

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 3 August 2009 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman  
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Co-ordinator)  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor JG Johnson  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor Mrs J Knox  
Councillor RK Shukla  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Councillor B Crowe  
Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Councillor E Johnson

264 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillor Mrs K Ford.

PCSO Sue Morrison had also sent apologies for absence.

265 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs J Knox, RK Shukla, RA Storrar and Mrs JE Storrar declared a personal interest in respect of the item on the agenda – The New School and the Future of the Infant and Junior School Buildings (Minute No 272/2009 refers) because of their association with the Schools.

266 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

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

267 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Planning Committee

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 July 2009 be received.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 30 July 2009 be received and the following recommendations therein be agreed:

- Minute No 31 – Review of the Council's Insurance Cover

RECOMMENDED: That in the light of no further information on the possibility of revising the Council's Insurance excess it be left as it currently is at £500.

The Council also RESOLVED:

That it will review its insurance cover, including the excess of £500 within twelve months.

- Minute No 33(d) – Golden Jubilee Park – Park Benches

RECOMMENDED: That a further bench be purchased at the appropriate time.

Councillor Mrs D Whitton informed that it may be possible to provide funding for the bench (which it was reported would be positioned close to the Post Office so that older residents would have the option to rest on the journey to and from the Post Office) from the Millennium Fund. She agreed to consult the signatories and report back to a future meeting.

- Minute No 33(g) – Golden Jubilee Park – Cheshire Probation Service – Community Pay Back Scheme

RECOMMENDED: That the Probation Service be allowed to undertake work in the Park, including trimming bushes, hedges and trees, strimming, litter picking and filling in rabbit holes in the perimeter path.

268 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery held on 1 August 2009

Councillor Mrs D Whitton had presided over the Surgery held on Saturday, 1 August 2009 between 10:00am and 10:45am outside the Co-op Store. Issues discussed had included:

- Speeding traffic
- Parking on pavements
- Demolition of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School
- No Dogs and No Golf in the Golden Jubilee Park

- Objections to the planning application to redevelop Wain House
- Queries about the future of the Ridings Community Infant School building

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be thanked for her report.

(b) Surgery on 5 September 2009

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery to be held between 10:00am and 10:45am on Saturday, 5 September 2009 outside of the Co-op Stores.

## 269 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Fiddlers Lane – Drainage

It was noted that the drainage work would be undertaken by the contractor, Mr Paul Edwards, weather permitting in the first week of September 2009. (Finance and General Purposes Committee Minute No 33(b)/2009 refers)

(b) Perimeter Path

It was noted that the rabbit holes would be filled in through the Probation Services' Community Pay Back Scheme and that further work on the path may be required later in the year. The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommendation had been agreed. (Minute No 267(b)/2009 refers)

(c) Painting of Play Equipment and Cheshire Railings

A proposal to try to repair the slide had been put forward by the contractor All Seasons. They had suggested that they remove some of the paint on the two slide rails to check its condition. If the condition was satisfactory they could paint the rails with primer. If the condition was not satisfactory, they would inform the Council. The Clerk agreed to ask Mr Alan Dymond of Morral Play Solutions for his advice on this matter.

(e) New Gates and Posts

A quotation was awaited. A decision would be made at a future meeting in the light of quotations received.

(f) Damage to Play Surface

The Clerk had asked Mr Alan Dymond of Morral Play Solutions for advice on whether the safety surface to the side of the slide where the damage had been caused could be taken up and turf put down instead. This advice was still awaited.

(g) CCTV Equipment

It was noted that the PCSO did not review the film footage. Members hoped that this might change once a new PCSO was allocated to Saughall.

(h) Park Benches

A quotation to position some benches and reposition others, as agreed with the Sporting Organisations, in the Park in the sum of £314.44 had been received from Mr Wilkinson.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Wilkinson be requested to go ahead and carry out the work required.

270 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PCSO Sue Morrison was, again, not in attendance at the meeting but had submitted her monthly report to the Clerk. This written report had been circulated to all Members for their information.

RESOLVED:

That the PCSO'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 and any actions taken as a result. Matters reported included:

- Four people acting suspiciously in Deeside Lane.
- Youths (some probably underage) drinking in the Golden Jubilee Park. The Park was on the list to be included in a Byelaw to prohibit the drinking of alcohol in certain public places.
- Camping in the Golden Jubilee Park.
- Burglary at Oaktree Nursery
- Golf balls being hit from the Golden Jubilee Park towards Oaktree Nursery
- Underage drinking behind Wain House
- Smashed beer bottles and other litter in the Golden Jubilee Park.
- The lock and Chain taken from one of the gates to the Golden Jubilee Park.
- Vehicles ticketed at the Peg.
- Burglar alarms going off and causing a nuisance.

- A theft in Crofters Way.

RESOLVED:

That the Homewatch Coordinator's report be received.

(c) Youths Playing Football at Night

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported the detail of the conversation she had recently with Inspector Ian Thorp. The Inspector had been made aware of the current situation and that the Council was not happy with the Police cover for Saughall. A meeting was being arranged between him and Members of the Council. Once the Clerk had the date and time she would notify all Members of the Councillor

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Presentation on the Homewatch Scheme

The Council was asked to consider inviting Ms Liz Biddle, Cheshire Constabulary's Homewatch Officer, to attend a meeting to make a presentation on the Homewatch Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That Ms Biddle be invited to the Council meeting scheduled for 5 October 2009 to make a presentation.

(e) Cheshire West and Chester Council's Community Safety Warden Team's Initiative

The Council considered information provided about a pilot initiative by the Rural West Community Safety Warden Team to hold a number of surgeries around the Rural West area,

It was noted that the idea of the surgeries was to develop an approach to engaging with residents and provide opportunities for rural communities to raise local concerns and report issues, etc.

RESOLVED:

That the detailed information be noted.

271 YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor WI Humphrey informed that the Youth Club's boys had gone bowling one evening using the minibus. The girls planned to go out for a meal when the minibus was available.

A meeting had been held with representatives of the Vernon Institute Management Committee regarding the proposal for the Club to be allowed to use the courtyard at the back of the Club in order to "chill out". The recommendations would be discussed at the Youth Club Committee.

Councillor RK Shukla informed that the Youth Club now had its own website.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to link the Youth Club's website to the Council's website.

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

(a) Visit to New School

Arrangements were being made for the Council to visit the new School. Possible dates were offered for this.

RESOLVED:

That a visit to the School be held between 5:00pm and 6:00pm on Thursday, 13 August 2009 and as many Members as possible be urged to attend.

(b) The Ridings Community Infant School Building

The Clerk had written to Mr Steve Robinson, Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council, on 21 July 2009 asking him to consider the possibility of his Council transferring the Ridings Community Infant School building to the local community for its use, in line with a new Government initiative. The Clerk had also suggested that this be discussed at the meeting already scheduled with CWAC Council officers on Monday, 7 September 2009.

Mr Robinson had replied to the Clerk's letter on 31 July 2009 informing that her letter had been forwarded to the Solutions Team and a response would be sent to her shortly.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

**[Following the meeting the Clerk was informed by telephone that Mrs Anne Tunnicliffe, Principal Manager, School Support, would attend the meeting on Monday, 7 September 2009 to discuss the future of the Ridings Community Infant School]**

- (c) The Future of the "Church Hall" of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School

The Chairman had tried to arrange a meeting with the Trustees but had been told there was currently nothing to report.

Members agreed it was important that a meeting was held with the Trustees before they made a decision on the "Church Hall".

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to contact Rev Brain Harris (Vicar) (one of the Trustees) and agree a mutually convenient date and time for a meeting between representatives of the Council and the Trustees.

**[Following the meeting the Chairman contacted the Vicar and a meeting with the Trustees was arranged for Wednesday, 12 August 2009.]**

## 273 HIGHWAY ISSUES

- (a) Parked Cars on Pavements

The problem continued and there were difficulties with serving tickets on offenders.

RESOLVED:

That Inspector Ian Thorp be requested to clarify the situation in relation to vehicles causing an obstruction and the issuing of parking tickets.

- (b) Speeding Traffic and the Proposal for Saughall to be designated a Community Speed Watch Area

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the Council had loaned the Speed Indicator Device (SID) during July 2009 and had made good use of it to collect the data necessary to prove the village should be designated a Community Speed Watch Area. It had been assisted with this aim by Mr Tony Summers, the Co-ordinator of the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) Mr Summers be thanked for his help with this important safety initiative.

- (c) Bus Services in Saughall

The Clerk had been unable to find out if any action had been taken in respect of the extra journey requested from Chester to Saughall until September 2009. Despite frequent requests to Mr Steve Williams of

CWAC Council's Integrated Transport Service the answer was still not forthcoming.

It was noted that a pane of glass was missing from the Church Road bus shelter. It was not known whether officers had removed it deliberately or whether it was the result of an act of vandalism.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk attempt to find out why a panel of glass is missing from the Church Road bus shelter.

(d) Potholes

It was noted that since CWAC Council Officers Messers Richard Turley and Kieran Collins had attended a meeting with Council representatives some temporary road repairs had been carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the CWAC Council's Officers concerned to thank them for the temporary repair work and to enquire when work on a permanent nature would be undertaken.

(e) Kingswood Lane – Proposed Traffic Prevention Order

Councillor RA Storrar provided the Council with an update report on the proposal. It had been agreed by CWAC Council that Kingswood Lane would be gated in three places and when it had enough funding it would ensure access for horses/walkers. An appeal was expected from 4x4 drivers however.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(f) 16 Park Avenue – Resurfacing Work

It was noted that the outstanding resurfacing work had now been completed.

(g) Bus Stop at the Peg

On-going problems were reported. It was noted that anyone could park in the space provided for one vehicle and it was not specifically for those who lived opposite in Hermitage Road

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(h) Roadside Hedges

It was noted that a number of roadside hedges in the village were now in urgent need of trimming.

(i) Drains and Sewage

Councillor A Warrington reported that there was a problem on Church Road by the Vicarage. At certain times of the day, foul water leaked into the lane to Shotwick House. He had reported this twice to Welsh Water but to no avail. He had also offered to meet its officials and show them the problem.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Mr Graham Anderton, the District Maintenance Engineer, to request he contact Welsh Water in the hope that a letter from him carries more clout and to ask him to discuss the situation with Councillor A Warrington so that he can ascertain all the facts before he writes the letter.

(j) Weeds

There were a lot of weeds growing between the path and kerbstones around the village and particularly on Parkgate Road.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to bring the unsightly weed problem to the attention of the District Maintenance Engineer and request that he takes the necessary action.

(k) A540/Long Lane Junction

It was reported that there were visibility problems at the junction of the A540 and Long Lane because trees and hedges had grown and were obscuring motorist's views. Also, although the new replacement telegraph post had now been erected on the A540 the damaged one had not been removed and was still in-situ.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to bring the problems identified at the junction to the attention of the District Maintenance Engineer and request that he take the necessary action to address them.

(l) Carillion Access onto the Parkgate Road

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that by Shotwick Bridge there was an access that Carillion had used during the improvement works to the Parkgate Road. The gate remained open and was being used as a rat run. This was causing concern in the village.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask the District Maintenance Engineer for advice on this matter.

274 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Council discussed the refuse collection service currently provided by the Principal Authority. It was noted that there had been some teething problems but on the whole, Members were happy with the arrangements which appeared to be working well.

275 WAIN HOUSE

The Chester and District Housing Trust had submitted its planning application to redevelop Wain House and 5 No bungalows in Rakeway to the planning authority, Cheshire West and Chester Council. This Council, as a statutory consultee, had been asked for its observations on the application.

The Parish Council's Planning Committee had considered the planning application in detail at its meeting immediately before this Council meeting and had recommended as follows:

"The Council is **RECOMMENDED** to make No Objections but to comment as follows:

- This re-development will affect 1, 2 and 4 Darlington Crescent
- 22 parking spaces is a cause for concern as this is probably insufficient provision
- The building is much improved since Chester and District Housing Trust's initial consultation
- It is hoped that any housing allocations policy in respect of this new property ensures priority is given to people with a local connection to this village."

Members discussed the detail of the planning application, associated issues and the Planning Committee's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's response to the consultation on the planning application be in line with the recommendations of the Planning Committee. (Planning Committee Minute No 47(c)/2009 refers)

## 276 ACCOUNTS

### (a) Accounts 2008/09

The Internal Auditor, Mr Bob Salisbury, reported that, due to holiday commitments, he had not yet been able to undertake the Annual Audit of the 2008/09 Accounts. He was optimistic that he would be able to carry out the work necessary and report his findings to the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, 7 September 2009.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Internal Auditor's report be received.

### (b) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 July 2009:

#### RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2009/2010</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Cheshire West and Chester Council (Franked mail)	26.12	102276
All Cheshire Garden Services (5 grass cuts)	700.00	102277
Mr R Hipkiss (Litter Picking)	1,007.67	102278
All Saints, Parochial Church Council (Contribution to the Garden of Remembrance)	2,000.00	102279
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expense)	154.91	102280
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	641.52	102281
Mr H Wilkinson (Odd Jobs and materials)	378.68	102282

### (c) Receipts

#### RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	<u>£</u>
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 June 2009	0.63
Footpath Booklets sold in Saughall Pharmacy (Cash from Councillor RK Shukla)	40.00

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

#### RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

277 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THIS COUNCIL

The Council was reminded that a meeting would be held with Officers of Cheshire West and Chester Council to discuss all related issues immediately before the next Council meeting on Monday, 7 September 2009 between 6:30pm and 8:00pm. (Minute No 236/2009 refers) As the agenda for the Council meeting, which would commence at 8:00pm, was to be kept to a minimum, the mid-year review of the Budget and the review of the Parish Plan would be undertaken in October 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the arrangements made and set out above be noted.

278 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE NEW CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER UNITARY AUTHORITY

Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council had sent the Clerk a copy of a draft report of its Leader, Councillor Mike Jones, which suggested the basis for his Council's submission of a proposal. CWAC Councillors B Crowe and RA Storrar set out the reasons why they believed that single Member Wards were inappropriate and offered suggestions to be included in the Parish Council's own response to the consultation. After substantial deliberation it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to make the following submission to the Boundary Committee before the deadline for comments:

“

- This Council does not want to be in a ward with Upton by Chester because it has very little in common with it. It is urban and Saughall and Shotwick Park is a rural parish.
- The Parish Council's first preference is for Saughall and Shotwick Park to remain as it is in the Mickle Trafford ward.
- The Parish Council's second preference is for Saughall and Shotwick Park to be in a ward with the neighbouring local villages of Mollington, Capenhurst and nearby small hamlets.”

279 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW – TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

A meeting had been held on 6 July 2009 but the Parish Council had not been able to send a representative.

280 ODD JOBS

RESOLVED:

That a replacement lock and chain be obtained and fitted on the gate to the Golden Jubilee Park.

281 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that there was nothing major to report. There was to be Special Meeting in August 2009 to discuss the house (No. 1 Institute Yard) that would be ready for occupation in September 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

282 PROGRESS MADE ON ACTIONS FROM THE EVENT WITH LOCAL COUNCILS HELD ON 30 APRIL 2009

The Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Councillor Mike Jones, had written to all local councils in his administrative area setting out progress made following a meeting with local councils held on 30 April 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made by Cheshire West and Chester Council on the actions from a question and answer session at the event with local councils held on 30 April 2009 be noted.

283 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Outside Meetings Coming Up

- (i) Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Annual Meeting 2009  
Tuesday, 22 October 2009, 6-9:30pm at Middlewich Civic Hall

Councillors WI Humphrey, A Warrington and Mrs JM Young would represent the Council.

- (ii) PCSO Liaison Meeting

A date was still being sought and the Council was invited to send two representatives.

(b) Outside Meetings that had taken place

- (i) Cheshire Community Action  
Tuesday, 7 July 2009

The Council had not been represented.

(ii) Celebration Events at the Ridings Community Infant School  
15 and 16 July 2009

Both events had been good but the numbers who had attended had been disappointingly poor.

(iii) CWAC Council's Mickle Trafford Community Forum  
7:00pm on Wednesday, 15 July 2009, Mickle Trafford Village School

Councillors B Kerr and WI Humphrey reported on the proceedings informing that it had been an eventful first Forum meeting. There had been upwards of 200 people in attendance. The venue had been uncomfortable and hot as people had been packed in. The meeting had more or less been hijacked with discussions on travellers taking up the majority of the time available. There had been a lot of disgruntled delegates as a result.

284 COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

The following communication had been received:

- Chester District Housing Trust – Are you interested in becoming a Trust Board Director?

285 CIRCULARS

No circulars had been received.