

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 3 October 2005 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: 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 Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs J Young

County Councillor D Rowlands

152 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor B Kerr be appointed Chairman of the Parish Council for the rest of the Municipal Year.

153 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

RESOLVED:

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

154 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Warrington
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)

155 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Moss declared a pecuniary Interest in item No 15 on the agenda – Budget Review. He was the Council's landlord as he owned the building that contained the Parish Room. The occupancy of the Parish Room by the Council was being reviewed as part of the budgetary process.

156 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr G Southey made representations about the bus service to Chester from the village terminating and starting near the Town Hall. This was quite a distance from the major retail outlets such as Marks & Spencer and Tesco. Consequently, bus users, of whom a great majority were older people, had to carry shopping a long way to the bus stop for Saughall.

The Chairman informed that the Council was well aware of the situation and was doing all it could to encourage Chesterbus to be more accommodating but

unfortunately Mr S Hyslop, the Managing Director, would not agree to extend the service because of the timescales involved. This matter would be discussed further under Agenda item No 21(b) – Local Bus Services.

157 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 15 and 30 August 2005 be confirmed as a correct record subject to it being noted that the Golden Jubilee Park land consists of 5.5 acres and not 22 acres as recorded in the Minutes.

158 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 137/2005 – Consultation on the Provision of a Youth Pod

The Clerk agreed to contact Ms Debi Whittaker of Cheshire County Council's Youth Work Team to obtain a copy of the questionnaire used previously to canvas youth opinion in the Kingsway area of Chester on where to locate a youth shelter.

Minute no 142/2005 – Parish Plan

It was noted that the Clerk had now received an invoice from Vale Royal Borough Council for printing copies of the Parish Plan.

159 CASUAL VACANCIES

Following the resignations from the Council of Messers A Bailey and A Marsden there were two vacancies. One vacancy was in the Saughall Ward whilst the other was in the Shotwick Park Ward. Notices had been posted on 19 September 2005 and the Returning Officer had to be notified within 14 days (not counting Saturdays and Sundays) from the date of the Notice of those interested in standing for election. Any ten electors in the parish could call an election.

If there were sufficient nominations for an election to be called the cost to the Council would be approximately £900.

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter dated 3 October 2005 from Mrs Helen Thorniley-Jones of the Greyhound Inn expressing an interest in being a Parish Councillor.

The Chairman set out the details of what interested parties had to do to call an election and nominate themselves, along with the timescales involved.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

160 COMMITTEE PLACES

RESOLVED: That

- (1) there be no changes in committee places until the casual vacancies are filled; and
- (2) the Golden Jubilee Park Committee and the Parish Plan Panel no longer meet and the Council take over their work instead but interested parties be invited to attend and speak on these issues.

161 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

It was reported that no one had attended the Parish Council Surgery held on 3 September 2005.

Councillor RA Storrar reported that at the Surgery he had held on 1 October 2005 he had received representations about youths drinking alcohol on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 5 November 2005 between 10:00am and 10:45am in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

162 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 15 August 2005:

<u>Financial Year 2005/2006</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning)	1,049.67	101818
Vale Royal Borough Council (Parish Plan printing)	1,221.00	101819
Cancelled		101820
Cancelled		101821
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	70.29	101822
Mr C Moss (Parish Room rent)	312.50	101823
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	572.12	101824
Inland Revenue	821.08	101825
Cancelled		101826
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,049.67	101827
United Utilities (Water Rates)	6.16	101828

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 August 2005 (14 Day Account)	92.77
Interest to 23 August 2005 (Treasurer Account)	0.46
Interest to 21 September 2005 (14 Day Account)	80.32
Interest to 23 September 2005 (Treasurer Account)	0.51

(c) Cheque Signatories

RESOLVED: That

(1) a bank mandate be completed by the following signatories:

- ? the Clerk
- ? Councillor B Kerr
- ? Councillor RA Storrar
- ? Councillor A Warrington
- ? Councillor Mrs D Whitton
- ? Councillor Mrs J Young

(2) the appropriate registration form be completed so that the Clerk can access telephone banking.

163 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Homewatch

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed that the Homewatch had established a Sub-Committee of four members whose terms of reference were to draw up a list of all the streets in the village and the surrounding area to be covered by the Homewatch.

(b) Crime and Disorder

Members reported on incidents of nuisance youth activity that had occurred over the last month or so. They included bad behaviour at the Ridings School, the Ridings Estate, the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field and the Church Road bus shelter.

(c) Policing of Anti-Social Behaviour

At the Council's request the Clerk had written a strongly worded letter to the Divisional Commander, Superintendent Ian Hopkins, about the unacceptable under-aged drinking and anti-social behaviour that occurred regularly in the village. It was the Council's perception that there had been little intervention by the police and no measures had been put in place to act as a deterrent.

The Superintendent had responded asking what progress had been made over proposals to erect a youth shelter in the village and on purchasing a Police Community Support Officer for Saughall to increase police presence? He also informed that the Constabulary had invested heavily in new staff, processes within the call centre and a 24-hour central crime recording bureau to make reporting crimes and incidents a lot easier.

The Superintendent also informed that it was pointless the police responding to low level youth disorder and nuisance time and time again as it did not resolve the issue. He considered that a partnership approach between the Constabulary and the Parish Council and a focus on a longer term strategy of diversion for the young people, targeting those that were selling the alcohol to them and clearly the parents of these people need to take responsibility also was the answer. There were more

stringent ways of dealing with the more persistent offenders and he had found the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, in appropriate cases, to be a huge deterrent. This, of course, relied upon people being prepared to give evidence as to the anti-social behaviour and work with the police and local authority to obtain a successful Anti-Social Behaviour Order at Court.

The Superintendent informed that he would ask Inspector Robert Woodward, who was the Neighbourhood Policing Unit Inspector responsible for Saughall, to attend the next Parish Council meeting and to begin work with the Parish Council at jointly resolving the issues and targeting those people that were committing criminal acts.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the Clerk's letter and Superintendent Hopkins' response be noted;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to Superintendent Hopkins again with a progress report on the youth shelter initiative and on the proposal to finance a Police Community Support Officer; and
- (3) the Clerk be requested to include in her letter at (2) above an invitation to Inspector Woodward to attend a meeting (in the daytime) with representatives of the Parish Council to discuss how they can work together to resolve anti-social behaviour issues that are causing concern in the village and effecting parishioners quality of life.

(d) Parish Room Window

Councillor C Moss reported that he had completed and submitted the necessary documentation including a copy of the invoice for the repair, supplied by the Clerk, in an attempt to claim compensation for the broken window in the Parish Room.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C Moss be thanked for his efforts and a response to his submission be awaited.

164 CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISION OF A YOUTH POD

RESOLVED:

That the questionnaire used by Cheshire County Council's Youth Service to canvas opinion on where a youth pod might be sited in the Kingsway area of Chester be obtained, adapted for Saughall by Councillor Mrs J Young and distributed as appropriate.

165 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 15 August 2005 be received.

166 BUDGET REVIEW

The Council reviewed its budget for 2005/06 along with its financial position. It also considered its occupancy of the Parish Room and discussed whether it was providing value for money.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council's budgetary position be noted;
- (2) consideration be given to the payment of a Chairman's allowance at the next meeting of the Council; and
- (3) no decision be taken to give up the tenancy of the Parish Room at the present time but the Council continue to monitor the situation .

167 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Amended WREN bid

RESOLVED:

That a Special meeting of the Council be held at 7:30pm on Monday, 10 October 2005 to determine the way forward in respect of the funding application made to WREN.

(b) Funding

(i) Saughall Cricket Club

The Clerk reported that Mr B Huxley of the Saughall Cricket Club had provided her with a list of the funding applications that had been made to date. Funding had been sought from the following organisations:

- ? Foundation for Sport and the Arts
- ? SportsMatch
- ? The Lords Taverners – provisionally £3,000
- ? Awards for All
- ? Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund
- ? John Lennon Liverpool Airport
- ? Sport England
- ? Local businesses and financial institutions
- ? Village Raffle - £480

(ii) Parish Council

The Clerk reported that the Council had been successful in attracting the following funding subject to relevant conditions being met:

- ? Chester City Council's Play Area contribution £1,000 – for the supply of a “goal-end”
- ? Chester City Council's Disability Discrimination Action Playground Budget 2005/06 - £600 towards the cost of laying the perimeter path

(iii) Perimeter Path

The Clerk reported that she had received an invoice (for £9,750 plus VAT) totalling £11,456.25 from Mr DJ Francis for the construction of a 2 metre wide pathway at the Golden Jubilee Park. A total of 680 metres had been completed and approximately 30 metres remained to be done once other works required were completed.

The Chairman informed that the Clerk, as the Proper Officer, was the only person who was allowed to act on behalf of the Council, place orders and deal with contractors, etc. No-one else was able to do so.

RESOLVED:

That a payment be made to Mr DJ Francis if the appropriate paperwork can be provided.

(iv) Diversion of Electrical Cables

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Powersystems again requesting urgent action and informing that the Council stands to lose grant aid if the project's timescales are not met.

(v) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

The Clerk and Councillor C Moss reported on emergency work that had been commissioned and carried out on the play equipment and surface on the playing field because it was dangerous not to do so. The Clerk also informed that she had asked Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council to provide and site a new litter bin on the field as the old one had been beyond repair.

RESOLVED:

That the actions taken by the Clerk and Councillor C Moss be endorsed.

168 CHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S DRAFT TREE POLICY

It was reported that the City Council's Draft Tree Policy was out to consultation and that comments were requested by 18 November 2005. A copy of the Draft Policy had been passed to the Tree Warden, Councillor C Wynne-Eyton.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C Wynne-Eyton be requested to pass any observations on the City Council's Draft Tree Policy to Chester City Council's Trees and Woodlands Officer, Mr Pete Murray.

169 PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Plan be reviewed and revised as appropriate at the next meeting of the Council and those members of the public who had sat on the Parish Plan Panel be invited to attend and contribute to the review.

170 PROPOSAL TO MAKE TELEPHONE CALL BOX 01244 880201, SEA HILL ROAD, SAUGHALL – CASHLESS

RESOLVED:

That Councillor R Shukla follow this matter up and bring a report to the Council in due course.

171 PLANNING ISSUES

(a) Planning Application Over the Border in Wales

Councillor RA Storrar informed of the actions he had taken, as a Member of Chester City Council, to try to get the City Council Officers to help the Parish Council and alert it to planning issues the City Council was consulted upon by the Flintshire Planning Authority that would impact on Saughall and Shotwick Park. He informed that City Council Officers were of the opinion that the Parish Council should try to keep abreast of planning applications on its border by regularly visiting Flintshire County Council's website.

Councillor RA Storrar informed that he was involving the City Council's appropriate Portfolio Holder in an attempt to agree a satisfactory way forward and would keep the Council informed on any progress made.

It was noted that the Chief Planning Officer at Flintshire County Council had not responded to any of the letters the Clerk had written over the years.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to write again to Flintshire County Council's Chief Planning Officer requesting that the Parish Council be informed of any planning applications on its border; and
- (2) a meeting be arranged between Councillor RA Storrar, the Chairman and Flintshire County Councillor Griffiths to try to bring the situation to a satisfactory conclusion.

(b) Consultation on Planning Policy Documents

A letter dated 16 August 2005 from Chester City Council's Forward Planning Officer, Ms A Loftus, informed that anyone submitting comments on any of the planning documents that they were being consulted on would be kept informed of progress and eventual adoption.

RESOLVED:

That the content of Ms Loftus' letter be noted.

(c) Supplementary Planning Guidance: Managing the Supply of New Housing in the Chester District

A letter dated 19 August 2005 from Chester City Council's Forward Planning Officer, Ms A Loftus, informed that the Supplementary Planning Guide had been adapted by the City Council on 20 July 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the content of Ms Loftus' letter be noted.

172 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parking on Pavements

People were still parking on the pavement and polite notices asking them not to do so were being issued by Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be discussed with Inspector Woodward.

(b) Local Bus Services

Members were reminded that the Managing Director of Chesterbus, Mr S Hyslip, had not informed the Council that bus routes from Saughall would terminate at the terminus in Chester. Since the problem had come to light representations had been made but had "fallen on deaf ears". There was not enough time to re-route buses as far as Frodsham Street, etc. in Chester because of the 15 minute frequency of the service.

The Council understood the inconvenience being experienced by bus users from the village and would like to see the bus service continue down to Frodsham Street.

My Hyslip had set out the reasons why he would not concede to the request to re-route the buses in a letter to Ms Christine Russell MP. However, despite this unfavourable response to the lobby the Council intended to pursue the matter. It was also suggested that Cheshire County Council's Transport Co-ordination Section may be persuaded to re-route the City Link bus.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the Council continue to monitor the situation and lobby for a bus service to the other side of Eastgate Street, etc.

(c) Town/Parish Bus Shelter Scheme 2005/06

The Clerk reported that she had received the detailed design drawing for the proposed new shelter at Hermitage Road/Meadows Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(d) A5117/A540 Deeside Park Junctions Improvements

The Council received a Notice of Public Inquiry in respect of the A5117/A540 Deeside Park Junctions Improvements and noted the content.

The Public Local Inquiry would be held at the Mollington Banastre Hotel, Parkgate Road, Chester starting at 10:00am on Tuesday, 25 October 2005.

It was considered that the Highways Agency had not consulted widely enough and as a result the consultation may be inadequate.

It was hoped that temporary traffic lights could be installed at the junction of the A540/A5117 whilst work was ongoing.

173 LICENSING ACT 2003

Chester City Council's Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Mr Charles Kerry, had written to the Clerk regarding Members' Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest specifically with guidance on the new arrangements under the Licensing Act 2003 where parish councils and individual parish councillors could make representations at licensing hearings.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of Mr Kerry's letter be noted.

174 Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill

The Council received a letter from campaign organisers in respect of the Campaign for Sustainable Community Bill requesting support.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the letter from the organisers of the Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill be noted.

175 ODD JOBS

Councillor C Moss informed that Mr H Wilkinson had carried out some urgent work on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field (Minute No 167(b)(v)/2005 refers).

Councillor Moss would now ensure that Mr Wilkinson repaired the notice boards and installed the community seat at Saughall Hey on the grass opposite the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School (Minute of Finance and General Purposes Committee 30/2004 refers).

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

176 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar informed that it was the intention of the Vernon Institute Management Committee to write to the Clerk to request a contribution towards the legal fees in respect of the litigation over the travellers on its land in the Summer.

RESOLVED:

That a contribution towards the litigation costs be made available to the Vernon Institute Management Committee upon request from the fund set aside to assist the Vernon Institute's refurbishment programme.

177 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Attendance

RESOLVED:

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

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

Councillor Mrs J Young to attend.

Notice of Motion – Parking on Pavements
To be discussed further next year.

- (ii) Chester City Council's Parish Partnership Reception
7:30pm on Thursday, 27 October 2005
Assembly Room, Town Hall, Chester

The Chairman and Councillors C Moss and R Shukla to attend.

(iii)Cheshire Planning Forum
2:00pm on 14 October 2005
Offices of the Vale Royal Borough Council, Wyvern House, the Drumber,
Winsford

Possibly Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton to attend.

(b) Report Back

(i) NALC Annual Conference
23-25 September 2005, Eastbourne

The Chairman informed that this year's NALC Conference had been the best one ever. Topics debated included sustainable communities and Local Governance. Partnership working was one of the key messages. The Chairman of the Countryside Agency, the Leader of the Local Government Association, a Member of the Standards Board for England and a former Chief Executive of both Local Authorities in Birmingham and Manchester had been keynote speakers. Also, Officers of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils and Cheshire County Council had made an excellent presentation entitled 'Keeping the Baby AND the Bathwater'.

The messages were preparing for change and working with local councils and delivering local choice whilst recognising that much excellent work had been taken prior to the Quality Scheme.?

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

178 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Councillor Mrs J Johnson informed that she would provide a Christmas tree and donate lights. The tree would be located at the Greyhound Inn, as it had been the previous year.

Councillor Mrs D Whitton informed that the Christmas lights would be switched on on Wednesday, 3 November 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the Christmas festivities be the subject of a report to the next meeting of the Council.

179 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received:

- Cheshire County Council's Rural Touring Network – Autumn Season 2005
- Chester City Council's The Key – Summer 2005
- Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters – September 2005