

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 5 November 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 Ms J Knox
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

PCSO Mike Butler
Mr B Huxley, Saughall Cricket Club

192 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors Mrs JE and RA Storrar and Mrs H Thorniley-Jones.

193 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

(a) Declarations Of Interest

Councillor R Shukla declared a Personal Interest in respect of Item No 15 – Proposed New Primary School (Minute No 205/2007 refers) as he has children at School.

(b) Chester City Council's Recent Training Events

Members reported that the recent training events on the Code of Conduct provided by officers of Chester City Council's Legal Department had been informative.

(c) Town and Parish Standard – September 2007

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Standards Board for England's Town and Parish Standard published in September 2007 be noted.

194 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 October 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

195 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Minutes of meetings of the following Committees be received:

- (i) Planning held on 1 October 2007
- (ii) Finance and General Purposes held on 11 October 2007

and

(2) it be agreed that, in accordance with the successful funding allocation submitted to Cheshire Community Council, the Council will make appropriate provision in its budgets and contribute £2,500 in the three-year period that the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team project will run. (Finance and General Purposes Committee Minute No 39(d)/2007 refers)

196 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

(i) PCSO's Monthly Report

PCSO Mike Butler presented his monthly report that detailed crime, anti-social behaviour incidents, a traffic initiative and other matters of concern in the village. He also detailed the various activities he had been involved in over the last month, the efforts he had made to raise his profile and the individuals and groups in the village he had met as part of his visibility plan.

Members were informed of the traffic problems caused by cars parked legally on Church Road and how PCSO Butler had intervened to get traffic moving when it had backed up recently.

Members also discussed the problem of cars parking on the verges on Long Lane, which was causing serious damage. PCSO Butler offered to draft a letter to residents for the Clerk to distribute.

PCSO Butler informed that he had deviated his shift so that he could attend this meeting and also the Bonfire and fireworks at the Greyhound Pub the previous evening. If anyone was aware of important events going on in the village he would try to be in attendance so long as he was given adequate notice.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Butler's report be received.

(ii) Meeting with Inspector Thorpe on 23 October 2007

Some members and the Clerk had met with Inspector Ian Thorp on 23 October 2007 to discuss the PCSO scheme. It was reported that on the whole it had been a very positive meeting. A number of issues had been aired and it had

been agreed to meet again in six months time. Since this meeting Members had already seen a marked difference.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, detailed various incidents that had occurred during the last month including youths playing football in the vicinity of the Church Road bus shelter, youths urinating on rose bushes in Church Road and egg throwing in Darlington Crescent and Smithy Close. He also informed of a successful community safety event that had been held in the village where villagers had been able to get their equipment and valuables marked.

RESOLVED:

That the Homewatch Coordinator's report be received.

(c) RSCP Community Safety Challenge

It was reported that the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team's Coordinator, Mr Tony Summers, would be attending the next meeting of the Council to report on all the progress the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team had made since its launch earlier in the year, following a successful funding application made to the Cheshire Community Council.

197 YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones had informed the Clerk that there was currently only one leader and so the younger Youth Club was closed temporarily.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

198 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) A5117 Major Roadworks

Members raised concerns over the traffic congestion on the Parkgate Road at peak times as a result of the roadworks.

RESOLVED:

That Members continue to lobby for the installation of traffic lights at the junction of the A540 and A5117.

(b) Speeding Traffic and the use of the Speed Indicator Device (SID)

No date had been offered yet for the loan of the SID.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(c) Fly Posting – Antler Homes

The proliferation of fly posting continued. PCSO Butler agreed to find out if it was lawful and therefore possible for Parish Councillors to remove the offending signs

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

(d) Aspen Grove Bus Stop

The Clerk had received an email from a resident of Aspen Grove who had complained about the bus stop at Aspen Grove being unmarked and overgrown. It was basically “a hole in the hedge”. Bus drivers often missed the stop and had begun to drop off in a driveway which meant bus users crossing the road on a blind bend.

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that she would ask Mr Summers to deal with this problem. She also agreed to check whether the bus stop had now been cleared as there was some doubt over whether it had or not. She would inform the Clerk.

It was noted that there was space for a bus shelter on the Aspen Grove side of the road and if Cheshire County Council ran any further bus shelter replacement programmes in partnership it might be appropriate to provide a shelter at this stop.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the District Engineer be requested to clear the bus stop on the side of the road opposite Aspen Grove if it was necessary to do so.

199 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Report of the Field Committee

The Field Committee had met and carried out a site inspection on Sunday, 21 October 2007. The reason for the meeting had been to consider the long term aims and objectives and ensure that any actions taken now would not jeopardise further development in the future. Discussions had taken place on where to site the various pieces of equipment and seating planned and Councillor R Shukla had agreed to plot these on a plan so that Council approval could be sought.

The Cricket Club and Football Team had been asked to send representatives but the Cricket Club had been unable to do so. As the Cricket Club had not been

represented there had been a misunderstanding but it was noted that this had now been put right.

Members had discussed “traveller proofing” the field gates and the Clerk had been asked to obtain a quotation for the work from Mr Paul Gresty of Guilden Sutton.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

The Council considered the quarterly inspection report provided by Morral Play Solutions following the inspection carried out on 30 September 2007.

Following the last meeting it was noted that the Clerk had sought advice from Mr Alan Dymond of Morral Play Solutions in respect of the remedy to the problem with the fastening of the old gate along with associated costs (Minute No 181/2007 refers). Unfortunately when the Clerk approached Mr Dymond she was told that he had already carried out the quarterly inspection on 30 September 2007 so the advice would be provided but following the next quarterly inspection.

Members considered the inspection report in detail and requested that Mr Wilkinson be invited to undertake the following tasks:

- Remove two exposed nails in the fencing and secure lose mesh
- Attached a new dog control order sign to the gate (the Clerk to ask the Dog Warden where one can be obtained)
- Secure broken and loose net to goalposts
- Lie leftover green matting (that is being stored in the Uniform Groups Headquarters) in the goalmouths

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to provide Mr Wilkinson with a copy of the quarterly inspection report and ask him to carry out the tasks identified above.

200 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 1 October 2007:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2007/2008</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Franking post)	14.91	102066
Masham Court Hotel (Councillor WI Humphrey's Bournemouth Conference stay. He owes the Council £49 for additional night less VAT)	142.76	102067
Mrs JM Young (Field gate keys cut)	7.50	102068
Morral Play Solutions (Quarterly Inspection)	70.44	102069

<u>Financial Year 2007/2008</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
United Utilities (Water Rates – Parish Room)	38.31	102070
GJ and AW Dutton (Hedge cutting)	146.88	102071
NWN Media Ltd (Newsletter distribution)	28.79	102072
Mr WI Humphrey (Fuel for travel to Bournemouth Conference and back)	36.19	102073
Mr R Hipkiss (October 2007 Street Cleaning)	910.23	102074
All Cheshire Garden Services (4 grass cuts)	600.00	102075
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Franking Post)	21.23	102001
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	35.00	102002
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	590.49	102003
Mr H Wilkinson (Materials)	25.17	102004
* Vernon Institute Management Committee (Repairs to library wall)	670.00	102005

* See Minute No 204

(b) Litter Picking

It was reported that the walkway from Church Road to Greenway and Saughall Hey should be litter picked daily and this did not seem to be happening at present.

It was noted that the area in front of the Co-operatives Store was often untidy with the bottle and can banks full and overflowing and that if there was no improvement the manager would need to be alerted to it.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Mr R Hipkiss be reminded to carry out daily litter picking on the walkway and environs referred to above; and

(2) the litter routes be revisited at a future meeting.

(c) Odd Jobs

Mr Wilkinson had submitted an invoice for work he had undertaken in the sum of £457.50.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Wilkinson be asked to itemise his invoice so that it can be understood how he had arrived at the charge of £457.50 before arrangements are made to make him a payment.

(d) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	£
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 October 2007	159.90
Street Cleaning Grant, 1 September 2007 to 31 March 2008	2,412.80

(e) 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.

201 STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE NORTHWEST – GRANT PROGRAMME

It was reported that Strengthening Rural Communities across the Northwest was targeted where rural services and economic activity needed a boost. These areas had been identified through a mapping process that examined their existence and their location within economically deprived areas of the region.

For Cheshire the following had been identified:

Saughall, Mollington, Mickle Trafford, Barrow, Guilden Sutton, Ashton, Kelsall, Tarvin, Duddon, Tattenhall, Dodleston, Farndon, Broxton, Tilston and Malpas

There were two funds available:

- the Community Initiative fund that supported community groups wishing to develop existing or new voluntary initiatives that improved service provision in the local area where the primary goal of these groups was not to make money from the service but to ensure that the service was available; and
- the Community Enterprise Fund that supported community groups wishing to establish or extend community enterprises which contributed to the rural services and economic improvement in their local communities e.g. shops, pubs, cafes, childcare facilities, care services for elderly or disabled residents, development of village halls into multi-service outlets, etc.

The scheme was funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and was being managed by the Plunkett Foundation in partnership with the Northwest Rural Community Councils. The closing date for all applications was 31 March 2008 and up to now there had been very few funding application submitted from Cheshire.

Councillor DF Holman informed that virtually no applications had been made for this funding and there was no limit on the number of applications an individual organisation could make. Help was also available to assist the bidding process.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) leaflets be distributed as widely as possible in the village to encourage as many funding applications as possible.

202 MILLENNIUM FUND

Councillor Mrs D Whitton reported that there was currently £1,057 in the bank.

Members were reminded that this fund would be used to site the Millennium Stone in the Golden Jubilee Park and thought would need to be given to its location, its base, a plaque, the history of the Stone and possibly burying a time capsule underneath it.

RESOLVED:

That the Millennium Stone be discussed at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 3 December 2007 under the item on the Golden Jubilee Park.

203 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey informed that no one had attended the Surgery held on 3 November 2007. It was proposed that the time and venue for the Surgeries be reviewed as attendance was very poor.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young or Councillors RA or Mrs JE Storrar be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 1 December 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 December 2007.

204 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

The Clerk had received an invoice in the sum of £1,340 from Mr H Dobson, the VIMC's Treasurer, in respect of work undertaken in the library.

It was reported that the Chairman of the VIMC, Mr Bill Murphy, had suggested that the Parish Council make a financial contribution towards the maintenance of the cottages.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) agreement be given to making a payment of £670 (half) towards the cost of the recent work in the library;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to Mr Murphy and inform him that the Parish Council can only contribute to the upkeep of those parts of the Vernon Institute that are open to the public; and
- (3) Mr B Murphy's name and telephone number be included as a contact in the next Parish Council newsletter.

Cheshire County Council intended to combine the existing Infant and Junior Schools in Saughall into a new Primary School on the Junior School site, which was to be enlarged to suit. As the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School would be operational during the construction period, the new building would be constructed immediately behind the existing building and the Project Manager had informed that it was envisaged that the Junior School would be demolished to provide an area for car parking, drop off and landscaping.

The project was in an early stage of planning and no designs had yet been produced. It was provisionally programmed that the requirements for the building would be firmed up over the next few weeks and options produced for consideration, prior to a full planning application being submitted in April 2008 to be ready for a September 2009 opening.

Prior to commencement of any design work the Project Team was consulting as widely as possible over the expectations for the new School. The project was to be funded via the County Council's capital programme and had been allocated a fixed budget based on educational provision only. Schools were used widely by the community in the evenings and at weekends for extended provision and it was envisaged that this practise would continue provided there was no conflict with the delivery of the curriculum. The arrangements for the use of the School by community groups would form part of the ongoing discussions and would remain the responsibility of the Governing Body of the new school.

In order to understand the anticipated needs of the community a Community Consultation Event had been held at the Junior School on Monday, 29 October 2007 and Parish Councillors had attended. The event had provided an opportunity for all members of the community to present their views and influence the design of the School at the pre-planning stage.

Councillor R Shukla had been at the event and he reported on the proceedings informing that the project team had ideas in respect of the new School but they weren't inflexible and it was open to suggestions on siting the new School, its design and on keeping some or all of the existing building.

Members agreed that it was vital that any plans were drawn up taking into account the Parish Council's aspirations for a low cost housing scheme for local people and the need for more burial land. Also, they were very much in favour of retaining the Thomas Wedge School building for community use, particularly for pre-school provision, as it was part of the village's heritage. These views had been expressed at the consultation event but it was agreed that a follow-up letter would be sent to the appropriate officers.

The Council was also interested in holding a meeting and working in partnership with the County Council to firm up proposals before the planning application was submitted.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Chester Church of England Diocesan Director of Education, Mr Jeff Turnbull, and to Cheshire County Council's Director of Children's Services, Mrs Joan Feenan, (copying in the Chief Executive, Mr Jeremy Taylor, the County Property Officer, Mr Ian Gould, the Lead Member for Children's Services and the local Ward Member, County Councillor David Rowlands) informing of the Parish Council's views in respect of the proposal to build a new Primary School in Saughall suggesting a further meeting as soon as possible and asking that it be kept informed of developments.

206 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Representation at Meetings of Outside Bodies

(i) Chester City Council's Gowry North Area Committee

7:00pm on Thursday, 8 November 2007 at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School, Saughall

All Members were requested to make the effort to attend as the meeting was being held in the village.

(ii) A5117 Deeside Junctions Improvement Liaison Meeting

10:30am on Tuesday, 6 November 2007 at Oakwood Farm, Parkgate Road, Saughall

Councillor Mrs JM Young would attend this meeting and press for traffic lights at the junction of the A5117/A540 to alleviate traffic congestion.

(b) Reports

(i) NALC Conference – Building the Future of Local Communities

5-7 October 2007 at the Bournemouth International Centre

It was agreed that this report would be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(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 reported that it had been a business meeting and that Local Government Review had been discussed. The Association was in favour and supporting the one unitary Cheshire County Council option.

(iii) Chester City Council's Parish Partnership Reception

Wednesday, 31 October 2007, Town Hall, Chester

Councillors DF Holman, RK Shukla and A Warrington had attended this meeting and found it very interesting. There were a number of exhibition stands and Members considered they had got a lot out of attending the reception.

(vi) Police Forum

7:00pm on Tuesday, 9 October 2007 at St Theresa's Parish Centre, Blacon Avenue, Chester

No Council representatives attended.

(v) Cheshire Association of Local Councils' Chester Area Meeting

7:30pm on Wednesday, 17 October 2007, County Hall, Chester

No Council representatives attended.

207 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

- letter dated 28 September 2007 from Cheshire County Council's Director of Regional Affairs, Ian Dunn, regarding Local Government Reorganisation.

Noted.

- letter dated 3 October 2007 from the leader of Congleton Borough Council, Councillor Brian Silvester, regarding Local Government Reorganisation.

Noted.

208 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

Cheshire County Council's LTP Delivery Report 2007

The Standards Board for England's Town and Parish Standard September 2007 (Copy attached)

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Minerals News September 2007

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association's Newsletter – The Playing Field Autumn 2007

Cheshire Police Authority – Forum Newsletter October 2007

Chester City Council's The Past Uncovered – October 2007

Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee agenda for meeting on 1 November 2007