

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 3 April 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 Mr A Warrington
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs D Whitton.

61 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Moss declared a personal interest in respect of Item No. 8 Accounts (d) Non Domestic Rate Bill as he was the owner of the Parish Room and therefore the Council's landlord.

62 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

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

Minute No 46 – Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Minute No 37(b) – Village Design Statements
 - replace Gittens with Gittins
 - replace Cultural Trust with Cheshire Landscape Trust

Minute No 50 – Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council – Partnership Plan – Local Context Testing

- replace youth nuisance with farming

63 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute Nos 37(b) and 46/2006 – Village Design Statements

It was reported that Mr John Gittens, Executive Director of the Cheshire Landscape Trust, had agreed to attend the Council meeting on 3 July 2006 to make a presentation on Village Design Statements.

Minute No 50(b)/2006 – Burial Land

Chester City Council's Strategic Director (Community Services), Jan Rowley, had responded to the letter sent jointly by the Vicar, Rev Brian Harris, and the Chairman. The response inferred that the City Council proposed to extend Blacon Cemetery over the next two years and finance would be directed towards that decision. Therefore, it was unlikely that the City Council would be in a position to financially support the proposal to purchase land for burial in Saughall.

The Strategic Director had asked a colleague, Alan James, who was responsible for the City Council's cemeteries and crematorium, to meet with the Vicar and the Chairman to discuss the Saughall burial land issue.

Minute No 56/2006 – Affordable Housing off Lodge Lane, Saughall

It was noted that the outcome of Arena's deliberations was still not known. The Clerk agreed to contact the County Property Manager to try to obtain a progress report.

64 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Planning Committee held on 6 March 2006

RESOLVED:

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

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 March 2006

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the last meeting to the Committee and referred to each issue discussed in turn bringing Members up to date with progress and further developments where he could. The Minutes contained a number of proposals and recommendations and they were deliberated as appropriate.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 March 2006 be received and the proposals and recommendations contained therein be agreed.

65 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Public Works Loan Board Application

A decision by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on whether the Council could borrow £30,000 to finance the Golden Jubilee Park development work was still awaited.

(b) Awards for All

A decision on the funding application to Awards for All was awaited.

(c) Chester City Council's Contributions to Play Areas in Parished Areas 2006/2007

The Clerk reminded the Council that funding applications must be submitted to the City Council by 12 June 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of a funding application to Chester City Council re. Play Areas, be the subject of debate and decision at the next Council meeting.

(d) Overhead Electric Cables

It was noted that Powersystems were now on site and working towards taking down the overhead electric cables and burying them underground as agreed.

(e) Fiddlers Lane Play Area

It was noted that the play equipment was in good condition and work had begun to give it a new coat of paint.

66 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Crime and Disorder

Members reported on incidents and anti-social behaviour experienced in the village since the last Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Nuisance Youth Activity

The Chairman reported on the outcome of a course of action taken following the last meeting of the Council (Minute No 48(a)/2006 refers).

There had been a good police response and as a result of the actions taken a number of children had been grounded by their parents. The impact this had all had on the village had been tremendous and Saughall was a much quieter place now, as a result.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Inspector Robert Woodward thanking him for his help with this important and worthwhile initiative to halt unreasonable behaviour and to ask that he pass on the Council's gratitude to the Police Officers who assisted him with this operation.

(c) Homewatch – The Current Situation

The Council was informed of the current situation in respect of the Homewatch and reaffirmed its intention to provide assistance if it was necessary.

(d) Police Community Support Officers

No progress had been made with this initiative. No one from the Police had been in touch regarding this matter and it was known that Mollington Parish Council had rejected the proposal.

67 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 March 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	101862
Direct 2 Door – North West Newspapers Ltd	22.56	101863
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	64.72	101866
Inland Revenue	789.96	101868
<u>Financial Year 2006/2007</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Saughall Methodist Church (Hire of Hall for Parish Assembly)	16.00	101864
Saughall Methodist Church (Refundable deposit re. Hire of Hall for Parish Assembly)	25.00	101865
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	589.04	101867
Mr C Moss (Parish Room Rental)	312.50	101869

(b) Receipts

Interest to 23 March 2006 (Treasurer Account)	0.22
North West Regional Development Agency (Grant in respect of Parish and Town Council Bus Shelter Scheme)	1,900.00

(c) Cash and Bank Reconciliation

The content of the cash and bank reconciliation was noted.

(d) Non Domestic Rate Bill

The Clerk reported that Chester City Council had informed that this year's payments commencing 1 April 2006 were 1st payment £55.25 and then 9 monthly payments of £54.00. The total amount due for the year was £541.25.

68 STREET CLEANING/DE-LITTERING CONTRACT

Chester City Council had informed that as it was in the process of carrying out a full review of the street cleansing service it provided within the District and it was possible that an internal re-structure would follow to combine its Public Space and Community Safety Teams, it had decided that it was not in a position to take on additional work. Therefore, it was not tendering for the Parish Council's Street Cleaning/De-littering Contract.

Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council, the current contractor, had already informed that it would not be re-tendering for the contract and Flintshire County Council had not responded to the invitation to tender.

RESOLVED:

That a notice be placed in the Chester Standard Newspaper inviting tenders from contractors or self-employed for street litter cleaning based on 20 hours a week (work schedule to be agreed) with a closing date of Noon on Thursday, 4 May 2006.

69 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

It was noted that cars continued to be parked on pavements in certain areas of the village.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to bring this practise to the attention of the Police again and ask that they take action.

(b) Saughall Hey Pavements

The Council continued to monitor the condition of the footpath. It needed urgent attention and it was known that the Chester Housing Trust intended to rectify the situation

RESOLVED:

That the Chester Housing Trust be reminded that the footpath needs urgent attention.

- (c) Concessionary Travel Scheme for People Who Are 60 years and Over, or Have Disabilities

RESOLVED:

That the introduction of the new scheme on 1 April 2006 be noted.

- (d) Fiddlers Lane

The Clerk reported that the District Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, had been informed that the edges of the carriageway were crumbling. Work had now begun to rectify the problem.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

- (e) Long Lane Junction with Parkgate Road

A pothole had appeared at the junction.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform the District Engineer about the pothole.

- (f) Pear Tree farm, Hermitage Road

It was reported that slurry was again running onto the road.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform the District Engineer about the slurry.

- (g) Junction of Church Road and Hermitage Road

It was reported that a street light was out.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C Moss be requested to inform Cheshire County Council's Street Lighting Section about the street light.

- (h) Long Lane

Members remarked on the lovely display of daffodils on the grass verge on Long Lane.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Young and Mr G Southey and all those who helped plant the bulbs be thanked for their hard work.

70 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Issue Raised at the Last Surgery on 1 April 2006

Councillor Mrs D Whitton had dealt with a lady from Darlington Crescent who had a Parish Council notice put on her windscreen because she had parked on the pavement whilst others who had done the same had not had notices put on their windscreens.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(b) Member on Duty at the next Surgery on 6 May 2006

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be requested to preside over the Council Surgery scheduled between 10:00am and 10:45am on Saturday, 6 May 2006 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall and bring a report on proceedings to the next meeting of the Council.

71 FUTURE MEETINGS

(a) Annual Council Meeting

The Clerk reminded the Council that the next Council meeting was scheduled for 8 May 2006 and that the Parish Council Elections were on 4 May 2006.

RESOLVED: That

(1) in order to ensure Members receive their agenda in good time the Annual Meeting of the Council be moved to 7:30pm on 15 May 2006 in the Vernon Institute, Saughall; and

(2) the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 18 May 2006 be cancelled and a meeting be arranged in June instead.

(b) Annual Parish Assembly

RESOLVED:

That the change of venue for the Annual Parish Assembly from the Vernon Institute to the Methodist's Hall, because of a double booking, be noted.

72 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had no matters to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.

73 ODD JOBS

It was reported that Mr H Wilkinson had begun to paint the play equipment in the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field and he had purchased the paint.

74 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) To agree any representations needed:

- (i) Cheshire Association of Local Councils
Regional Spatial Strategy Information Session
Friday, 21 April 2006, 1:45pm till 4:00pm at the Civic Hall, Winsford

Councillors B Kerr and WI Humphrey to attend.

- (ii) Cheshire Planning Forum
Friday, 7 April 2006, 2:00pm at the offices of Vale Royal Borough Council,
Wyvern House, The Drumer, Winsford

No-one to attend.

- (iii) Gowy North Area Committee
Thursday, 6 April 2006, 6:30pm till 9:00pm at Huxley Village Hall, Huxley
Lane, Huxley

Councillor B Kerr and the Chester City Councillors (RA and Mrs JE Storrar) to attend.

- (iv) Chester Area Meeting
Wednesday, 5 April 2006

Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar would be attending.

(b) To receive reports from those Members who had attended outside meetings:

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

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that this had not been a very good event.

- (ii) Chester City Council's Area Working – Community Workshop
Thursday, 23 March 2006 in Barrow Village Hall, Main Street, Great Barrow

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed that this event had been poorly attended.
Councillors B Kerr, IW Humphrey and Mrs P Humphrey attended.

75 COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

- letter dated 16 March 2006 from Chester City Council's Solicitor, Mr Charles Kerry, re: the Parish Council Toolkit – Second Version – Best Practice and Basic Information for Parish Clerks – for the Clerk's information.

- letter dated 14 March 2006 from Cheshire County Council's Scrutiny Policy Manager, Mr Robin Roberts, informing that in respect of the consultation on the configuration on NHS Ambulance Trusts in England the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee resolved to note the arrangements made to engage with the public on this issue.

The Sub-Committee further resolved that it cannot support any proposals which does not substantially improve the ambulance emergency response overall to the people of Cheshire, particularly as current levels are not considered consistent across the County; and that assurances be sought that local service provision will in future be properly measured and monitored.

NOTED

- letter dated 20 March 2006 from the Director of Planning, Transport and Housing at the North West Regional Assembly regarding the consultation exercise on the North west Plan – submitted Draft Regional Spatial (RSS) for North West England. Consultation ends 12 June 2006.

NOTED. Councillors B Kerr and WI Humphrey were attending an information Session on the matter on 21 April 2006. (Minute No. 74(a)/2006 refers)

76 CIRCULARS

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

Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters – March 2006

Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee Agenda for meeting on 23 March 2006

Chester City Council's Meeting Agenda 29 March 2006

The Charter for Cheshire Councils "Working together for local people" October 2005

77 COUNCILLORS C AND MRS M WYNNE-EYTON

It was reported that Councillors C and Mrs M Wynne-Eyton were attending their last Council meeting as they were ineligible to stand for re-election as they now lived in Wales.

They were thanked for their efforts during their term of office as were all other Council Members.