

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 6 March 2006 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor WI Humphrey
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor C Moss
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

44 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

45 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 February 2006 be confirmed as a correct record:

Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones be added to the list of those in attendance.

Minute No 27 – Saughall and Shotwick Park’s Parish Plan – Local Context Testing

Fourth paragraph – “the Parish Council” be replaced with “invited parishioners”

Minute No 30(c) - Golden Jubilee Park Development – Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) – Resolution

Replace £25,000 with £30,000

46 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 37(b) – Village Design Statements

It was reported that the Cheshire Community Council did not deal with Village Design Statements. Mrs Vivien Ellis, its Chief Executive, had contacted Mr John Gittens, Executive Director of the Cultural Trust, to inform him of the Council’s interest.

Consequently, Mr Gittens had contacted the Clerk and informed that his Trust had led on the facilitation of Village Design Statements and the Parish Landscape Statement process in Cheshire and beyond. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting of the Council scheduled for 3 April 2006 to make a presentation.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive Director of the Cultural Trust be invited to attend the Council meeting scheduled for 3 July 2006 in order to make a presentation on Village Design Statements.

47 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Work to be Done

The Council noted the content of a letter dated 10 February 2006 sent to Mr DJ Francis, its preferred contractor, by the Clerk. No work would be undertaken until funding was in place but it was necessary to meet with Mr Francis to agree an appropriate timescale for the work.

Mr Francis had not been in contact with the Chairman as requested yet. The intention was to invite him to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 23 March 2006.

Members were dissatisfied with the way in which the field had been left but realised that the contractor had not anticipated the inordinate length of time that would elapse before the work could be completed.

It was reported that a Football Team in the village was now interested in a full size football pitch being made available on the field. A representative would attend the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to set out the Team's proposals.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the position be noted; and
- (2) no action be taken to get the field tidied up yet because it is hoped that the contractor will be back on site in April 2006, subject to the necessary funding being in place.

(b) Public Works Loan Board Application

Pursuant to Minute Nos 30(c)/2006 and 45/2006, the Council was asked to reconsider its decision to apply for a £30,000 loan repayable over 30 years from the Public Works Loan Board in the light of information received from the County Secretary, Mrs Jackie Weaver.

Mrs Weaver advised that where the total cost of the loan, including interest, exceeded the cost of the project it might be refused. Therefore, a borrowing period of 20 years was recommended.

RESOLVED:

That the loan application be submitted to the Public Works Loan Board requesting a loan of £30,000 over a repayment period of 20 years.

(c) Awards for All

The Council was informed that the grant application had now been submitted to Awards for All in respect of the Cricket Club.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(d) Fiddlers Lane Play Area

The Clerk had contacted Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council following concerns raised in Chester City Council's Annual Playground Inspection Report about the swing seats and the speed of the roundabout.

Mr Joe Mulholland had responded to the Clerk's queries informing that he had recently replaced, free of charge, the two cradle swing seats. They weren't new but compliant with safety requirements. Also, Mr Mulholland had informed that there was no speed restriction mechanism on the Wickstead Sputnik roundabout and Wickstead, the manufacturer, had confirmed this.

Councillors Kerr and Moss had inspected the swings and considered that the seats were fit for the purpose.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and no further action be taken at this time.

(e) Powersystems Customer Connections

The Clerk had, at the request of the Council, sent for and received an appropriate form to complete in order to have electricity installed on the field. Until the Council knew exactly what facilities were to be catered for on the field and had a site layout, it was not in a position to complete the form.

RESOLVED:

That no action in respect of the electricity supply to the field be taken for the time being and this matter be revisited at the appropriate time.

48 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Crime and Disorder

Members in turn detailed a number of youth nuisances and various anti-social behaviour being experienced in the village over the last month. Substantial

deliberations followed before the Council settled on a course of action that the Chairman agreed to lead on.

It was also noted that someone had broken into the Greyhound Public House and the incident had been reported to the police.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Cheshire Constabulary be informed of the problems being experienced in the village and be asked to give Saughall some attention; and
- (3) the course of action discussed be taken and the Chairman be requested to provide a report at the next meeting.

(b) Homewatch

The Council was informed of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Homewatch.

It was noted that the Council's March 2006 Newsletter carried an article asking for a volunteer to come forward to co-ordinate the Homewatch Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(c) Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Mrs Pauline English, Clerk to Little Stanney and District and Mollington Parish Councils, regarding the recent letter from the Chief Constable (Minute No 11(c)/2006 refers).

Little Stanney and District and Mollington Parish Councils were exploring the possibility of a few Parish Councils clubbing together to provide the £11,000 a year needed to fund a dedicated PCSO. Mrs English had written to a number of neighbouring Parish Councils for their views on this.

Mrs English had also been contacted by Jenny Ford from the Cheshire Constabulary who had offered a short presentation on the issues. Ms Ford had also highlighted a potential additional cost if the Parish Councils decided to go ahead with a federation and that was the cost of providing the PCSO with a vehicle. Some of the cost would be borne by the Constabulary but the Parishes would have to contribute as well.

The Clerk had spoken to Mrs English and informed that this Council had also discussed the Chief Constable's letter and was interested in her Councils' proposal but was awaiting contact from the Police Project Team. Saughall and Shotwick Park Council would certainly send representatives to any presentation that the Police put on for the group of Parish Councils that Mrs English had contacted.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Village Walkabout with the Police

At short notice, Councillors Kerr and Moss had recently walked the village with the Sergeant and Constable with responsibility for Saughall and who were based at Blacon Police Station. They were well aware of the village's problems and were committed, within their resources, to dealing with these problems.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

49 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 February 2006:

<u>Financial Year 2005/2006</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance)	1,049.67	101858
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	62.84	101859
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	572.12	101860
Mr WG Murphy (Electrical work carried out to assist the Christmas lights)	44.50	101861

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 February 2006 (14 Day Account)	41.35
Interest to 23 February 2006 (Treasurer Account)	0.32

Members were concerned that there appeared to be a couple of typographical errors on the receipts detailed in the Minutes of the last meeting. The Clerk agreed to look into it and ensure the actual receipts list included with the Accounts was correct prior to the next meeting.

Members were also concerned that some receipts listed in the Minutes of the last meeting did not appear on the receipts list. However, the correct accounting procedure was that receipts were only listed once the bank statement had been received and checked because only then was the Clerk sure that the income was in the Council's possession. When the agenda for the meeting had been distributed the bank statement had not been received.

(c) Cash and Bank Reconciliation

The content of the cash and bank reconciliation was noted.

(d) 2006/07 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks

The Council noted that revised pay scales had been received in respect of the 2006/07 Local Government salary award.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be paid in accordance with the 2006/07 pay scales from 1 April 2006.

(e) Double Taxation and Chester City Council's Grant

The Clerk had received a letter dated 23 February 2006 from Chester City Council's Strategic Director (Resources). The letter informed that the City Council had now agreed to increase the payments to reduce the inequalities caused by dual taxation in the parished areas of the Chester District. Payments were to be made to Parish Councils and Parish Meetings based on a per capita allocation of 75p for 2007/07 and £1.00 for 2007/08.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the letter be noted.

50 SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL – PARISH PLAN
- LOCAL CONTEXT TESTING

(a) Meeting held on 22 February 2006

The Chairman reported that the meeting had been convened by Cheshire Community Council to test whether Government priorities and policies in respect of its Rural Programme had been met. The outcomes of the Parish Plan had been tested against the six Regional Rule Delivery Framework priorities (Minute No 27/2006 refers)

Of the six priorities identified "Empowering Rural Communities" came through in discussions that had taken place at the meeting. Saughall and Shotwick Park had come out as a Parish reasonably well. The feed back was that as a community it was progressing and trying to make things happen and that the Parish Plan was vibrant. However, the Council would need more power and resources to make things happen locally.

It was noted that within this exercise youth nuisance was given a low priority.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(b) Burial Land

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the All Saints Parochial Church Council a couple of months ago to discuss the situation.

Since then the Chairman had met the vicar again and they had jointly sent a letter to Chester City Council to bring to its attention again the fact that the graveyard would be full in approximately 4 years time. The letter informed that this had been identified in the Parish Plan and during the planning process there had been an overwhelming response from parishioners who wanted burial land in the village and did not want the provision to be in Blacon.

A meeting was requested with City Council Officers to take this issue forward.

The letter also informed that land behind Park Avenue, currently in the ownership of Cheshire County Council, had been identified for burial purposes. Consequently, the Chairman and the vicar had asked the City Council to enter into discussions with the Parish Council and the Church to help acquire the land.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

51 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars

The situation had been brought to the Police's attention. People continued to park on pathways causing inconvenience to others.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to bring this matter to the Police's attention again.

(b) Saughall Hey Pavements

The City Council had agreed to clear away the leaves. The path was very uneven and the County Council and the Housing Trust would discuss what could be done to bring about improvements.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

(c) Highways Agency M6 Study into increasing Capacity from J11a to J19

Cheshire County Council's Director of Environment had written to the Clerk on 17 February 2006 to invite two Parish Councillors to a meeting with the Highways Agency on 7 April 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be requested to represent the Council at this meeting.

(d) Fiddlers Lane

The edge of the carriageway was crumbling.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Cheshire County Council's District Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, and ask that he take appropriate action.

52 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be requested to preside over the Council Surgery scheduled between 10:00am and 10:45am on Saturday, 1 April 2006 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall and bring a report on proceedings to the next meeting.

53 COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 February 2006 be received.

54 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar informed that there was nothing to report that required any action by the Council.

55 ODD JOBS

Councillor C Moss informed that Mr H Wilkinson had removed the broken notice board from the wall at the Ridings Community Infant School as requested. He would paint the play equipment later in the spring when the weather improved.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and Councillor C Moss be requested to ask Mr H Wilkinson whether he would purchase the paint in advance or whether he would like to draw up a list of what materials, etc. were required and the Clerk would purchase them.

56 AFFORDABLE HOUSING OFF LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

Cheshire County Council's Land Agent, Mr David Job, had written to the Clerk on 21 February 2006 and informed that Arena Housing had been investigating a number of practical and technical matters relevant to the scheme. Arena's most recent position statement suggested that there were difficulties in respect of drainage which was significant in determining the viability of the scheme. They hoped to be able to confirm the outcome of their deliberations in the next week or so and expected to be in a position to report in that timescale.

RESOLVED:

That the County Land Agent's report be noted.

57 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) To agree any representations.

Chester City Council's Getting Things Done Locally
Wednesday, 8 March 2006 in the Town Hall, Chester, 10:00am-3:00pm

No representation.

(b) To receive reports from Members who attended any outside meetings.

(i) Estate walkabout with the Community Housing Officer
Thursday, 23 February 2006, 10:30am at Wain House

The Chairman reported that on the day of the walkabout the weather had been inclement. They had looked at the land at the back of Wain House where youths congregated and caused a nuisance. Consideration had been given to planting shrubs but it was a big area to plant. It had been agreed that the best solution was to gate off the public footpath. Consequently, the Housing Trust would hold discussions with the County Council.

(ii) Annual Town and Parish Council's Conference
Wednesday, 8 February 2006 in the Tenant's Hall, Tatton Park, nr Knutsford,
7:30pm

Councillors B Kerr, IW Humphrey and Mrs P Humphrey attended.

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the event was very well organised with dedicated speakers. Delegates were brought up to date in respect of grass roots empowerment. There had been discussions on Quality Parish Council status and information had been provided on a free service to check smoke alarms and on recycling.

The Chairman reported that this had been the best conference the County Council had ever organised. He also informed that Quality Parish Council status would be discussed after the Parish Council elections in May 2006. He was of the opinion that the Council would be left behind if it did not become a Quality Parish Council and this message had come through loud and clear at the conference.

(iii) Gowy North Area Committee – 6:30-9:00pm, Thursday, 2 March 2006 at
Christleton High School, Village Road, Christleton

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed that two special meetings had been called to discuss:

? Quinn Glass Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Permit Application

- ? Peel Holdings Ltd application for a Waste Treatment Plant in Ince Chester City Council was a statutory consultee for this application as it was not the Planning Authority. Cheshire County Council was the Strategic Planning Authority.

It was not agreed to make any representations.

58 COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

- letter from Mrs M Abrams thanking the Council on behalf of the ladies who run the library for the honorarium paid before Christmas.

Noted.

- Goway North Area Committee – Community IT Course – free of charge – 13 places commencing in early March – six sessions 10am-12noon Saturday mornings – West Cheshire College (Handbridge Centre).

Councillor B Kerr would try to secure a place for himself.

59 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received, anyone wishing to see a copy would contact the Clerk:

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters February 2006

RoSPA Play Safety Parish, Town and Community Councils 2006

Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee Agenda for meeting on 16 February 2006

Cheshire Rural Transport Partnership

Cheshire Community Council – Cheshire Rural Voice February 2006

Community Safety Contacts Information – Cheshire Constabulary "Credit Card" leaflet