

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 4 June 2007 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Co-ordinator)  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
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)

PCSO M Butler  
County Councillor D Rowlands  
Ms Alison Penny, Children's Services Consultant (working for  
Cheshire County Council)

98 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor JG Johnson  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor C Moss

99 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors

The Clerk circulated copies of a training document prepared by the Standards Board for England.

(b) Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

100 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 May 2007 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No 82 – The Chairman and Vice-Chairman be added to the Membership of the Staffing Committee

Minute No 85(c) Proposal for the Provision of a Skateboard Park – the resolution to be altered to read as follows:

That because of the amount of work already scheduled in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park Development, which is keeping the Field Site Panel very busy, the decision on whether or not to provide a skateboard park in Saughall be deferred for the time being.

101 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on 14 May 2007 be received.

102 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PCSO Mike Butler reported that the village had been quiet since the last meeting of the Council. He had continued to issue tickets and advisory notices to motorists who obstructed the pavements. There had been no problems at the Youth Club that warranted his attention. However, there had been reports of bogus officials calling at houses in Saughall trying to gain access. If occupiers were in any way suspicious they must ask for the caller's identification and ring their company, if need be, to check that they had legitimate reasons to be calling. This issue would be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter for parishioners' information.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Mike Butler's report be received.

(b) Mobile Phone for the PCSO

Members were unable to contact PCSO Butler directly when he was on duty and asked if the Constabulary would allow him to carry a mobile phone provided by the Council. PCSO Butler did not think that this would be possible but informed that he would ask the Inspector.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to also make enquiries to see if PCSO Butler could carry a mobile phone.

(c) Speed Gun

It was noted that Mr Trevor Clibery of Chester City Council's Community Services had contacted the Clerk and informed that Monday, 25 June 2007 would be the day that the Parish Council could use the speed gun, provided safe sites had been assessed for use by then. As Members who had been trained to use the speed gun were not available because of work commitments during the week it was agreed that it was appropriate for them to lease the speed gun over a weekend. County Councillor Rowlands informed that he had been trained in the use of the speed gun and was willing to assist if it was made available when he was free.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Clibery if safe sites in Saughall have been assessed for use and if the Council can lease the speed gun over a weekend, instead of on Monday, 25 June 2007.

(d) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, informed that on the whole there had been an improvement as there was not so much anti-social behaviour in the village currently. Also, fewer motorists were parking on the paths. Unfortunately, graffiti had appeared on the Council's new fence and some battery scooters were being ridden at high speed in the village.

RESOLVED:

That the Homewatch Co-ordinator's report be received

(d) RSCP Community Safety Challenge – Neighbourhood Management Team

It was reported that Councillor WI Humphrey was interested in taking on the role of Project Co-ordinator in respect of the Community Safety Project to set up a Neighbourhood Management Team in Saughall. Two residents of Saughall had indicated an interest in becoming members of the Team.

It was recognised that in order to get the project off the ground it would be necessary to call a meeting of interested parties to brain storm and put forward recommendations to the Council on steps to be taken to make maximum impact, especially in terms of community safety, on the people of Saughall.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor WI Humphrey be appointed Project Co-ordinator in respect of the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team from a date to be agreed on terms still to be discussed;
- (2) the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Ms Christine Champion and Mr Harry Dobson be invited to join the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team;
- (3) Councillor WI Humphrey be requested to take a stall at the All Saints' Church Summer Fayre in order to raise the profile of and publicise the Neighbourhood Management Team; and
- (4) a meeting of all Members of the Council and other interested parties, including PCSO Mike Butler, be held at 8:00pm on Thursday, 21 June 2007 (after the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting) to pool ideas, provisionally agree arrangements and put forward recommendations on the workings/operations of the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team and its Co-ordinator.

(a) Youth Pod/Shelter – Good Practice Guide

The Clerk had received a Good Practice Guide prepared by Thames Valley Police and had provided copies for Councillors Mrs H Thorniley-Jones and Mrs JM Young. Any decision on the provision of a youth pod/shelter had been deferred, for the time being, because of recent youth problems in the village (Minute No 85(b)/2007 refers).

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Mrs H Thorniley-Jones and Mrs JM Young be requested to consider the guidance and report back to the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Saughall Youth Club

Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones reported that the Youth Club was running smoothly now on two evenings a week. There had been a change in Youth Service personnel, including Mr Skippy Roberts, who had now moved on. Currently, support was being received from Mr Robert's manager who was helping to set up an older group of youngsters.

The Council's proposal to financially support an outing for those who regularly attended the Youth Club would be discussed by the Youth Club Management Team at a meeting arranged for 12 June 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Youth Opportunities and Youth Capital Funds 2007/08

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Bernie Moore, Cheshire County Council's Principal Youth Officer, informing of the details of two funds introduced by the Government last year. The funds were to help young people (aged 13-19) to make decisions on, and find opportunities for young people in terms of places to go, things to do and people to talk to in their leisure time. The amount of money that was available was £316,400 in the Youth Opportunities Fund and £275,000 in the Youth Capital Fund.

Applications for funding were invited and ideas for both funds had to clearly show that young people were actively involved in assessing what was required and in making the application.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Mrs H Thorniley-Jones and Mrs JM Young be requested to discuss the possibilities of attracting some of this funding when they discuss the Youth Pod/Shelter Good Practice Guide.

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

The Council continued to monitor the situation in respect of cars parking on pavements and were informed about a car that was being left on a grass verge on the Ridings most days.

RESOLVED:

That the situation continue to be monitored.

(b) A5117 Major Roadworks

(i) Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 1 May 2007

The Council received a copy of the Minutes of the Liaison meeting held on 1 May 2007 and noted their content.

(ii) It was noted that the grass on the A540/A5117 roundabout was long and obstructing motorists' views. The Clerk agreed to request that the grass be cut.

(iii) Cheshire Railings

It was noted that no progress had been made in respect of the Cheshire Railings that the Council had been promised by Carillion (Minute No 87(b)/2007 refers).

Concerns were raised that the village had encountered an interruption to its electricity supplies on three separate occasions in a two week period. The Clerk agreed to write to SP Powersystems to find out why.

(c) Speeding Traffic

The Council continued to monitor the speed of traffic throughout the village and was awaiting the loan of a speed gun (Minute No 102(c)/2007 refers).

(d) Church Road Bus Shelter – Missing Pane

It was noted that the bus shelter had been repaired.

(e) Cheshire County and Chester City Council's Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee meeting held on 31 May 2007

The Council noted that the agenda had been received and there were no items of business on it that were specific to Saughall.

(f) Fly Posting – Antler Homes

It was reported that Antler Homes had put up a number of fly posters on lampposts around the village.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Antler Homes telling them to take down their posters and PCSO Mike Butler be requested to see if he can take action on this.

105 PROPOSAL TO BUILD A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SAUGHALL

At the request of the Council, the Clerk had written to County Councillor D Rowlands inviting him to attend the meeting as both Local Member and the County Council's Lead Member for Children's Services to discuss the proposal to build a new primary school in Saughall and its precise location. The Council was well aware of the Transforming Learning Communities initiative and was worried that the local community might not now benefit in the way that it had previously been intended that it would, if the proposal to build a new school was followed through.

It was noted that throughout Cheshire, County Infant and Junior Schools were coming together as Primary Schools because of the large surplus of school places, to obtain best use of resources and in order to meet the Government's agenda on what it expects schools to provide up to 2011. The proposed new Primary School had the support of both Headteachers.

County Councillor Rowlands had brought Ms Alison Penny with him to the meeting to make a presentation around the need for a new school. She informed that there were good educational arguments to build an all through Primary School in Saughall and that the proposal was supported by both the County Council and the Chester Church of England Diocesan Authority. A feasibility study would be carried out by the architect to work out how the School could be accommodated on the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School site. There was no proposal to remodel the current Junior School because the building was not suitable e.g. the hall was not big enough to accommodate all primary school pupils and some classrooms would not meet modern day curriculum needs.

The School would initially be built to accommodate 280 pupils but it may increase to one and a half forms of entry, eventually. Community facilities may be added at a later date as there was not enough time to raise money for them now.

Following the presentation Members asked a number of questions that were answered as appropriate by either Ms Penny or County Councillor Rowlands. Issues covered included staffing arrangements, funding, community facilities, consultation on the site plan, charging policy for community usage and the future use of the Ridings Infant School building.

RESOLVED:

That Ms Penny and County Councillor Rowlands be thanked for their attendance and presentation.

(a) De-Stoning and Seeding

It was reported that the Council's contractor, Mr Des Francis, had carried out one of the two de-stonings detailed in the Bill of Quantities and had seeded the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Grass Protection Mesh

It was reported that the Tenax grass protection mesh (premium) would be laid the next week following the acceptance of a revised quotation for approximately 23 rolls @ £325 per roll and 23 bags of securing u-pins @ £46 per bag (total cost £8,533 excluding VAT). The installation by N and NJ Enterprises would be £2,100 plus VAT.

There were a number of holes on the field and they would need to be filled in with topsoil before the mesh was laid.

RESOLVED: That

(i) the revised quotation for the protection mesh be endorsed; and

(ii) the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Wilkinson to fill in the holes with topsoil.

(c) Security

It was agreed that it was important to ensure that the Golden Jubilee Park was "traveller" proof once the Cricket Club's container had been positioned on-site.

RESOLVED:

That further consideration be given to the methods to be used to secure the Park once the container was on site.

(d) Gate

The Clerk had obtained two quotations from Ringwood Fencing to supply and erect 1No 1.2m x 1.2m high gate to RoSPA specification. One was for a steel gate at a cost of £837.78 plus VAT and the other was for a wooden gate at a cost of £270.42 plus VAT. It was noted that the new gate currently in place was not to RoSPA specification, it was warped and did not fit properly.

RESOLVED:

That the quotation for the wooden gate be accepted and the Clerk be requested to inform Ringwood Fencing that the current gate is damaged and ask that they take it back and replace it with a wooden one to RoSPA specifications. **(Cheque No**

**101992 is retained pending decision following on-site inspection by Ringwood Fencing.)**

(e) Trees and Ponds

All Cheshire Garden Services had submitted a quotation in respect of the work identified to be undertaken by the Tree and Environmental Warden in her recent report as follows:

Areas 1-2-3 and 5 – cost £140 per visit

Area 4 – cost £80 per cut

All Tree work stated in “street trees” – total cost £160

RESOLVED:

That the quotation from All Cheshire Garden Services detailed above be accepted subject to no more than two visits being required in respect of Areas 1-2-3 and 5.

(f) Work to be Carried Out

RESOLVED:

That the Council will determine work to be included in further phases of the Golden Jubilee Park Development at its meeting on 3 September 2007.

(g) Cheshire Playing Field Association Subscription Fee

RESOLVED:

That the Council pay the Cheshire Playing Fields Association subscription fee of £17 to be a member for the ensuing year.

(h) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

(i) Condition of the Area and Play Equipment

No problems were reported with regard to the play area and equipment.

(ii) Moles

No progress was reported in respect of the Council’s plan to eradicate moles from the Field.

(iii) Chester City Council’s Contributions to Play Areas in Parished Areas 2007-08

RESOLVED:

That this issue be considered at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for Thursday, 21 June 2007.

(iv) Annual Independent Playground Inspection 2007

It was reported that Cheshire County Council's Play Development Officer had informed that the provisional date for this year's inspection was between 9-13 July 2007. The Council was asked if it would like one of its Members to be on-site during the inspection.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Chester City Council's Mr Phil Davies that Councillors RA Storrar and WI Humphrey would like to be present when the Annual Inspection is carried out so that he can make arrangements to contact them.

107 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 14 May 2007:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2007/2008</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Cheshire Play Fields Association (Affiliation Fee)	17.00	101990
Cancelled		101991
Ringwood Fencing (Retained because of problems with the Gate - Minute No 106(d)/2007 refers)		101992
Sefton MBC (Photocopying)	332.30	101993
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	64.59	101994
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	590.69	101995
Mr R Hipkiss (May 2007 Street Cleaning)	910.23	101996
All Cheshire Garden Service (Grass Cutting)	600.00	101997
Mr C Moss (goal nets and mole traps)	70.15	101998

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	<u>£</u>
Interest to 21 May 2007 (14 Day Interest Account)	228.41
Interest to 23 May 2007 (Community Account (formerly Treasurer Account))	0.14
Street Cleaning Grant (1 April – 30 September 2007)	2,412.80

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

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

(d) Vernon Institute Clock

It was noted that the Managing Director of Smith and Derby, Architectural Solutions had not replied to the Clerk's letters of 14 April and 22 May 2007 regarding the revised agreement in respect of the annual service. It was also noted that the Clock was now keeping good time.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write again to the Managing Director of Smith and Derby in the hope that he will reply this time.

108 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

(a) Chester and District Housing Trust's Estate Walkabout – 22 May 2007

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar had been on the walkabout and reported that the paths in Saughall were a disgrace, the worst in the Chester District. There was an opportunity to apply for funding for a community project and the details had been requested.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

109 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey reported that a lady had attended the last Parish Council Surgery held on 2 June 2007 and she had raised concerns about "travellers".

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 30 June 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 2 July 2007.

110 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

It was reported that the library wall was going to be repaired.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

111 ODD JOBS

It was reported that some of the Cheshire Railings around the swing park needed repairs and strengthening.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the District Engineer and Carillion for advice on how to mend the Cheshire railings.

112 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Representation at Meetings of Outside Bodies

It was agreed that representation at meetings of outside bodies would be as follows:

- (i) Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) Information Event – Proposed Local Government Reorganisation  
Monday, 11 June 2007, 7-9pm at Winsford Fire Headquarters

Councillor Mrs JM Young to attend.

- (ii) Review of the Effectiveness of Police Forums  
Wednesday, 13 June 2007, 6:30pm at Constabulary Headquarters, Winsford

Councillor A Warrington to attend

- (iii) Gowy North Area Committee  
Thursday, 5 July 2007, 7pm at Ashton Hayes County Primary School

Councillors Mrs JE and RA Storrar to attend.

- (iv) Cheshire Water Forum 2007  
Thursday, 5 July 2007, Crewe Alexander Football Club

No representation.

113 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED:

That further to Minute No 82/2007 Councillor A Warrington be requested to sit on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Field Site Panel.

114 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Council noted that its quarterly Newsletter would be published in June 2007. The Clerk had received items from two Members for inclusion. Some suggestions for inclusion were put forward by Members.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

## 115 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- joint letter from leaders of Congelton and Crewe and Nantwich Borough Councils to Parish Council Chairmen in Cheshire regarding the Local Government Review. The Government has requested views by 22 June 2007.
- email from Jane Whittingham, Beaver Scout Leader, and Shelley Downes, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, thanking those Members who attended the Beavers' Investiture Ceremony on Monday, 2 May 2007.

## 116 CIRCULARS

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

Local Government Reorganisation in Cheshire: A Critical Appraisal Interim Report by Steve Leach, Professor of Local Government, De Montfort University  
Chester City Council's 'Smoke-Free Chester – a breath of fresh air' – information pack  
Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters May 2007  
Meridian Healthcare Ltd – Brochure – Lauren Court Care Centre