

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 11 October 2007 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman (in the Chair)
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs J Young

Invited Members: Councillor WI Humphrey

Also in attendance: Mr B Huxley, Saughall Cricket Club

35 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Johnson.

36 CODE OF CONDUCT

No Declarations of Interest were received.

37 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 August 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

38 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

Progress to Date – Phase 1

The Committee reviewed progress made in respect of Phase 1. Most of the development work had now been completed and the Council's contractor had agreed to put the gate back on its hinges.

It was noted that the environmental areas may need additional work as the third pond remained stagnant.

There were concerns over access to the field as it was imperative that the gates were secured.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones had also raised concerns after carrying out an inspection and had asked if she could obtain a quotation from Mr G Parry to make the field more secure. The Clerk had agreed to this course of action but no quotation had yet been received.

Members considered the car parking arrangements and agreed that metal in and out signs would be needed to be obtained to put on the gates. Councillor WI Humphrey had some literature on signs that may be appropriate.

Members gave consideration to the Joint Use Agreement that had been drawn up the previous year. The Agreement was the subject of an annual review. Mr Huxley suggested that in respect of Point 8 – 'The Council make its land available to other

sporting organisations, as it deems fit and appropriate' – that 'subject to appropriate consultation with the sporting organisations (the Saughall Cricket Club and Greyhound Public House Football Team)' be added to the end.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) Councillor DF Holman be requested to check the gates to make sure that they are as secure as possible;
- (3) the Field Committee be requested to carry out a site visit and draw up a snagging list if necessary (in advance of the invoice being received) and the Council's Environmental Warden, Mrs Helen Cake-Bread, be invited to attend and offer advice on the way forward with the pond;
- (4) the Clerk be requested to remind Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones about the quotation she was obtaining as the security of the field was paramount and urgent action was required;
- (5) metal in and out signs be purchased to assist traffic management in the car park;
- (6) the Committee give consideration to what to include in Phase 2 of the development at its next meeting; and
- (7) the Joint Use Agreement be revised and re-signed by the three parties.

39 SAUGHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM

(a) Project Co-ordinator's Report

Tony Summers, the project co-ordinator, had submitted a report on the Neighbourhood Management Team's progress. This had been edited by the Clerk and was the subject of an article in the Council's October 2007 Newsletter.

RESOLVED:

That the Project Co-ordinator's progress report be received.

(b) Terms of Reference

RESOLVED:

That the Neighbourhood Management Team's Terms of Reference be as follows:

Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team – Terms of Reference

The Team's aim is to make Saughall and Shotwick Park a safer and better place to live by:

- reducing crime;
- reassuring residents by reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour;

- providing vulnerable people with safer environments;
- reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol;
- providing activities for young people;
- improving road safety;
- taking measures to improve the quality of life for the residents of Saughall and Shotwick Park.

(c) Project Co-ordinator’s Job Description, Person Specification and Contract of Employment

The Clerk had produced the first draft of a job description for Member’s consideration. Members considered the draft and revised it to suit the Neighbourhood Management Team’s needs.

The Project Co-ordinator needed to receive a Contract of Employment and Councillor DF Holman agreed to draft it using the Clerk’s Contract as a base.

It was agreed that the Project Co-ordinator’s person specification could be drawn up using the wording of the advertisement produced for the job.

RESOLVED:

That once the Contract of Employment and supporting documents are available the Project Co-ordinator be requested to sign the Contract.

(d) Details of Successful Funding Application

It was noted that the details of the successful funding application in respect of the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Scheme were as follows:

Item (e.g. salaries, rent, volunteer expense)	Cost
Salary (Project Co-ordinator) - 3x£2,500	£7,500
Rent - £1,000 per annum	£3,000
Equipment (Computer, phone, etc)	£1,000
Volunteer Expenses	£500
Stationary, postage, etc	£500

It was noted that the Council would need to make provision in its budget to provide the Neighbourhood Management Team with a financial contribution of £2,500 in the three year period that the project would run.

It was also important to note that the Project Co-ordinator would need to keep accurate records and accounts to satisfy the Cheshire Community Council who was providing the funding.

Councillor Mrs J Young reported that the Project Co-ordinator had been unsuccessful in obtaining third party liability insurance And it was suggested that the Team itself would need to take insurance out in respect of its employer.

The Clerk reminded Members that in order to properly monitor the Neighbourhood Management Team project it would be appropriate for the Council to receive the Minutes of its meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

40 FIDDLERS LANE SWING PARK

Councillor R Shukla shared the thoughts he had had on what additional play equipment could be provided by the Council for local children. Ideas included:

- a climbing wall
- facilities for young children's imaginary play e.g. shop, train. Bus
- Polygons
- hopscotch
- Aerial runway

It was noted that a long strip of land behind the Uniform Group's Headquarters could lend itself to an aerial runway.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor R Shukla be requested to give further consideration to what could be put on the strip of land behind the Uniform Group's Headquarters and report to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 3 January 2008; and
- (2) Mr G Butler of 51 Hermitage Road, who had made representations about children's play equipment at the July 2007 meeting of the Council, be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee and put forward his ideas and observations.

41 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 applications submitted from Cheshire.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) this item be included on the agenda for the Council meeting scheduled for 5 November 2007 when Members will be asked to put forward ideas for possible schemes/projects; and
- (3) the information leaflet in respect of this funding opportunity be circulated as widely as possible around Saughall and to include the various groups in the village.

42 PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, SAUGHALL

Members were informed that they were invited to attend a consultative meeting at 6pm on Monday, 29 October 2007 at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School. This would provide an opportunity for all members of the community to present their views and influence the design of the school in the pre-planning stage.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform those Members not in attendance of the Community Consultative Event planned and they be encouraged to attend and bring a report on proceedings to the next Council meeting scheduled for 5 November 2007.

43 CHRISTMAS TREE

It was noted that approximately £50 remained in the fund used for last year's Christmas Tree Lights event.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones be asked if the Greyhound Public House wished to make a contribution towards the cost of the village Christmas Tree.