

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 21 December 2006 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones
Councillor A Warrington

Invited Members: Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

37 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors R Shukla, RA Storrar and Mrs J Young.

38 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

39 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 August 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

40 PAYMENTS OF HONARARIA

At the Council meeting held on 4 December 2006 it was:

“RESOLVED:

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee be given delegated authority to consider and make payments at its next meeting to ladies who voluntarily manage the library and to the gentleman who voluntarily winds the Vernon Institute Clock.” (Minute No 201(d)/2006 refers)

Accordingly, the Committee had regard to the matter. It was noted that the library was run by six ladies in total.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mrs M Abram be sent a cheque for £150 and be asked to share it equally amongst the six ladies who help in the library (£25 each); and
- (2) Mr W Abram be sent a cheque for £25 to thank him for winding the Vernon Institute Clock over the last year.

41 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS

The Committee noted that the Council at its meeting held on 2 October 2006 had:

“RESOLVED:

That the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 7:30pm on Thursday, 22 February 2007 be a single item agenda meeting to review and revise the NALC (2002) Model Standing Orders adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3 July 2007 (Minute No 111/2006 refers), the Clerk be requested to point out significant differences to those Standing Orders previously in use by the Council and Members be requested to read both sets of Standing Orders in advance of the meeting to familiarise themselves with them.” (Minute No 168(b)/2006 refers)

42 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) PROJECT

The Chairman informed that the Cheshire Association of Local Councils had arranged a meeting for 7:30pm on Tuesday, 9 January 2007 at Middlewich Town Council Offices to discuss PCSOs. A representative from the Police would also be in attendance and hold an informal discussion on contracts, etc.

The Acting Deputy Chief Constable, Garry Shewan, had written to the Clerk on 21 November 2006 to update her on the current status of the PCSO Project and a copy of the letter along with the proposed Service Level Agreement had been circulated with the agenda.

The Service Level Agreement set out the aims of the PCSO initiative and how the Police wished to develop partnership working to reduce crime and disorder and increase the level of public confidence through reassurance.

The Clerk informed that the local senior representative from the Chester area, Chief Inspector Brian Roberts, had been in touch with her and wanted to attend the Council meeting scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 5 February 2007 to discuss the issues around the PCSO programme and to agree the Service Level Agreement before April 2007. The Chief Inspector wished to discuss the deployment and tasking aspect of the PCSO and how the partners would work together in the future with the best use of all their resources. If it was possible, the Chief Inspector would bring along a member of staff from the Local Neighbourhood Policing Unit.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports be noted;
- (2) Councillors B Kerr, C Moss and A Warrington be requested to represent the Council at the meeting scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, 9 January 2007 at Middlewich Town Council Offices and bring a report on proceedings to the Budget Council meeting; and
- (3) Chief Inspector Brian Roberts' proposed attendance at the February 2007 Council meeting be noted.

43 DRAFT POLICING OBJECTIVES FOR 2007/08

Each year the Police Authority set objectives, together with specific targets, for policing which reflected priorities identified by the citizens of Cheshire. These objectives would be published in the Authority's Policing Plan to be distributed to all households in the Spring.

The Council's comments on the policing objectives for 2007/08 were being sought by 12 January 2007. Members considered the draft objectives as follows and noted that they reflected local issues and broadly matched the priorities recently published by the Home Secretary in the National Community Safety Plan 2006/09:

Proposed Cheshire Policing Objectives (2007/08) (in no priority order)
Objective 1: Providing Assistance – To improve the way that we respond to requests for help from the public (<i>Cheshire Objective</i>)
Objective 2: Investigating and Reducing Crime – In partnership with other agencies and the public, reduce crime levels; bring more offences to justice and combat serious and organised crime, terrorism and UK extremism (<i>Ministerial Priority</i>)
Objective 3: Road Safety – In partnership with other agencies, to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions through enforcement, education and engineering (<i>Cheshire Objective</i>)
Objective 4: Anti-Social Behaviour – Provide neighbourhood policing teams to reduce the level of fear and insecurity by working with local communities and partner agencies to impact upon disorder, nuisance, anti-social behaviour and violence in public places (<i>Ministerial Priority</i>)
Objective 5: Public Focus – Provide a good service to the public, especially victims and witnesses, which responds to their needs and inspires confidence in the police, particularly amongst minority groups (<i>Ministerial Priority</i>)
Objective 6: Resource Use – To ensure all resources are used efficiently and targeted for maximum impact on operational performance and objectives (<i>Cheshire Objective</i>)

RESOLVED:

That the above objectives be supported.

44 YOUTH ISSUES

The Chairman reported that Skippy Roberts, Cheshire County Council's Youth Outreach Team's Leader, had informed him that he had established contact with a small core group of youths who were willing to meet with representatives of the Council. Dates and times would be canvassed shortly.

RESOLVED:

That the meeting between young people and Council representatives be agreed as the best way forward.

45 VERNON INSTITUTE CLOCK

Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones agreed to speak to Mr Murphy to establish if any progress had been made in respect of improvement to the illumination of the Clock.

RESOLVED:

That the Vernon Institute Clock be taken off the agenda for future meetings of the Committee.

46 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Goal End

Chester City Council's Play Development Officer, Mr Paul Davies, had informed that the grant for the goal end must be claimed by the end of the current calendar year or it would be lost.

It was noted that it would not be possible to claim the grant in the timescale laid down.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Davies be requested to resubmit the Council's funding bid for a goal end during the next funding round.

(b) Car Park Fencing

The Chairman informed that it would be necessary to ask Tenax UK Limited and its subcontractor to quote to provide and install mesh in respect of a larger area than initially anticipated. This would hopefully satisfy the Planning Authority.

The Chairman had met on site with a representative of Ringwood Fencing, who had already put up some fencing in the Park, and subsequently a quotation had been drawn up and submitted to the Clerk as follows:

To supply and erect approx 56m of sawn post and 3no rail fencing using the following specification. Posts will be 1.8x125x75mm concreted in at 1.8m centres, 3no 3.6x87x38mm rails will be nailed to the posts using 100mm galvanised nails. All wood will be rough sawn and pressure treated.

The existing bench will be removed.

Price to include all material and labour £1,164.28 + VAT

To supply and erect approx 74m of sawn post and 3no rail fencing using the following specification. Posts will be 1.8x125x75mm concreted in at 1.8m centres, 3no 3.6x87x38mm rails will be nailed to the posts using 100mm galvanised nails. All wood will be rough sawn and pressure treated.

The existing bench will be removed.

Price to include all material and labour £1,600.77 + VAT

To supply and erect 1no 1.2m wide semi planed field gate to be erected into the above fencing instead of the overlap of post and rail.

The gate will be hung from the backs of 2no 2.4x150x150 gateposts which will be concreted in and will come complete with all necessary galvanised fittings.

All wood will be rough sawn and pressure treated.

Price to include all material and labour £283.33 + VAT

To supply and erect 1.2m high weld mesh to the above post and rail fencing and gate.

1.2m high P.V.C. coated weld mesh will be pulled tight and stapled to the fencing using 30mm galvanised staples.

Price to include all material and labour £6.73 per metre + VAT

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to write to Tenax UK Limited to arrange a site meeting with the Chairman and a further quotation for a larger area of car park; and

(2) the quotation from Ringwood Fencing, the Council's preferred contractor, be noted.

47 CHESTER AND DISTRICT HOUSING TRUST – ESTATE WALKABOUT

The Clerk reported that there was to be an Estate Walkabout on Tuesday, 16 January 2007. Those interested would meet at Wain House at 10:30am.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C Moss be requested to represent the Council on the Estate Walkabout.

48 BUDGET 2007/08

The Committee gave consideration to the Council's budgetary requirements for 2007/08 and drew up a draft budget for the Council's consideration at its Budget meeting scheduled for 29 January 2007 (Appendix A).

49 CALANDER OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That a Special meeting of the Council be arranged for 7:30pm on Monday, 8 January 2007 in the Vernon Institute, Saughall to discuss the following items of business in the absence of the Clerk:

Part 1 – In the presence of the Press and Public

- Calendar of Meetings
To review and revise the Council Meeting Schedule during January and February 2007.

Part 2- In the absence of the Press and Public

- Staffing Issues

Appendix A

Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council Draft Budget 2007/2008

Budget Head	Budget 2007/2008
Environment Matters	
Miscellaneous Minor Repairs	1,000.00
Street Cleaning	10,815.00
Litter Bins	300.00
Grass Cutting (Playing Fields) (Weekly cut)	3,500.00
Play Equipment (rolling replacement programme)	1,000.00
Play Equipment Inspections (4No)	250.00
Sub Total	16,865.00
Golden Jubilee Park	
Grass & Hedge Cutting	1,000.00
Development Fund	6,000.00
Contingency to cover VAT	1,000.00
Sub Total	8,000.00
Finance and General Purposes	
(a) Administration	
Principal Officer to the Parish Council	11,210.00
Chairman's Allowance	1,000.00
Stationary/Postage/Computer Consumables	700.00
Parish Councillor's Expenses	300.00
Computer (including rental)	360.00
Newsletter publication costs	1,000.00
Training/Seminars	750.00
Sub Total	15,320.00
(b) Annual Payments	
Parish Room rental and associated costs	2,000.00
Audit Fees	370.00
Donations/Honorarium	250.00
Insurance	1,290.00
Subscriptions	750.00
VI Clock Service	230.00
Christmas Events	100.00
Community/Homewatch Support	250.00
Golden Jubilee Park Loan Repayment	5,545.00
Sub Total	10,785.00
(c) Vernon Institute - (Annual Grant to designated fund)	1,000.00
(d) Contingency	500.00
Highways Matters	
Bus Shelter maintenance	2,500.00
Sub Total	2,500.00
Police Community Support Officers	11,000.00
Grand Total	65,970.00