

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 6 August 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 JG Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

PCSO M Butler
Mr H Dobson (Internal Auditor)
Mr B Huxley (Saughall Cricket Club)

133 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

No apologies for authorised absence were received.

134 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

135 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 July 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

136 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 July 2007 be received.

137 CAUSAL VACANCY

The Clerk informed that Councillor C Moss had resigned from the Council because of personal problems. She had written to Councillor Moss accepting his resignation, thanking him for the support he had provided to the Council and wishing him well for the future.

The Clerk had declared a casual vacancy on the Council and posted notices to that effect.

Chester City Council's Elections Officer had now informed her that there had been no request for an election within the timescale laid down so the Council could go ahead and fill the vacant seat by co-option. Consequently, Members were asked to consider how they wished to make this co-option.

It was noted that the Council had co-opted a resident onto the Council since its last election on 4 May 2006 and the candidate with the most votes but not elected took up the vacant seat.

RESOLVED:

That the same criteria as previously used be used to co-opt a resident (Ms JM Knox) onto the Council and if Ms Knox no longer wishes to serve then the person with the most votes after her be approached and so on, if necessary, until all the previous candidates not elected have been exhausted.

138 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PCSO Mike Butler presented his report for the period 1 April to 1 August 2007 detailing the following:

- He had spent 72 days on Duty.
- He had spent 138 hours on foot patrol within Saughall and when he was unable to be on foot he had been on high visibility mobile patrol.
- He had issued 6 No £30 fixed penalty notices in the village.
- He had issued numerous advisory notices in the village, mostly in Church Road, Seahill Road and Long Lane. All registration numbers had been recorded too and penalty notices would be issued to any one offended again.
- He had issued 35 stop forms in relation to anti-social behaviour in the village.
- No alcohol had been seized from under-aged drinkers but certain areas of the village were being closely monitored.
- Between 1 July and 1 August 2007, 276 incidents in the village had been reported and between 1 July and 1 August 2007 only 195 incidents had been reported.

PCSO Butler also detailed his activities during the last month and answered Members questions as appropriate.

Members raised concerns about parking on the Seahill Road/Crofters Way junction and PCSO Butler agreed to keep this under observation and take any necessary action.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Mike Butler's report be received.

- (b) Open Evening on Thursday, 4 September 2007 at 6:30pm at Constabulary Headquarters, Winsford

RESOLVED:

That Councillors WI Humphrey, Mrs P Humphrey, Mrs JE Storrar and A Warrington be nominated to represent the Council at this event.

- (c) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, referred to several incidents that had occurred during the last month. All had been adequately dealt with by PCSO Butler. He was in contact with PCSO Butler on a daily basis.

It was agreed that since PCSO Butler's appointment there had been a marked improvement in terms of crime and anti-social behaviour activities in the village. Many residents had told Councillors that they were pleased with the way things were now being handled.

- (d) RSCP Community Safety Challenge – Neighbourhood Management Team

The Chairman informed of progress being made in respect of the Neighbourhood Management Team initiative. Mr Tony Summers had been appointed as Project Co-ordinator. Meetings had been held and Mr Summers was working well with volunteers and partnerships including Arriva. Some new volunteers had been recruited. The next meeting of the Team was scheduled for 7:00pm on Monday, 20 August 2007 in the Parish Room.

It was noted that Mr Summers would complete the Cheshire Community Council's Outputs Form, being best placed to do so. This had been agreed with Cheshire Community Council.

The Clerk informed that Mr Summers would need to be issued with a Contract of Employment and an appropriate job description.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress made in respect of the Neighbourhood Management Team be noted;
- (2) Mr Summers be requested to provide quarterly reports for Council meetings in September, December, March and June so that the Council can monitor the performance of the Team; and
- (3) the Chairman and Clerk be requested to draw up a draft job description for the Neighbourhood Management Team's consideration and once finalised it would be appended to a Contract of Employment for Mr Summer's signature.

139 YOUTH ISSUES

RESOLVED:

That in the absence of Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones, matters relating to the Youth Pod/Shelter – Good Practice Guide and Saughall Youth Club be deferred until the next meeting of the Council on Monday, 3 September 2007.

140 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

Cars continued to be parked on the grass verge on Long Lane. If damage was caused the Highways Authority could carry out repairs and invoice the culprits.

It was noted that a car was continually parked on grass on Church Road opposite the Church. PCSO Butler agreed to take any necessary action.

RESOLVED:

That parked cars on pavements and grass verges be continued to be monitored.

(b) A5117 Major Roadworks

The Council noted that contents of the Highway Agency's Improving the Junctions at Deeside Park/A5117 Newsletter Issue 2 – July 2007 that had been circulated with the agenda.

There was to be a meeting with Carillion on Tuesday, 11 September 2007 to discuss progress on the improvements with interested parties.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Mrs JE and RA Storrar be requested to attend the liaison meeting with Carillion to represent the Council and press for temporary traffic lights at the junction of the A5117/A540.

(c) Speeding Traffic

The Council had borrowed the speed gun from Cheshire Community Council. Members had been out with it on two separate occasions. They arranged some further sessions at the locations it had been agreed that the gun could be used. The aim was to collect as much evidence as possible of speeding traffic through the village and then request the Constabulary to carry out a series of checks. The Constabulary would be asked to send warning letters to all motorists caught by the gun breaking the speed limit.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Fly Posting – Antler Homes

It was noted that some of the posters in the village advertising Antler Homes had been taken down. Villagers were being offered money to put signs in their gardens.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

(e) 7.5 Tonnes Weight Restriction

The Clerk had asked the District Engineer to provide a weight restriction sign at the top of Long Lane in an email dated 19 July 2007.

Unfortunately, the District Engineer had not responded to the Clerk's request.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to remind the District Engineer that a response was needed to the request for a weight restriction sign on Long Lane.

(f) Problems Referred to the District Engineer After the Last Council Meeting

(i) Flooding

The District Engineer reported that problems at the Peg/Hermitage Road were due to a ditch needing maintenance. Flooding on Long Lane had been caused by ditches being blocked. Arrangements had been made for them to be cleared out. Also, the District Engineer had agreed to ensure that the pipe underneath Long Lane was a minimum of 18" in diameter or equivalent. The flooding on Seahill Road had been due to water running off the fields in Flintshire and presumably, the water course was full.

It was noted that ditches, generally, were the responsibility of the landowners. Poor maintenance of ditches was a problem throughout the area.

(ii) Arriva Buses

The District Engineer had made representations to Arriva over the increased frequency of its buses in and out of Saughall.

(iii) Deep Hole opposite the Red House on Hermitage Road

The District Engineer had logged the deep hole query.

(iv) Drainage on Fiddlers Lane

The District Engineer had informed that water had been coming from the field onto the road but that there was no indication of a problem with the road drains. The responsibility of the field drains rested with the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the District Engineer's reports be noted;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to set up a meeting between the District Engineer and the Chairman to discuss the situation with the ditches on Hermitage Road; and
- (3) the Clerk be requested to enlist the help of the Clerk to Sealand Community Council to try to initiate action by Flintshire County Council regarding the maintenance of ditches on the Deeside Industrial Park, etc.

141 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Progress Report

The Chairman reported that she had spoken to the Council's contractor, Mr Des Francis, about the outstanding development work. Mr Francis had informed that there was a backlog of work because of the recent bad weather. The Chairman had asked him to attend to the weeds.

It was noted that Mr Francis had cut the grass and that the cricket square had been marked out and left.

(b) De-Stoning

Mr B Huxley informed that he was very concerned about the amount and size of stones on the field. He believed that it was totally infeasible to hand pick the whole field. If a machine was used the field would need to be reseeded.

(c) Car Park

Councillor IW Humphrey informed that he was unable to find any adhesive that would stick the car park markers to the mesh.

(d) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

(i) Quarterly Inspection

The Clerk reported that Morral Play Solutions had carried out its quarterly inspection. Councillor RA Storrar, who had been in attendance when the inspection was undertaken, informed that some issues had been identified that required the Council's attention.

(ii) Chester City Council's Contributions to Play Areas in Parished Areas 2007/08

Mr Phil Davies of Chester City Council had asked if the Council's funding bid in respect of a "goal-end" which had been deferred to the next funding round now needed to be put forward for consideration.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to consider the detail of Morral Play Solutions quarterly report at its next meeting on Thursday, 16 August 2007; and

(2) Chester City Council's Contributions to Play Areas in Parished Areas 2007-08 funding application for a "goal-end" be deferred for one year.

142 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 2 July 2007:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2007/2008</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Morral Play Solutions (Quarterly Play Equipment Inspection)	70.44	102040
Ringwood Fencing (Difference between previous gate and RoSPA compliant gate)	216.40	102041
Sefton MBC (Photocopies)	175.30	102042
All Cheshire Garden Service (Grass Cutting)	600.00	102043
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	48.90	102044
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	590.69	102045
Mr H Wilkinson (Odd Jobs)	75.00	102046
Mr R Hipkiss (July 2007 Street Cleaning)	910.23	102047

and as Ringwood Fencing had now completed the outstanding work, cheque No 101992 for £2,932.06 be released and forwarded to the company (Minute No 106(d)/2007 refers).

(b) Receipts

No receipts had been received.

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

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

143 LAND AT LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

Following the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 16 April 2007, when discussions had taken place with Mr S Drummond-Hay from Northern Affordable Homes on the possibility of building affordable housing in Saughall (Minute No 13/2007 refers), the Clerk had learnt from the County Property Manager that it now seemed possible to reach agreement on the disposal of a suitable area of land for the type of development described in Mr Drummond-Hay's presentation.

Northern Affordable Homes were asking the County Property Manager to grant them an option to purchase the site while they pursued planning and other issues with a view to building up to 16 houses in the price range £85,000 to £95,000.

The Rural Housing Enabler, Mr Phil Addison, had contacted the Clerk to inform that the next step would be a consultation event with the local community in the next month or two.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 16 August 2007 and Messrs Drummond-Hay and Addison along with Ms H White, Chester City Council's Senior Regeneration Officer, be invited to attend and provide an update.

144 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

The Clerk reported that the Parish Footpaths Warden, Mr Tony Leach, had informed that he had cleared the route walked and complained about by the "Southport Walkers" (Minute No 127/2007 refers).

It was noted that the Parish Paths Booklet was now ten years old but there had been very little change in this time and so it was still very much relevant.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) no action be taken towards publishing a new Parish Paths Booklet at the current time.

145 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Councillor RK Shukla informed that he had forgotten to hold the Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 4 August 2007.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs P Humphrey be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 1 September 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 3 September 2007.

146 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

It was noted that the proposal to combine the switching on of the Christmas Lights with the Band Concert was impractical as there was not enough room within the Vernon Institute to accommodate both because of the need to provide the Band with changing facilities.

Councillor Mrs D Whitton informed that she had some funds left from last year's Christmas activities that she would pass on the Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones to help fund this year's event.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the Chairman be requested to discuss the arrangements for this year's Christmas Lights switch on celebration with Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones.

147 ODD JOBS

(a) Boundary Stone

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Cliff Mallovs of Chester City Council and ask him to inspect the boundary stone as it requires some maintenance to make it more visible.

(b) Scout Hut

It was noted that youngsters were using the storage container to climb up on to the roof of the Uniform Group's Headquarters.

RESOLVED:

That Mr B Huxley be requested to obtain some anti-vandal paint to paint the container.

148 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
(Cost £340.75 (weekend rate) + £98 for bed & breakfast in the Marshon Hotel)
Councillor WI Humphrey to attend.

(ii) Chester and District Housing Trust – Walkabout on Tuesday, 7 August 2007.
Starts at 10:00am at Wain House, Saughall

(iii) Parish Council Code of Conduct Awareness Sessions
5 September, 3, 8 and 17 October 2007

(b) Reports of Meetings of Outside Bodies attended in the last month

(i) Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Chester Area Meeting
Wednesday, 4 July 2007, 7:30pm at County Hall, Chester

No Members of the Council attended.

(ii) Chester City Council's Gowy North Area Committee

7pm on Thursday, 5 July 2007 at Asthon Hayes County Primary School, Ashton Hayes

Councillors Mrs JE and RA Storrar had attended and informed the meeting had been mostly about the Carbon Neutral Village.

149 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- letter dated 10 July 2007 from Chester City Council's Building Technician, Sarah Dennett, asking when Saughall Road was changed to Hermitage Road

Clerk to inform that there has been no name change in respect of Hermitage Road since the Nineteenth Century.

- email dated 6 July 2007 from Mrs O'Connor complaining about the every ten minutes bus service and the lack of consultation over it

The Clerk had responded informing Mrs O'Connor that the Council had the same concerns and had reported the situation to the District Engineer.

- email dated 16 July 2007 from Mr Neil Minnis re Planning and Arriva Buses

Noted.

- letter dated as postmark from Chester City Council's Area Manager informing that the closing date in respect of the second round of payments from Gowy North Area Committee 2007/08 budget is 16 October 2007 and that the John Broughton Community award of £250 to be awarded to celebrate the difference one person's actions and activities can make to a community – closing date is 31 August 2007

Noted and referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- email dated 24 July 2007 from Cheshire County Council's Partnership Officer, People and Partnerships informing that the County Council is due to commence a twelve week extensive consultation from Friday, 27 July 2007 on possible changes to Residential Short Stay and Day Services for Older People in Cheshire

Noted.

- letter dated 1 August 2007 from Cheshire County Council's Strategic Manager – Planning, Andrew Farrall, informing that his Council had adopted the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan on 12 July 2007 following two rounds of public consultation.

Noted.

150 CIRCULARS

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

Chester City Council's Council Agenda for meeting held on 18 July 2007

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association – The Playing Field – Summer 2007

Chester City Council's – The Key – Spring 2007

Chester Voluntary Action – Voluntary Voice – July 2007

Chester City Council's Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee agenda for the meeting held on 12 July 2007. There were no items of business specific to Saughall

Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee agenda for the meeting held on Wednesday, 11 July 2007

Cheshire Police Authority's Forum Newsletter – Chester - July 2007