

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL
held on 15 August 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 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

County Councillor D Rowlands
Ms D Whittaker - Cheshire County Council's Youth Work Team Leader

132 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Marsden

133 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

134 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

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

135 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 121/2005 – Golden Jubilee Park Development

Councillor RA Storrar raised concerns that Members were not being informed of the work taking place on the Council's land.

It was agreed that this would be discussed further later on the agenda.

Minute No 123/2005 – Highway Issues

Councillors Mrs Humphrey, Johnson and Whitton requested a supply of leaflets to put on cars parked on pavements in Saughall.

It was agreed that parking on pavements would be included on the agenda for the meeting of the Council scheduled for 3 October 2005.

136 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Councillor B Kerr informed that no parishioners had attended the Council Surgery on Saturday, 30 July 2005.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C Moss be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 3 September 2005 and Councillor RA Storrar be requested to preside over the Parish Council Surgery scheduled for 1 October 2005, both between 10:00am and 10:45am in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

137 CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISION OF A YOUTH POD

Ms Debi Whittaker of Cheshire County Council's Youth Work Team had accepted an invitation to attend the meeting to speak on this item. She informed that the County Council had no resources at the present time to assist with a consultation exercise with young people of the village to ascertain if they would like a Youth Pod located in Saughall for their use.

Ms Whittaker informed that as the Community Safety Partnership was providing funding for Youth Pods and currently her team's resources were concentrated around "hotspots".

The Kingsway area of Chester had recently carried out a survey with the help of children from the local High School and a copy of the questionnaire used could be provided for information. Ms Whittaker suggested that help to chat to young people in their local area could be requested from University College Chester and/or Cheshire Community Council's Network Fund.

Members informed that they had been seeking help with the consultation and were disappointed that Cheshire County Council was unable to provide assistance in the near future.

Councillor Mrs Young informed the Council that she was willing to distribute questionnaires.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Ms Whittaker be thanked for her attendance at the meeting and be requested to inform Ms Jo Austin-Preece, her Team Leader, that the Parish Council had wanted help with this important initiative; and
- (2) Ms Whittaker be requested to provide a copy of the questionnaire used in the Kingsway area of Chester be provided to assist the Parish Council in drawing up a questionnaire of its own.

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

<u>Financial Year 2005/2006</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning)	2,100.34	101809
Cheshire Playing Fields Association (Affiliation Fee)	12.00	101810
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	75.58	101811
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	572.12	101812
United Utilities (Water Rates)	38.34	101814
Rural Services	40.00	101815
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Expenses re. trees)	6.38	101816
Mr C Jones (Re-provided cheque re. Christmas festivities)	45.00	101817

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 July 2005 (14 Day Account)	96.63
Interest to 23 July 2005 (Treasurer Account)	0.55

(c) Bank Mandate

RESOLVED:

That a bank mandate be signed to allow the Clerk to transfer funds from the 14 Day Business Account to the Treasurer Account as necessary.

(d) Double Taxation

Councillor Bob Armitage, the Chairman of the Chester Area Meeting of Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC), had written to the Clerk on 29 July 2005 regarding the grant made by Chester City Council in April 2005 to minimise the effect of double taxation. It was hoped that a grant in respect of 2006/07 would be increased but it was not a forgone conclusion because some Chester City Councillors were strongly opposed to the principle of refunding any of the double taxation.

Consequently, it was necessary to present a case as forcibly as possible and to do this feedback was requested on how each parish had used this year's grant and how it intended to use any grant in 2006/07. Councillor Armitage informed that the argument was strengthened if he could demonstrate that parish councils had been able/would be able to provide additional services for their residents as a result of the grant.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to respond to Councillor Armitage's letter with the following information:

"This Council is developing 22 acres of recreational land (previously agricultural) into a Golden Jubilee Park. This is a major project that involves draining the land, laying a cricket square, and providing facilities for teenagers as well as digging out a new pond and maintaining an environmental/picnic area. This initiative is reliant on grant aid and

the Parish Council's own funds. This year (and probably in future years too if it continues) Chester City Council's Double Taxation Grant is being used to help fund this important initiative."

139 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

The Chairman reported that it had been agreed that Inspector Woodward was to provide a report. Unfortunately, these reports had not been forthcoming.

(b) Homewatch

Mr K Stinson had informed the Clerk, via e-mail, that it had been agreed that he would no longer attend Parish Council meetings to report on Homewatch activities.

Councillor Mrs Whitton agreed to speak informally to Mr Stinson about reporting arrangements, etc.

(c) Crime and Disorder/Nuisance Youth Activity

It was reported that there had been a spate of thefts but that the culprits had been caught.

The Police were mounting regular patrols in the Wain House area.

Following last month's Council meeting the Chairman had been in touch with Inspector R Woodward asking why Mr Jones had not been contacted (Minute No 118(c)/2005 refers). Consequently, a Police Officer had been sent to see Mr Jones and the problem was being resolved.

Criminal damage had been caused to a gate post in Darlington Crescent. The Police had been informed and within 24 hours a letter had been received informing that the offender had not been identified.

The usual Friday and Saturday night "drink parties" were continuing in the environs of Wain House, in the bus shelter on Church Road and on Fiddlers Lane Playing Field. The Police had been informed on numerous occasions but were doing little to deter them. These disturbances continued to affect residents' quality of life.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Divisional Commander, Superintendent Ian Hopkins, setting out the Council's concerns and asking for his comments.

(d) Parish Room Window

Councillor C Moss had made a claim on behalf of the Council in respect of the broken window in the Parish Room.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to provide Councillor C Moss with a copy of the invoice for the repairs to the window in order that he can pursue the claim.

140 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 4 July 2005 be received.

141 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

Concerns were raised over the perimeter pathway being commissioned on the Council's land and Members not being kept informed of the work schedule. It was noted that arrangements had been made with the best of intentions and to make progress at last.

Mr Richard Smith, Project Manager of Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd, had written to the Clerk with an ultimatum that unless certain actions were taken and completed by October 2005 the grant offer would be withdrawn in respect of the drainage work.

It was noted that the specifications would need to be changed (as the land would no longer accommodate three football pitches) and the Bill of Quantities drawn up to reflect work required.

Concerns were also raised over Powersystems failure to re-route the electrical cables that currently ran across the land on Fiddlers Lane.

RESOLVED:

That a Special Meeting of the Council be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 30 August 2005 in the Parish Room to agree what work was required in the Golden Jubilee Park and how it would be funded.

142 PARISH PLAN

It was noted that there were very few copies of the Parish Plan left and further copies would need to be ordered.

A letter had been received from Community Futures informing that it would only provide a further grant of £2,360 upon receipt of an invoice from Vale Royal Borough Council, who had printed the Plans. The Clerk had requested the invoice but had not received it yet.

The Clerk informed that reviews of the Parish Plan should be carried out on a six monthly basis and suggested a meeting be arranged for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a further 50 copies of the Parish Plan be commissioned from Vale Royal Borough Council; and

- (2) the invoice for the printing work be submitted to Community Futures as soon as Vale Royal Borough Council makes it available.

143 PLANNING APPLICATIONS OVER THE BORDER IN WALES

Chester City Council's Strategic Director – Development, Mr A Farrall, had received a letter from the Clerk following Mr B Hughes, Chester City Council's Development Co-ordinator's lack of response to letters and e-mails to him.

Mr B Hughes had previously agreed to a draft a protocol to be used when Flintshire County Council consulted his Council on planning matters on the Saughall border. He had also been asked if he knew if a planning application had been submitted recently to the Flintshire Authority for a development on the Border.

As a consequence of the Clerk's letter to Mr Farrall, Mr Hughes had replied but had failed to address either of the issues detailed above. He informed that Flintshire had no statutory obligation to consult a Parish Council outside of its administrative area, a fact of which the Parish Council was only too well aware, and suggested that Flintshire's website be frequently monitored so that applications on the border could be picked up.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to write to Flintshire County Council's Chief Planning Officer to ask if he will inform the Parish Council of any planning applications coming up for determination on its border (Sealand); and
- (2) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to raise this unsatisfactory situation with the Chester City Council's Portfolio Holder responsible for development control.

144 HIGHWAY ISSUES

- (a) A5117/A540 Deeside Park Junction Improvement

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council be not represented at the Public Inquiry.

- (b) Speeding Traffic – Junction of Long Lane and Fiddlers Lane

The Clerk had written to the Highway Authority informing that Council Members were concerned that the area of Long Lane where the Children's Playground was situated was not within the 30 MPH speed limit.

Mr Charles Lloyd, Cheshire County Council's Highway Engineer, had informed that his Council had recently adopted new interim speed limit criteria. These generally brought the threshold for speed limits down. He had a list of roads for the speed limits to be reviewed. The Local Joint Highways Committee had considered how to tackle these, and had decided to concentrate on the A roads first. Thus had been done over the last 12 months and the results were taken back to committee for approval. Members had agreed at the Committee meeting held on 15 July 2005 that the B roads be attended to next. Then ultimately the C and unclassified roads. This would take a lot longer as there were

more than 16 on the list (They had done 5 A roads). Long Lane / Seahill Road would be added to the list, but it was likely to take more than a year.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Bus Shelter Maintenance

The Clerk had again contacted Christine Garner of Cheshire County Council over the delay in lighting the new bus shelter.

Ms Garner had informed that she had chased the matter up with the Council's Street Lighting Section responsible for instructing the electric supply works and for co-ordinating the lighting connections. Ms Garner had been informed that Scottish Power would be programming the required overhead cabling works in for the week commencing 15 August 2005 after which the County Council's contractors would be able to carry out the connections to the shelter.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(d) Community Speedwatch Programme

Ms Anne Lancaster, Chester City Council's Partnership Officer, had informed the Council that the best person to advise on suppliers for Bushnell Speedsters was Mr Chris Burnham, the Cheshire Constabulary's Road Safety Officer. She also informed of problems being experienced in Mickle Trafford where the scheme was being run and that the Speedster was being withdrawn. She suggested that the purchase be delayed until the problems were ironed out.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the purchase of the Roadster be delayed.

(e) Local Bus Services

RESOLVED:

That local bus services continue to be monitored.

145 ODD JOBS

Councillor C Moss informed that Mr Herbert Wilkinson would be prepared to carry out odd jobs on the Council's behalf for £7.50 per hour.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr H Wilkinson be requested to repair those Parish Council notice boards that warrant it and make contact with the Tree Warden; and

- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to Mr Wilkinson informing that he would be responsible for paying his own income tax.

146 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar informed that the main hall had been decorated. He also informed that travellers had been removed from land on Sea Hill Road following litigation that had cost a substantial sum.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to find out what funding the Vernon Institute Management Committee had received already to help fund the litigation.

147 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

The Chairman agreed to try to draft the Notice of Motion on Parking on Pavements.

- (b) Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Planning Seminar
1:00pm – 4:30pm, Wednesday, 14 September 2005
Civic Hall, Middlewich

Councillor Mrs J Young agreed to try to attend.

148 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received:

What's on in Cheshire and Chester
Chester City Council's Annual 2004/2005 of its Standards and Ethics Committee
Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters July 2005
Chester City Council's Council Meeting Agenda - 20 July 2005
Cheshire County Council's Reporting Highway faults on-line
Chester Volunteer Bureau – Looking Back and Moving Forward – Summer 2005
Chester Volunteer Bureau – Volunteer Voice – July 2005
SMP Playgrounds – Seminar: Play and Leisure Provision for Parish Councils at the Heathcotes and Warrington Wolves RLFC in Warrington – Thursday, 15 September 2005 – 7:30pm