Councillor RA Storrar briefed it on issues discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Vernon Institute Management Committee held on 10 June 2005 be received.

128 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

That attendance at meetings of Outside Bodies and Conferences be as follows:

- (a) Cheshire Association of Local Councils
7:00pm on 13 October 2005 (buffet available from 6:00pm)
Middlewich Civic Centre

To be decided at the next meeting.
Notices of Motion also to be discussed.

- (b) NALC Annual Conference
23-25 September 2005
Eastbourne

Councillor A Bailey to attend.

129 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- letter dated 3 June 2005 from DEFRA's Head of Local Environmental Quality Team regarding the timetable from the implementation of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Noted.

- letter dated 14 June 2005 from Chester City Council's Senior Housing Officer, Mr Paul Simpson, regarding a survey being carried out as part of a Best Value Review of how Housing Register and Homeless Services are delivered.

Noted.

- letter dated June 2005 from the Lord Mayor of Chester asking for support in respect of his parade on Saturday, 16 July 2005.

Noted.

130 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received:

Chester City Council's The Past Uncovered June 2005
WREN's Village Hall and Community Centre Challenge '05
Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters June 2005
RoSPA RVA Dummy2? – Water Safety Risk Perception for young people
Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee Agenda for meeting on 16 June 2005

131 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Council meetings scheduled for 7:30pm on Mondays, 1 August and 5 September 2005 be cancelled and instead the next meeting of the Council be held at 7:30pm on Monday, 15 August 2005 at the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall.