

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 1 October 2007 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Co-ordinator)
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

PCSO Mike Butler
County Councillor D Rowlands

171 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Johnson, JG Johnson, Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs D Whitton

172 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Declaration of Personal Interest was received from Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones in respect of Item No 9 - Golden Jubilee Park Development (Minute No 180/2007 refers) as the Football Team that would use the facility was connected to the Greyhound Public House in which she had a business interest.

173 MARY DAVIES – PLAY

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey reported that girls from Upton High School would be putting on a play based on the life of Mary Davies (Saughall's Horned Woman) between 1 and 2pm on Saturday, 6 October 2007 at the Vernon Institute.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

174 MINUTES

Further to Minute No 157(c)/2007, Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones reported that the 'Safe Slipper Day' was in actual fact going to be an 'Active Aging Day' and was being organised not in conjunction with Age Concern but with the Primary Care Trust.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones' update report be received; and

(2) the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

175 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3 September 2007 be received.

176 CASUAL VACANCY

It had been agreed, following the resignation of Councillor C Moss, that the candidate with the most votes at the last election, but not already a Member (Mrs J Knox), be co-opted onto the Council to fill the vacant seat (Minute No 137/2007 refers). Mrs Knox had accepted the Council's invitation to take up the seat.

RESOLVED:

That Mrs Knox's Acceptance of Office and undertaking to observe the Parish Council's Code of Conduct be received.

177 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

(i) PCSO's Monthly Report

PCSO Mike Butler had submitted a report on his activities as follows:

- He had met with Councillor Mrs J Young to discuss how he could become more visible in the village. This issue was now being addressed.
- 2 under-age drinkers had been identified on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field. Alcohol was seized and warnings issued. There were no youth incidents on the Field last weekend.
- He had identified a "hotspot area" in Lodge Lane woods where there was evidence to suggest more under-age drinking. He had been making that area a priority whilst on patrols and co-operating with Council Wardens to combat this problem.
- There were no visitors to the last two Police Surgeries.
- Warning letters had been sent out to the speeding drivers that were caught by the community volunteers. Out of the letters sent (approx 30) only 1 driver had been from Saughall.
- A road policing patrol had attended Saughall (Long Lane/Church Road) to carry out an enforceable speed camera initiative. He was in close contact with the unit to make this a recurring visit.
- Within the next week, 2 afternoon talks would be carried out at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School. The pupils would meet the PCSO, try on his uniform, understand what the police did and receive general safety advice such as 'stranger danger'.
- Within the next 3-4 weeks a talk would be given to the Beavers at the Scout Hut. The content will be similar to the talk at the School.

- He had been in contact with Kay Parry from the Cheshire County Council's Highways Department regarding the 30 mph sign on Long Lane. Kay had informed that there were new guidelines that had come into effect recently so a review would be carried out in the near future.
- Also in near future he was hoping to set up a scheme called Farmwatch. The idea of the initiative was to collate all of the farmers' knowledge and plot this onto a map of the area. If there was an incident that occurred on a farm it was usually hard to pinpoint whose land it was on. Farmwatch would allow the police to contact the owner sooner and it would let the farmers contact each other to make them aware of any issues that arose.
- He was also arranging a community action meeting for residents of Saughall to attend and discuss their policing concerns within the village.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Butler's report be received.

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

Councillors WI Humphrey and A Warrington informed that this event had included information on cold calling and the PCSO initiative and associated training. Information on a police grant scheme had been requested and would be followed up by Councillor A Warrington.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (b) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, reported that September had been a very quiet month and that the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field had been virtually alcohol free. Some anti-social behaviour had been dealt with by the police and it was noted that the bottom gate in the Golden Jubilee Park was off its hinges. It was proposed that the gates be modified so that it would not be possible to lift them of their hinges in future.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Homewatch Coordinator's report be received; and
- (2) Councillor Mrs J Young be requested to speak urgently to the Council's contractor, Mr Des Francis, to request that the gate be re-hung as soon as possible.

(c) RSCP Community Safety Challenge

It was reported that the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team's Co-ordinator, Mr Tony Summers, had submitted a progress report for inclusion in the Council's Newsletter. Mr Summers would also be invited to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 7:30pm on Thursday, 11 October 2007 to discuss the initiative and the items currently listed on the Council's agenda in respect of the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team and community safety.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

178 YOUTH ISSUES

(a) Youth Facility

Councillors Mrs H Thorniley-Jones and Mrs J Young had met to discuss the provision for young people in the village. They had looked at some brochures and identified some seating with a roof that could possibly be purchased and erected on the playing field (corner of Fiddlers Lane and Long Lane). It was noted that to take such action was in line with the Parish Plan that had been compiled following a full village survey that had identified the need for such a facility to be provided for the youth of the village.

RESOLVED:

That residents be informed of the action the Council proposes to take in accordance with the Parish Plan in due course.

(b) Saughall Youth Club

Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones informed that the Youth Club was opening on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and was well attended. The Council's offer of funding to provide an outing for regular attendees had been accepted and it had been proposed that the youngsters would like to go to the 'Crocky Trail' near Waverton, Chester.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Big Lottery Seminar – Northwich

Councillor Mrs J Young informed that she had attended the Children’s play “playful Ideas” event on 19 September 2007. Bids could only be made in respect of new play, therefore the Parish Council could not qualify.

Councillor Mrs J Young had passed on the information she had obtained to the Chairman of the PTA at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School and had emphasised grants would only be paid in respect of community facilities, not just educational ones for the School only.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

179 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

It was agreed that parked cars on pavements was still a problem in the village especially at the times children were dropped off and picked up from school.

RESOLVED:

That parked cars on pavements continue to be monitored.

(b) A5117 Major Roadworks

There was nothing further to report.

(c) Speeding Traffic

The Council expected to borrow the Speed Indicator Device (SID), hopefully at the end of October 2007.

PCSO Mike Butler informed that the police had carried out an enforceable speed camera initiative recently in Saughall and had caught no one speeding.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Mr Trevor Clibery of Cheshire County Council’s Community Services be informed that using the SID by the Egerton Arms Public House was not considered very effective and the Clerk request that the corner of Aspen Grove and Hermitage Road be used as an alternative location instead; and

(2) it be noted, with satisfaction, that police had not caught any motorists speeding through the village when they had used their speed gun recently.

(d) Fly Posting – Antler Homes

Fly posting continued in the village with Antler Homes and Stoker's Furniture Shop being the main offenders.

RESOLVED:

That the situation continue to be monitored.

(e) New National Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme – 1 April 2008

Chester City Council was introducing a new national concessionary travel scheme that would enable free off-peak travel, on local buses, anywhere in England for people aged 60 or over and for disabled people. The Council was getting in touch with existing bus pass users to ask them to complete a new application form and contacting people who were newly eligible or who hadn't claimed before.

The Clerk had posted a notice informing of the new scheme and the deadline for information gathering on the Parish Council's noticeboards.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(f) Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee

An agenda had been received for the meeting scheduled for 4 October 2007 at Chester Town Hall. There were no items specifically in relation to Saughall.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

180 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Mrs J Young reported that the Council's contractor, Mr Des Francis, had informed her that he had finished de-stoning the Park. He intended to put down some weed killer and re-hang the gate.

There had been a meeting of the Field Committee with representatives of the Cricket Club and Football Team where it had been proposed that the Park should now be handed over to the sporting organisations. Both of these organisations were happy with this recommendation. The area within the perimeter path was totally their responsibility along with the container.

A Joint Use Agreement had previously been draw up and signed by representatives of the three parties concerned and it was intended that the Finance and General Purposes Committee would revisit this Agreement at its meeting on 11 October 2007 when the maintenance of the hedges would also be discussed further. It was noted that netting needed to be put up to stop balls going onto the road and this may involve trimming the hedge.

Mr B Huxley, who represented the Cricket Club, had expressed his sincere thanks for the work undertaken by the Council in getting the Golden Jubilee Park development to this stage.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

181 FIDDLERS LANE PLAYING FIELD

Following the last Quarterly Play Equipment inspection by Morral Play Solutions, Mr H Wilkinson had been provided with a copy of the subsequent report and asked to carry out all of the repairs he could and inform the Clerk of any work/actions he was unable to carry out (Finance and General Purposes Committee Minute No 30/2007 refers).

Mr Wilkinson had informed that he was unable to remedy the problem identified with the old gate.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Morral Play Solutions to recommend a remedy to the problem with the old gate along with associated costs when the next play equipment inspection is carried out.

[When approached, Mr Alan Dymond of Morral Play Solution informed that he had carried out a further inspection on Sunday, 30 September 2007 and would include some recommendations and provide some contractors who might be able to help, in his report.]

182 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 3 September 2007:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2007/2008</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
* Mr C Moss (Parish Room electricity re-charge)	88.41	102054
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Franking post)	33.92	102055
Mrs D Whitton (Mileage to County Office)	28.00	102056
Hacker Young (External Audit)	470.00	102057
All Cheshire Garden Service	665.00	102058
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (printing June to September 2007)	54.10	102059
Mr WI Humphrey (keys cut for playing field gate)	14.00	102060
Mr C Moss (Parish Room rental)	312.50	102061
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	40.00	102062
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	590.49	102063
HM Revenue and Customs	802.47	102064
Mr R Hipkiss (September 2007 Street Cleaning)	910.23	102065

(b) * Invoice for Electricity

Further to Minute No 163(b)/2007, Councillor DF Holman reported the detail of a conversation he had had with Mr C Moss. The Council was unable to have its own electricity bill because it did not have its own meter. Mr Moss had been quoted £1,500 for the supply and installation of three meters at his property.

Mr Moss had informed that the electricity usage had increased now that the PCSO was using the Parish Room as his base and therefore he had to pass the cost of this on to the Parish Council and if a separate meter was deemed necessary, the cost of that also.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Moss' invoice of £88.41 in respect of the electricity be paid.

(c) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	£
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 September 2007	173.13
Interest on Community Account to 23 September 2007	0.85

(d) Cash to Bank Reconciliation and Golden Jubilee Park Development Fund Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the content of the cash to Bank Reconciliation and the Golden Jubilee Park Development Fund Reconciliation be noted.

(e) Conclusion of Audit and Statement of Assurance

The External Auditor, Hacker Young, had signed off the Accounts for 2006/07 with a clean report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

183 MID-YEAR BUDGETARY REVIEW

The Council reviewed its budget for 2007/08 with the aid of a report that detailed actual expenditure to date against budget heads.

RESOLVED:

That the mid-year budgetary position be noted.

184 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

It was reported that with the help of the Parish Footpaths Warden, Tony Leach, and Mr S Holden of Cheshire County Council all landowners concerned (including the tenant farmers on the Shotwick Park Estate) had given their permission for the proposed kissing gates to replace their stiles. Amy Rushton, the Countryside Access Development Team Leader at Cheshire County Council, had been informed and would now put arrangements in hand.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Parish Footpaths Warden, Mr Tony Leach, be thanked for his important contribution to this initiative.

185 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Councillor DF Holman informed that no one had attended the Surgery held on 29 September 2007.

RESOLVED:

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

186 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

It was reported that the VIMC had identified a date on which to carry out repairs to the library wall.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

187 ODD JOBS

RESOLVED: That

(1) Mr H Wilkinson be requested to carry out the following jobs:

- attend to the manhole at the back of the Uniform Group's Headquarters
- clean the Homewatch sign at the top of Long Lane

and

(2) consideration be given to redecorating the Parish Room when the budget for 2008/09 is under discussion.

188 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) Cheshire Association of Local Council's 2007 Annual Meeting
6:30pm on Thursday, 18 October 2007 at Middlewich Civic Hall

Councillor Mrs JM Young to attend.

(iii) Chester City Council's Parish Partnership Reception
Wednesday, 31 October 2007, Town Hall, Chester

Councillors DF Holman, RK Shukla and A Warrington to attend.

(vi) Cheshire Community Council's AGM
Thursday, 11 October 2007, 7:00pm at Nantwich Civic Hall

Councillor B Kerr to attend.

189 PARISH COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

All items for inclusion in the next Newsletter had to be with the Clerk by Friday, 5 October 2007. If they were not received in time the Newsletter would be published without them.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

190 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- letter dated 10 September 2007 from Cheshire County Council's Chief Executive, Jeremy Taylor, inviting Councillors to take part in one of a series of topical debates across Cheshire. The focus is on 3 main themes – climate change, supporting and safeguarding your local community, and influencing local services (Chester on 5 October 2007 at 2:00pm-4:30pm, Ellesmere Port 8 October 2007 7:00pm-9:30pm)

Noted.

191 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters – September 2007