

MINUTES OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK'S PARISH MEETING held on 19 April 2006 in the Methodist Hall, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor WI Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mr C Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton

County Councillor D Rowlands
and 14 parishioners as recorded in the attendance register

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mrs J Johnston
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs J Young

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of Saughall and Shotwick Park's Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed parishioners to their Annual Assembly and then presented his Annual Report setting out the Council's achievements and successes over the last twelve months. He detailed ongoing initiatives and the Council's aims and aspirations for the future.

Various issues were highlighted and considered in detail, these included:

- **Parish Council Administration**

The report covered the final Municipal Year of the Parish Council. A new Council would be elected on 4 May 2006 and there would be a contested election, with 19 candidates for 13 seats.

In September 2005, Councillor Alan Bailey had resigned, both as Chairman and as a Parish Councillor and the Council elected Councillor Brian Kerr to serve as Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year. The resignation of Councillor Andrew Marsden of Shotwick Park had also been received in August and having gone through the proper process, the Council co-opted Mrs Helen Thorniley-Jones to replace Councillor Marsden and Ian Humphrey to replace Alan Bailey.

During the Municipal Year the Parish Council undertook 32 business meetings as shown below:

Meeting Type	Number of Meetings	Comments
Parish Council	14	includes the budget meeting and a further two special meetings to discuss Golden Jubilee Park business.
Planning Committee	11	held prior to full council
Finance and General Purposes Committee	3	meetings held post October 2005
Golden Jubilee Park Working Party	3	meetings held prior to October 2005
Parish Plan Steering Group	1	meeting held prior to October 2005

Monthly surgeries continued to be held although they were poorly attended. The Parish Council would consider holding surgeries outside of the Woodvale Store.

The Council had responded to a number of consultation documents issued by government and continued to keep abreast of developments in the local government sector.

The Council had also responded to a number of consultation documents issued by both Cheshire County and Chester City Councils but the main focus as always had been on dealing with local issues.

- **Finance**

The Council's budget for the Financial Years 2005/06 and 2006/07 are detailed below:

2005/06	£51,236.00
2006/07	£57,696.00

The Parish Council budget for the Financial Year 2006/07 showed an increase of 12.6%, but the Council was able to keep the level of Council Tax increase at the current inflation rate of 2.4%. A contributory factor had been a grant from the City Council of £1,585 in the Financial Year 2005/06 as a contribution towards the double taxation issue and the grant in the Financial Year 2006/07 would increase by 50% with a further increase guaranteed for the following Financial Year.

- **Policing matters**

Good progress had been made in establishing an effective working relationship with the Community Action Team working out of the new police station in Blacon. Effective action had been taken by the Police to deal with Youth anti-social behaviour problems and feedback from residents had been positive with the recognition of an improved police presence regularly within the Parish.

The Council wished to explore the opportunity for a dedicated full-time Parish Police Community Support Officer, but the cost of doing this would result in £11 being added to the average Council Tax bill.

The Homewatch Organisation was currently being reorganised and a volunteer sought to take over as Coordinator. The Council had resolved, however, that it would not let the Homewatch die and if no volunteer came forward it would take positive action to ensure its continuation within the Parish.

- **Bus Services**

Despite strong representations the Council had been unsuccessful in persuading Chester City Transport to reinstate a service via Frodsham Street and Foregate Street to the Railway Station. The situation continued to be monitored.

- **Bus Shelters**

A new bus shelter had been installed on Hermitage Road/Meadows Lane and, after public consultation, the Parish Council decided to retain the Shelter on Church Road/Greenway which had been the subject of much vandalism. However, since the installation by the County Council of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) there had been a significant reduction in nuisance activity.

The Council's next project would be to replace the wooden bus shelter on Church Road by the Vernon Institute. Currently, there were three bus stops without shelters, The Terminus, Aspen Grove and Hermitage Road/Wash Hall Farm. Consideration would be given to establish whether there were requirements for the future.

- **Street Cleaning**

The Parish continued to be kept relatively free of litter due to the street cleaning contract with Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council. This contract terminated in May 2006 and the Council was currently inviting tenders from Contractors or the Self employed. It would be a serious issue if no suitable tenders were submitted.

- **Parish Plan**

The Parish Plan was published last year and had been reviewed recently by the Parish Council who was committed to ensuring that the actions within the plan were carried through to fruition.

- **Affordable Housing**

There had been no progress with Arena Housing Association in developing the site off Lodge Lane. The Council continued to monitor the situation and had identified with the Chester and District Housing Trust, an alternative site off Church Road.

- **Planning Matters**

The Planning Committee continued diligently to consider and comment upon all planning applications within the Parish. Generally the observations made to Chester City Council were taken into account but on occasion it was necessary for the Parish

Council to insist on appropriate enforcement action. A reciprocal arrangement had been put in place with Sealand Community Council who would keep Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council informed of any planning applications in Flintshire that could have an affect on the Parish.

- **Speeding / Parking**

The Police were continually being requested to deal with the problem of speeding vehicles and the Parish Council continued to be active in discouraging vehicle owners from parking vehicles on pavements. Although not a police matter, the Council wishes to discourage parking on grass verges.

- **Golden Jubilee Park Development**

This project had to be drastically restructured due to the withdrawal of previously agreed funding. The scheme was now to be financed by the Parish Council through a loan from the Public Works Loans Board. The scheme had been scaled down and acting on the advice of the Contractor, new drainage was now not to be included. Subject to the loan being secured, work was scheduled to commence in May 2006, with completion during the summer of phase 1 – to make the land suitable for recreational activities. Included would be a full sized football pitch to be utilised by the newly formed Greyhound Public House Football Team, a cricket square and completion of the perimeter pathway.

- **Children's Playground**

The facility continued to be well utilised and had undergone a detailed annual inspection in the summer. A number of issues had been identified which had been addressed. The Parish Council had no immediate plans for new equipment but the existing equipment was being repainted.

Further development of the playground would be incorporated into Phase 2 of the Golden Jubilee Park.

- **Quality Parish Council Status**

The Parish Council had resolved to aspire to quality status by April 2006. This target had not been met. There were a number of improvements required including newsletter publication frequency. These would be addressed by the new Council following the May elections.

4 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The following issues were raised and considered:

- youngsters were getting into trouble and causing a nuisance because they were bored and frustrated as there was little for them to do in the village. A number of parents were in attendance and they expressed a willingness to give up their time to help run the youth club if it could be open on additional nights. It was considered that it was important that provision was made at the youth club for 7-11 year olds too.

It was **AGREED** to enlist the help of as many parents as possible and that the Parish Council would give all the support, including financial, it could to provide organised activities for young people of the village as well as a regular meeting place for them. A meeting would be arranged before the end of May 2006 between interested parties to move this initiative along.

- Golden Jubilee Park – Clarification was sought on who would be able to use the facilities and it was noted that, with the exception of the Cricket Square, the facilities would be available to all residents of the village for various activities. The Cricket Club and Football Team would pay for the maintenance of the grassed area within the perimeter path.
- The future of the Ridings Community Infant School reserve land would be considered in the next twelve months following the Local Education Authority's Review of Primary School Provision.
- The Parish Council wanted to erect a Youth Shelter in the village for young people to use. However, it had run into hostilities every time this proposal was discussed. If a shelter was acquired it would be located in a position that was viable and well lit.
- Saughall Fest – A Community Christian Outreach Weekend Event. It would include various sporting and popular music events including "Rock the Vicarage". A Management Committee had been set up to run the event, to fund raise and to engage lots of organisations.

It was **AGREED** that the new Parish Council would assist this event.

5 VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and Members for their support since he had taken over as Chairman.

Councillor RA Storrar, on behalf of the Council, thanked Councillor Kerr for the way he had handled the meeting and for stepping in as Chairman halfway through the Municipal year.