

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK
PARISH COUNCIL held on 11 May 2009 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs K Ford
Councillor DF Holman
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Co-ordinator)
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor Mrs J Knox
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs JM Young

97 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

98 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Chairman signed her declaration of office, witnessed by the Clerk.

99 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor DF Holman be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

100 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor JG Johnson
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

101 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs J Knox and RA Storrar declared personal interests in respect of the item on the agenda – The New School and the Future of the Infant and Junior School Buildings (Minute No113/2009 refers) because of their association with the local schools.

Councillor RA Storrar also declared a personal interest in the item of the agenda – Wain House (Minute No 102/2009 refers) as he was also a member of Cheshire West and Chester Council, the planning authority that would determine the planning application to redevelop Wain House.

Chester and District Housing Trust (CDHT) owned, managed and maintained Wain House. Until recently it had been used for bedsit accommodation but there were now new plans for a scheme for the over 55s.

CDHT had committed to reduce the number of sheltered units with shared bathroom facilities by 2010. This type of accommodation scored very low for suitability and viability when being assessed for Supporting People funding. The introduction of this funding and rent restructuring had all impacted on the viability of bedsit accommodation and it no longer provided value for money for new residents to the scheme.

Following a consultation with Saughall residents in 2008 on the original proposal, CDHT had put together a revised proposal in response to concerns raised, including a reduced roof height from 3 to 2 storeys.

Danielle Harrison, CDHT's Senior Development Officer, had been invited to the meeting to report on progress being made with the re-development. She informed that following the consultation event held on 14 August 2008 and subsequent comments received the revised scheme addressed many of the issues that had been raised and ensured it was within planning regulations.

CDHT had promised to share their revised proposal with residents before a planning application was submitted to the Planning Authority. Therefore, officers of CDHT would be consulting residents on Tuesday, 12 May 2009 between 12 and 4pm. Representatives from CDHT would be calling at each property in the surrounding area of Wain House and would have a copy of the plans to show residents and receive their comments.

The proposal would provide the following:

- Demolition of existing buildings, including 5 bungalows in Rakeway
- Provision of new elderly care flats for affordable rent: 9 one bedroom flats, 28 two bedroom flats, communal lounge
- Provision of 5 ground floor flats with their own front doors
- Large rear garden shared by residents
- Existing trees to remain if possible
- A 2 storey building to match local surroundings
- The public green space of Anvil Close would be opened-up with rail fencing, instead of timber fencing
- Safe, well lit and overlooked paths, parking and open space

Ms Harrison informed that the re-development would be a flagship scheme: designed to meet the changing needs of residents: it had better space standards: was energy efficient to reduce fuel and water costs; had on site parking, increased security and had a high level of sustainable design and construction.

CDHT would inform residents of Rakeway of re-housing opportunities as properties became available. It hoped that the bungalows would be vacated by February 2010 so work could commence but it would seek an extension of time if suitable accommodation had not been found for the residents concerned.

Ms Harrison also informed that CDHT did not intend to have another consultative meeting as the one held previously had not been a success. However, all comments received from residents would be submitted with the planning application. It was anticipated that the planning application would be submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council at the beginning of June 2009.

Following the presentation Ms Harrison answered Members' questions as appropriate.

It was noted that CDHT had clearly addressed all issues raised during the previous consultation and responded to residents concerns.

RESOLVED:

That Ms Harrison be thanked for her attendance at the meeting and for her informative presentation.

103 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

104 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Committee meetings be received and the recommendations therein be endorsed:

Planning held on 6 April 2009

Finance and General Purposes held on 16 April 2009

105 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly had been held on 28 April 2009. Few parishioners had attended this meeting, which was very disappointing. Members considered the content of the Chairman's Annual Report and the Minutes of the meeting, which were appended to the agenda.

A resident of Saughall, Mr George Southey, had raised concerns at the meeting that the Christmas Lights Switch-on Ceremony had been held outside of the Greyhound Public House and not on land in the ownership of the Council. He considered it was dangerous to have this event so close to the

road junction and that it should have been held in the Golden Jubilee Park instead. The Chairman had agreed to consider Mr Southey's comments at the next Council meeting.

The Council considered Mr Southey's comments. It was of the view that the Golden Jubilee Park was not an appropriate location for Christmas festivities and the Christmas tree would be at risk of vandalism if it was located there. The Greyhound Public House and Vernon Institute area was the focal point of the village and the most appropriate place to hold the Christmas celebrations.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman's Annual Report 2008/09 and the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 28 April 2009 be received.

106 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

(a) Committee Structure

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Committee Structure be as follows, and the Membership be as set out below:

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Councillors DF Holman, Mrs J Johnson, RK Shukla, RA Storrar, Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones, A Warrington and Mrs JM Young,

Planning Committee

Councillors DF Holman, WI Humphrey, , Mrs J Johnson, JG Johnson, Mrs J Knox, Mrs JE Storrar, Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones, Mrs D Whitton and Mrs JM Young

"Field Site Panel" (formerly the Field Committee)

Councillors WI Humphrey, A Warrington and Mrs JM Young

Staffing Committee

Councillors Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones, Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs D Whitton

(b) Christmas Lights Celebration Steering Committee

RESOLVED:

That the Membership of the Committee be as that in the previous Municipal Year, led by Councillor Mrs J Johnson.

- (c) Working Group to take forward Quality Parish Council Status and Power of Well Being Initiative

RESOLVED:

That the Membership of the Working Group be as follows:

Councillors B Kerr, Mrs JM Young and A Warrington (substitute: Councillor WI Humphrey)

107 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2009/10 (2nd DRAFT)

The Council considered the 2nd draft of the Calendar of Meetings.

RESOLVED:

That subject to two amendments being made, the Clerk be requested to publish the Council's Calendar of Meetings for 2009/10.

108 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED:

That the Council be represented as follows:

- (a) Chester Area Meetings of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC)

Councillors B Kerr, RA Storrar and Mrs JM Young

- (b) ChALC, Quality Parish Council Forum

Councillors B Kerr and WI Humphrey /Mrs JM Young

- (c) Vernon Institute Management Committee

Councillor Mrs JM Young

- (d) Chester Police Forum

Councillor A Warrington

- (e) Saughall Youth Club Management Committee

Councillors WI Humphrey, Mrs K Ford and Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones

- (f) Responsible Financial Officer

The Clerk

(g) Internal Auditor

No appointment made.

[Mr H Dobson had resigned as Internal Auditor and approaches were being made in order to appoint a new Internal Auditor. The Clerk would write to Mr Dobson to thank him for his help and support over the years and would purchase a small gift for him in recognition of all the work he had carried out for the Parish Council in a purely voluntary capacity.]

(h) Tree Warden and Environmental Warden

Mrs H Cakebread

(i) Parish Paths Warden

Mr T Leach

109 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs K Ford, assisted by Councillor RA Storrar, be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery to be held between 10:00am to 10:45am on Saturday, 30 May 2009 outside of the Co-op Stores and bring a report on its proceedings to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 June 2009.

110 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Fiddlers Lane Car Park – Drainage

Councillor A Warrington had met the Area Maintenance Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, on site to discuss the car park's drainage problems. He reported that Mr Anderton had no problem with the proposal to drain the car park or the drainpipe coming out onto the grass verge.

Mr Anderton had made some suggestions on how to drain the car park involving a bigger soakaway covered in fleece like material, which could act as filler. He had also indicated that he may be able to supply the Council with some chippings, free of charge. The aim was to make the level of the car park higher.

A meeting had subsequently been held with the contractor who would re-quote for the work necessary. This quotation was awaited, along with another to reconfigure the gate.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Perimeter Path

It was reported that the path had been sprayed three times.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Moles

It was reported that mole activity was not as prevalent of late. A mole exterminator had been identified and his details had been passed to the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Clean-up Day – Saturday, 18 April 2009

The Chairman reported that no representatives of the Cricket Club or the Football Club had attended whilst she was there. Mr B Huxley had attended at a different time and undertaken some litter picking.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(e) Fiddlers Lane Annual Inspection Report – 30 December 2008

RESOLVED:

That the report be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration at its meeting scheduled for Thursday, 21 May 2009.

(f) Playbuilder Project

The Clerk had been informed that the Council had been unsuccessful in attracting grant aid through the Playbuilder Project run by Cheshire West and Chester Council. No details were available on who had been successful in their application.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

111 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PCSO Sue Morrison had provided each Member of the Council with a copy of her monthly report that set out details of crimes, anti-social behaviour, etc.

Members discussed how the PCSO scheme was currently operating in Saughall and noted a new arrangement for passing on intelligence/information to the Police.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Morrison's report be received.

(b) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, detailed low level crime and anti-social activity that had taken place over the last month in the village. Matters reported included:

- Proceedings of the well attended Police Action Meeting held in the Uniform Groups' Headquarters on 8 April 2009
- Nuisance youth activities on the Golden Jubilee Park over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend
- An attempted burglary on Church Road
- Broken beer bottles in the Golden Jubilee Park by the Aerial Runway
- Parking problems in Park Avenue
- Interference with the CCTV equipment
- Cars egged on Church Road

It was reported that the two seats at the top of the Golden Jubilee Park were causing problems for local residents as nuisance youths were converging on them. Councillor WI Humphrey proposed that they be relocated, elsewhere in the Park.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor WI Humphrey be thanked for his informative report;
- (2) the Field Committee be requested to agree where to relocate the two seats to alleviate residents problems with youths causing a nuisance; and
- (3) it be established whether residents of Long Lane are completing the ASBO diaries with which they had been provided.

112 YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the Youth Club's trip to Alton Towers, which the Council had made a financial contribution towards, had been booked for June 2009. The Club would be providing an item for the next Parish Council Newsletter thanking the Council for its help.

Attendance at the Club had increased over the last month.

The Club had made just over £200 from holding a Jumble Sale recently.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

113 THE NEW SCHOOL AND THE FUTURE OF THE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Work was ongoing and Councillor RA Storrar reported that the school building project was still on schedule for completion in the autumn.

Councillor B Kerr referred to an item in the May 2009 ChALC Newsletter about a change in the Government's policy in respect of local assets.

Community Secretary, Hazel Blears MP, had unveiled a series of measures to back a people's revolution to recycle buildings by putting real power in the hands of locals to support communities during the economic downturn and beyond.

The tougher economic climate had led to renewed interest in communities maintaining local assets. So as part of the Government's empowerment agenda, Ms Blears had announced a new single advice line – 0845 345 4564 – and other Government support to make it easier for people to take control of community assets.

Driving this revolution in the public sector, there was a range of options for local councils to give people real power, including handing over buildings as gifts to community groups, selling at below market price, or keeping the building off the market while a local project developed plans and secured funding.

A new Asset Transfer Unit would give local people the information they needed to get through any planning, legal and financial barriers.

This ownership of local public buildings involved, for example, community centres, former schools and old town halls.

In the light of this Government initiative and the public's outrage and disquiet, Councillor B Kerr proposed that the Council request Cheshire West and Chester Council to revisit and review the decision, taken by the now demised Chester City Council, to demolish the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School's building, once the new primary school has been built, with a view to

transferring the building to the local community and furthermore the Parish Council offer to run it as a community asset.

It was noted that there were two trust deeds governing different parts of the building. The earliest deed prevented the building being used for anything other than a Church of England school and if it was to be used for any other purpose it must be sold at the full market value (Minute No 210/2007 refers).

The Clerk informed that Chester City Council's Planning Committee, a regulatory committee, had made the determination to demolish the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School building and therefore, as far as she was aware, there was no body or mechanism to enable the new Council to review or overturn the decision made. Also, the school had to be demolished to accommodate the new primary school, as set out in the plans, on the site.

RESOLVED:

That in the first instance, the Clerk be requested to write to the three Cheshire West and Chester Ward Members, Councillors Brain Crowe, Eleanor Johnson and Andrew Storrar, to request a meeting with them to consider the possibility of reviewing the planning consent to demolish the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School's building and to pass it over to the Parish Council to run as a community asset.

114 LAND AT LODGE LANE FOR RURAL AFFORDABLE HOMES

The Chairman reported that she had attended a workshop on "The Case for Rural Housing Enablers in the North West", earlier in the day in Comberbach. She had learnt that proposed affordable housing schemes may be in jeopardy if local schools were filled up to their planned admission numbers/limits and unable to accept anymore children. Saughall schools in some year groups currently were full and the 2009 September Reception Class intake was already up to its planned admission number/limit with children now being refused places. Infant Class Size legislation applied and could not be breached. This could impact on the proposed development.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to ask Chester District Housing Trust's Senior Development officer, Danielle Harrison, if she had any progress to report in respect of the proposed affordable housing scheme.

115 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

It was noted that there had been little improvement. Motorists continued to park on pavements and grass verges in Saughall.

(b) Speeding Traffic and the Proposal for Community Speed Watch Signage

One of the Council's aspirations was for Saughall to become a Community Speed Watch Area. The Council had regularly used both the speed gun and speed indicator device to deter speeding traffic and meet the necessary criteria to achieve this status. No progress report on this was available.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Mr Derek Bowker of Cheshire Community Action for a progress report.

(c) Bus Services in Saughall

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Transportation Co-ordination Officers had agreed to ask Arriva to provide an extra journey from Chester to Saughall as there was currently almost an hour and a half (18:09 to 19:32) between Arriva's service ending and a Chester Bus' service commencing. They had not informed of the outcome of this request.

Councillor Brian Kerr reported that the new bus timetable operating from 5 May 2009 met the needs of the village. Buses were not taking a circular route so there was no confusion and buses didn't pass each other whilst in the village. Journeys through the Ridings were reduced by half. It was a satisfactory arrangement and differed from what the Council had been told.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the Clerk be requested to contact Transport Co-ordination to see if Arriva had agreed to the request to provide an extra journey.

(d) Potholes and a Meeting with Cheshire West and Chester Council Officers to Discuss Highway Issues

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged for 7:00pm on Thursday, 11 June 2009 to discuss highway issues with the new Council's Highway Engineers. Also, Members were reminded that at the Annual Parish Assembly held on 28 April 2009 they had agreed to conduct a walkabout to inspect all village roads and make a list and take photographs of all of the potholes.

It was reported that the lamppost at the junction of the A540 Parkgate Road and Long Lane, Saughall had been hit by a vehicle and was leaning at an angle.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to report the damage to the lamppost as detailed above.

(e) Weight Restriction on the Bridge on Seahill Road

The Clerk's letter to Mr Dandy and his subsequent response were noted.

RESOLVED:

That in future any Councillors witnessing a heavy goods vehicle using the bridge on Seahill Road to access the village be requested to take down the registration number.

(f) Kingswood Lane – Proposed Traffic Restriction Order

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had been informed that Kingswood Lane was advertised on the internet as a good place to go drive a 4x4 vehicle. Residents obviously had significant concerns. He had been in touch with Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rights of Way Officer, Steve Holden, who had informed that the only solution would seem to be for the Parish Council to request his Council to put a Traffic Restriction Order on Kingswood Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Steve Holden and request that arrangements be put in place to obtain a Traffic Restriction Order on Kingswood Lane and this Council be informed of anything it can do to achieve this solution.

119 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 April 2009:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2009/2010</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Allianz Cornhill Insurance Limited (Fidelity Insurance)	49.46	102248
Allianz Cornhill Insurance Limited (Annual Renewal)	2,004.95	102249
Cheshire Community Action (Affiliation Fees)	89.92	102250
Mr G Dutton (Hedge Cutting)	230.00	102251
Cheshire Police Authority (Contribution to PCSO)	11,000.00	102252
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expense)	78.09	102253
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	640.98	102254
Mr R Hipkiss (Litter Picking)	1,007.67	102255
Mr H Wilkinson (Odd Jobs)	26.25	102256
Public Works and Loan Board Fixed Rate Loan Payment due on 14 May 2009	2,771.22	

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	<u>£</u>
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 April 2009	0.19
Parish Precept	52,327.00
Powersystems Ltd Wayleave Payment	4.60

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

117 ODD JOBS

The Council had agreed to the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the play equipment for the younger children and the Cheshire fencing around the play area be repainted (Minute No 104/2009 refers) as it had not been done since 2006.

Mr Wilkinson had submitted a quote to undertake the painting work but had not included the Cheshire fencing. The Chairman informed that she would be able to arrange to purchase the paint at a discount and that the specialist paint for such jobs may be more appropriate and save on the time taken to prepare

the equipment for painting. She agreed to go and see Mr Wilkinson to discuss the best way forward.

Mr Wilkinson had informed that it would cost the Council £50 for him to carry out work at the back of the Uniform Groups' Headquarters. An overgrown hedge and trees would be cut down and grass undergrowth would be cut and removed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

118 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

There was no report available on this occasion.

119 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Meetings Coming Up

- (i) Cheshire Police Authority's 'Have your say' – Public Meeting
Monday, 18 May 2009 in Chester

Councillor A Warrington would attend the meeting and bring a report to the next meeting.

(b) Outside Meetings Attended

- (i) Cheshire West and Chester Council's event with Local Councils
Thursday, 30 April 2009 from 6:00pm at the Four Ways Inn, Delemare

Councillor RA Storrar reported that it was "a getting to know you event" and had informed that local authorities must operate within the law.

220 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received and were noted:

- (a) Letter from Flintshire County Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Barry Davies, dated 28 April 2009 regarding the Proposed Designation of All Public Areas within the County of Flintshire under the Alcohol (Consumption in Public Places) Regulations 2001

Noted.

- (b) Details of Computers for Rural People Scheme

Noted.

(c) email from David Jones of Cheshire West and Chester Council Scrutiny Team dated 11 May 2009 detailing an opportunity at 6:30pm on Thursday, 21 May 2009 at Bishop Heber School, Malpas to question the Leader and a member of the Executive.

Noted.

221 CIRCULARS

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

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Final Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan – IRMP6
Update Issue 3 Spring 2009
The Playing Field – Spring 2009