

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 5 February 2007 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman  
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Co-ordinator)  
Councillor C Moss (Part)  
Councillor RK Shukla  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor HL Thorniley-Jones  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Council received representations from two parishioners regarding Cheshire County Council's Review of Primary School Provision and proposals to amalgamate The Ridings Community Infant School and the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School. A statement from the Governing Body of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School was also read out and a copy given to the Clerk for her records.

6 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor JG Johnson  
Councillor B Kerr

7 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar declared a personal interest in respect of item No 8(d) Saughall Friday Club (Minute No 13(d)/2007 refers) who had requested, in retrospect, a financial donation towards its annual Christmas Dinner. This was because she was a voluntary helper at the Club.

8 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendment the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2006 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No 192 – Resolution first paragraph, delete 4 December and replace with 6 November.

9 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be received:

Planning held on 4 December 2006

Finance and General Purposes held on 21 December 2006

10 CHESTER CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

(a) Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

The Council gave initial consideration to the consultation document and it was noted that comments on it were requested by 9 March 2007. Concerns were raised that it was proposed to combine the four current model codes of conduct applying to various categories of local authority members into one consolidated code. These had been issued on 2001 and were as follows:

- The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(England) Order 2001
- The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct)(England) Order 2001
- The National Park and Broads Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(England) Order 2001
- The Police Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(England) Order 2001

Other proposed changes included:

- Confidential information may be disclosed where the disclosure is in the public interest
- Behaviour outside official duties as a Councillor will only be in breach of the Code where a criminal offence has been committed
- The removal of the ‘Whistle-blowing’ duty to report other Councillors for breaches of the Code
- Councillors will need to declare interests of family, friends and those with whom they have a “close personal association”
- A new category of ‘Public Service Interests’ will be introduced enabling a Councillor serving on another public body to speak on relevant issues
- New rules will allow Councillors to make representations or answer questions at meetings where they have a prejudicial interest, providing the meeting agrees and the Councillor then withdraws

It was considered that this consolidated code would be very complicated for a Parish Councillor to follow.

RESOLVED:

That Members provide any comments on the consultation at the meeting of the Council scheduled for 5 March 2007.

(b) Consultation on Conservation Areas

The Council had been consulted by Chester City Council on Conservation Areas in Titone Bank, Shotwick, Sheaf, Puddington and Gorstella as a neighbouring Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Council submit no comments to Chester City Council in respect of its current consultation on Conservation Areas.

11 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Planning Issues – Revised Planning Application

It was confirmed that the Council did not wish to alter the number of car parking spaces to be provided. Also, the hedge that was to be removed would be replaced with Cheshire railings and the splay would meet with Cheshire County Council's Highway requirements. Therefore, an amended planning application would not be required.

(b) Siting of Basketball Area

Skippy Roberts, Cheshire County Council's Outreach Team's Leader, had informed that local youngsters would like a Youth Shelter and also a hard area for ball games, etc. along similar lines to the one erected in Kingsway. Members were urged to look at the Youth Shelter in Kingsway.

RESOLVED:

That no decision be made on the siting of the basketball area until the outcome of the meeting being arranged with young people was known.

(c) Saughall Cricket Club – Amended Planning Application

The Clerk had a copy of the Notice of Planning Permission in respect of a storage container to be positioned at the rear of the Uniform Groups' Headquarters. This would provide safe storage for ground maintenance equipment.

(d) Funding Opportunities

(i) Training Courses

It was noted that Chester City Council's External Funding Officer, Gill Cherry, was arranging training at the Town Hall in respect of the following:

- Improving your fundraising applications – 28 March 2007

- Raising Money from Trusts and Local Companies – 18 April 2007  
The cost of each event was £25.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones be requested to attend these events if there are still places available and her diary permits her attendance.

(ii) Gowy North Area Committee

It was reported that application for payments from Gowy North Area Committee's 2007/08 budget were requested by 5:00pm on Friday, 20 April 2007.

It was suggested that the Council make an application for a project other than the Golden Jubilee Park Development.

RESOLVED:

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to give consideration to the nature of the next funding application to the Gowy North Area Committee at its next meeting.

(e) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

(i) Play Equipment

The Council noted that the equipment in the playing field was in good condition.

(ii) Inspection of Children's Playgrounds

The Clerk had received a letter dated 29 January 2007 from Chester City Council's Play Development Officer, Phil Davies, informing of a free two-day training course on 6 and 7 March 2007 at a venue to be arranged on playground inspections. Completed application forms were requested before 23 February 2007.

Some Members considered that places should be taken up on the course whilst others were concerned about individual Member's liability if they were to carry out inspections and there were accidents involving the equipment later.

It was noted that the Clerk had obtained a quotation for quarterly play equipment inspections to be carried out and a decision would be made on whether to accept it when the Council set its budget at a meeting the following evening.

RESOLVED:

That the clerk be requested to seek advice from Phil Davies on individual Member's liability when carrying out play equipment inspections and report it at the Budget Council meeting on Tuesday, 6 February 2007.

12 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, provided the Council with a report setting out current issues and details of criminal activity in the village.

It was reported that nuisance youth activity had increased recently at the bus shelter on Church Road and concerns were raised that the CCTV camera positioned on it was either not working or not being monitored.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Homewatch Coordinator's report be noted; and
- (2) the Homewatch Coordinator be requested to liaise with Cheshire County Council's Transport Co-ordination Section at Rivacre Business Centre in Ellesmere Port regarding the CCTV equipment, etc.

(b) Crime Prevention Panel – 22 January 2007

Councillor WI Humphrey informed that he had been unable to attend the Panel meeting. Councillor Mrs JE Storrar agreed to inform him of the date, time and venue of the next meeting in due course.

(c) Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

Councillors who had attended the meeting on 9 January 2007 at Middlewich arranged by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to discuss PCSOs with a representative of the Cheshire Constabulary reported on its proceedings.

It was considered to be an effective package. The Council would need to commit for at least two years. If once committed to the initiative it was not proving to be successful one-year's notice could be given after one year to terminate the arrangement.

It was noted that Chief Inspector Brian Roberts would be attending the Budget Council meeting the following evening to make a presentation. This would be followed by a debate and a decision on whether or not to enter into contractual arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(d) Arcangel – Western Area Police Forums

The Council was informed of Arcangel, which was the standard based approach for Constabulary, and partnership activity to tackle alcohol related crime launched by Cheshire Constabulary in October 2006. Arcangel brought together all

operational, educational and diversionary activity aimed at alcohol fuelled crime, behaviour and incidents.

The brand name Arcangel was derived from the acronym ARC – Alcohol Related Crime and “angels” historically were strong cultural icons that had three important roles – protector, observer and enforcer.

Any concerns about alcohol related crime in the local area should be reported to the Neighbourhood Policing Team at Blacon (Tel No 0845 458 6375).

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the telephone number of the Blacon Community Action Team be publicised in the next Parish Council newsletter.

(e) Police Forum – Monday, 15 January 2007

Unfortunately, no one had been able to attend this meeting.

(f) RSCP Community Safety Challenge

The RSCP Community Safety Challenge, organised by the Cheshire Community Council, aimed to create safer rural communities in Cheshire and Warrington. It was expected that three projects would be funded up to £10,000 each. Projects that involved local people/volunteers from rural communities would be favoured.

Unfortunately, an interest had to be registered by 24 January 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Cheshire Community Council if an interest could still be registered.

(g) Chester Police Forum Meetings

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that Chester Police Forum meetings would be held as follows:

Monday, 17 April 2007	7:00pm	Town Hall, Chester
Monday, 10 July 2007	7:00pm	Village Hall, Common Lane, Waverton, Chester
Monday, 9 October 2007	7:00pm	St Theresa’s Parish Centre, Blacon, Chester
Monday, 15 January 2008	7:00pm	St Mary’s Centre, St Mary’s Hill, Chester

13 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2006:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2006/2007</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Mr C Moss (Parish Room Rental 1 Jan – 31 March 2007)	312.50	101948
Cancelled		101949
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	589.04	101950
HM Revenue & Customs	813.18	101951
Mr R Hipkiss (December 2006 Street Cleaning)	910.23	101952
Mrs H Abram (Honoraria to be shared between the six Ladies who work in the library)	150.00	101953
Mr W Abram (Honoraria for winding the VI Clock)	25.00	101954
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	103.54	101955
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	589.04	101956
Mr R Hipkiss (January 2007 Street Cleaning)	910.23	101957
Saughall Friday Club (retrospective donation towards Christmas lunch) (Minute No 13(d)/2007 refers)	25.00	101958

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	<u>£</u>
Interest to 21 December 2006 (14 Day Account)	130.19
Interest to 21 January 2007 (14 Day Account)	138.95
Mr R Shukla (Footpath Booklets sold in Pharmacy)	30.00

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the content of the cash to Bank Reconciliation be noted.

(d) Saughall Friday Club

RESOLVED:

That a retrospective payment of £25.00 be made to Saughall Friday Club towards the cost of providing Christmas dinner for its members.

(e) Bank Mandate

The Clerk reported on problems that had come to light in respect of the bank mandate. The HSBC bank was checking its records and would report back to the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to keep the Council informed of any progress.

9 YOUTH ISSUES

(a) Meeting between Young People in the Village and Parish Councillors

Skippy Roberts, Cheshire County Council's Outreach Team's Leader, had arranged for some young people who lived in the village to meet with Parish Councillors at 6:00pm on Thursday, 22 February 2007 at the Youth Club to discuss what provision the Parish Council could make for them in Saughall.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and any Members wishing to attend the meeting be requested to meet at the Youth Club on the date and time arranged.

(b) Saughall Youth Club

Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones reported on progress made in respect of the Youth Club's new constitutional arrangements and volunteers. It was noted that the Youth Federation was providing support.

The Vicar, Rev. Brian Harris, had written to the Clerk agreeing to Chair the Action Group that would draw up the new constitution.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received

15 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN SAUGHALL

It was noted that the proposed amalgamation of the Ridings Community Infant School and the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School was now out to formal consultation

The Clerk had received a letter from the Chair of the Governors at the Ridings School setting out various issues the Governors wanted Cheshire County Council to take into account as options were translated into firm proposals. The letter had also been sent to all parents of children in the School.

RESOLVED:

That the report and the contents of the letter from the Chair of Governors at the Ridings School be noted.

16 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

RESOLVED:

That Clerk write to PC M Hughes requesting that the traffic wardens come out to Saughall and ticket those who are parking on pavements,

(b) A5117 Major Roadworks

Members who had attended the meeting with Carillion on Tuesday, 16 January 2007 provided reports on the proceedings. The Clerk had received and circulated the Minutes of the meeting to all Members.

RESOLVED:

That the reports and the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2007 be received.

(c) Speeding Traffic

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk contact Chester City Council's Area Committee Manager, Anne Lancaster, and make arrangements to borrow the speed gun.

(d) Heavy Goods Vehicles on Lodge Lane

It was noted that this was no longer a problem as the access was closed.

(e) Hermitage Road – Hedges and Footpaths

The Clerk had received an email from Mr A Bailey who was angry because his grandson had been injured in his pushchair by a piece of hedge that had been blown by the wind.

The Clerk had previously asked Cheshire County Council's Area Engineer, Graham Anderton, to take necessary action so that the footpath was accessible to pedestrians. She had informed him of the child's injury and asked him for advice to remedy the problem but had not as yet received a reply.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Area Engineer's response be awaited; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to write to the landowner asking him to cut back his hedge.

(f) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

The Clerk had received a letter dated 30 November 2006 from Cheshire County Council's Chief Road Safety Officer informed that SIDs were now available to the whole of Cheshire to reinforce local speed limits. They displayed a passing vehicle's speed and either a smiling face or a frowning face depending on whether the vehicle was observing the speed limit, or not. Recent independent research had confirmed that this could have significant impact on driver behaviour.

The model had been successfully developed in Chester. It was intended that volunteers should deploy these devices in their local area on behalf of recognised community groups, such as Parish Councils.

The letter also referred to the County Council's community based pledge to drive at appropriate speeds and always within the speed limit called "SET THE PACE".

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to register the Council's interest in SIDs; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to obtain more information on the "SET THE PACE" initiative.

17 WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Leader of Chester City Council, Councillor Paul Roberts, had responded to the Clerk's letter on concerns regarding the waste collection consultation process. He accepted that the process had not been perfect but categorically assured her that there was no difference in the intended process between parished and unparished areas.

RESOLVED:

That Chester City Council be informed that this Council wants to see a continuation of weekly waste collections.

18 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

The Council received a report on proceedings from Councillors B Kerr (written) and Mrs Whitton (who had substituted for Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones) who had presided over Parish Council surgeries on 6 January and 3 February 2007 respectively.

Concerns raised had included dog fouling, damage to two oak trees on Church Road, they were now in a dangerous condition and required pruning, and the rubbish left in the Golden Jubilee Park by the Council's contractor. Youngsters to cause damage to a car had used some of the wood left behind.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to:
  - alert the District Engineer to the condition of the two oak trees on Church Road and ask him to take appropriate action;

- ask the Council's contractor again to remove the rubbish left in the Golden Jubilee Park;
- include an item in the next Newsletter on dog fouling;

and

(2) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 3 March 2007 in the Parish Room on Fiddlers Lane, Saughall between 10:00am and 10:45am and bring a report on proceedings to the Council meeting on 5 March 2007.

19 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

Councillor Mrs J Young had been unable to attend the last meeting of the VIMC. She agreed to attend the next meeting and discuss the possibility of it making a funding application to the Gowy North Area Committee by 20 April 2007.

20 ODD JOBS

As Councillor C Moss was no longer in attendance, his report on odd jobs would be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones informed that the litterbin at the Greyhound Public House did not need replacing.

21 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Representation at meetings of Outside Bodies

- (i) NALC Conference – Building the Future of Local Communities  
5-7 October 2007 at the Bournemouth International Centre

Councillor WI Humphrey indicated an interest in attending the Conference but it was agreed that a booking would not yet be made. (Discounted weekend rate £340.75)

- (ii) Rural Social Seminar  
Thursday, 8 February 2007 at Tarporley Portal Gold Club Premiership Course

RESOLVED:

That there be no Parish Council representative at this event.

- (iii) Cheshire County Council's A Special Festival to Celebrate Cheshire's Town and Parish Councils  
3:15pm, Sunday, 25 March 2007

RESOLVED:

That there be no Parish Council representative at this event.

- (iv) Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral 2007 Conference  
10:30am to 3:00pm, Saturday, 14 April 2007 at the University of Chester - £40 per person

RESOLVED:

That Parish Council representatives for this event be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Reports of those who attended meetings of Outside Bodies:

- (i) Gowy North Area Committee  
Thursday, 1 February 2007, 7:00-9:00pm at Burley Memorial Hall, Village Road, Waverton

Issues discussed included updates on:

Cleaner, greener, safer  
Policing issues  
Project Rural Matters  
Fire and Home Safety  
Community Safety Wardens  
Open Space

Also considered were the standard items e.g. planning and licensing along with Community Services Enforcement Policy and Transforming Learning Communities

- (ii) Estate Walkabout – 16 January 2007

Councillor WI Humphrey reported on the proceedings of this walkabout. Matters discussed included the state of the footpaths and vans that had to be moved within four weeks from the back of Church Road.

22 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Mrs M Abram on behalf of the ladies who work in the Library thanking the Council for its very generous honoraria payments.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

23 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received. Any one wishing to see a copy would contact the Clerk.

Chester Voluntary Action Voluntary Voice – December 2006  
Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Details of training courses  
Chester City Council – The Key Winter 2006

Chester City Council's Council Meeting Agenda – 24 January 2007  
Cheshire Community Council's Cheshire Community Pride 2006 Review  
Chester City Council's Statement of Community Involvement Adoption Statement  
Cheshire County Council – Chester Matters December 2006  
The Cheshire Countryside Award 2007  
Cheshire County Playing Fields Association – The Playing Field Winter 2006-07  
Chester City Council's Ethics & Standards Committee Agenda 1 February 2007  
Cheshire County Council's Cheshire's Rural Touring Network  
Cheshire Police Authority's Forum Newsletter January 2007

24 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The public interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion of the information from the press and public

PART 2 – MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

25 STAFFING ISSUES

The Council consulted the Clerk over a particular issue and on receipt of the information requested informed that it wished to continue discussions in the absence of the Clerk.