

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 7 September 2009 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs K Ford  
Councillor DF Holman  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor JG Johnson  
Councillor Mrs J Knox  
Councillor RK Shukla  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

PCSO Mike Butler  
PC Yvonne Graham

286 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors WI Humphrey, B Kerr and Mrs D Whitton.

287 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

288 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

289 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3 August 2009 be received.

## 268 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

### (a) Surgery held on 5 September 2009

Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones had presided over the Surgery held on Saturday, 5 September 2009 between 10:00am and 10:45am outside the Co-op Store. Issues discussed had included:

- Dog Fouling
- the exclusion of dogs from the Golden Jubilee Park
- parking in the village
- overhanging trees in Parkgate Road
- Trees in Parkway
- Lodge Lane pavements
- Demolition of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School building

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones be thanked for her report;
- (2) landowners be encouraged to cut back their overhanging trees on the Parkgate Road; and
- (3) the exclusion of dogs from the Golden Jubilee Park be the subject of a discussion at the next meeting of the Council.

### (b) Surgery on 3 October 2009

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Knox 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.

## 291 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

### (a) Police

PCSO Mike Butler was in attendance and he presented his monthly report to the Council. The report detailed the following issues:

- Burglaries
- Criminal damage to vehicles
- Theft
- Anti-social behaviour
- CCTV

- Speeding
- Parking issues
- Reintroduction of Police Surgeries in the village (dates and times to be published in advance)

RESOLVED:

That the PCSO's report be received.

(b) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey had sent his apologies for absence as he had agreed to attend the PCSO Liaison Meeting which was being held at the same time as the Parish Council Meeting. He had produced a report on Homewatch activities which was presented by the Chairman. Issues detailed in his report included:

- Lost property
- Vandalism on the Golden Jubilee Park and the cost of repairs
- The Speed Indicator Device and associated problems with the data collection
- Community Action Meeting on 2 September 2009
- Bicycle marking initiative
- Attempted burglary

RESOLVED:

That the Homewatch Coordinator's report be received.

(c) Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) – Service Level Agreement

The Chairman reported on the proceedings of a meeting between Council Members, Inspector Ian Thorp and Sergeant Darren Griffiths held on Wednesday, 12 August 2009. It was noted that PCSO Mike Butler had returned to Saughall and would remain until a new PCSO was appointed and took up a post in the New Year.

Members were happy with this arrangement as Mike was familiar with the local area and with the problems experienced in Saughall. They were confident he would do all in his power to reduce the fear of crime by providing a highly visible police presence in the village.

The Clerk reported that if the Council wished to have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for a further three years (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013) it would need to contribute £12,700 per annum. Under the current agreement the Council contributed £11,000 per annum. The September 2009 Parish Newsletter was being used a medium to consult on whether parishioners would like the Council to sign up to another three year SLA with the Cheshire Constabulary when the current one expired. Comments had been requested by 30 September 2009 and the Council would

consider any received at its next meeting scheduled for Monday, 5 October 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and this matter be further considered at the next Council meeting..

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

(a) New Primary School – Progress

Members had visited the new School site on 13 August 2009 where progress made with the new build had been noted.

(b) Future of the Ridings Community Infant School Building

Immediately before this Council meeting Members had met with officers from Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council (Anne Tunnicliffe and David Caldwell) to discuss the possibility of the Ridings Community Infant School building being transferred to the Parish Council who would like to take on the running of it as a community facility.

Members were informed that the first stage, if this proposal was to come to fruition, was to prepare and submit a Business Plan demonstrating the community need for the building not catered for presently with estimated costs along with an application to run the Ridings Community Infant School for community use to CWAC Council. A Development Trust would need to be established and this would involve a written application to the Development Trust Association.

It was reported that CWAC Council would seek assurance that appropriate maintenance arrangements for the School building were in place, that the School would not deteriorate in a short period of time and to protect against potential vandalism.

It was noted that this proposal would involve considerable work within a reasonable timescale if it were to be taken forward. The final decision would rest ultimately with the Members of the CWAC Council. When pressed, Mr Caldwell had told the earlier meeting that the proposal was realistic but it was necessary that a formal Business Case would be put in place.

Members also used the meeting as an opportunity to air concerns in respect of the new School's development, in particular, about health and safety issues and problems with CWAC Council's contractors and sub-contractors in respect of a temporary footpath. They emphasised that the safety of children was the Parish Council's utmost priority. Members requested that in future the Council be consulted prior to any arrangements being put in place in respect of traffic control, hazard control, etc.

- (c) Meeting with Trustees to discuss the Future of the “Church Hall” of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School

Members had met with the Trustees to discuss the future of the “Church Hall”.

This meeting had been held on Wednesday, 12 August 2009 and the Chairman reported on the proceedings and the Trustee’s preferred option. She also informed that she had spoken to Rev Brain Harris earlier in the day and there was no progress to report.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted and any progress be reported to the next meeting of the Council.

## 293 LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY UNDER CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

A meeting had been held between Council Members and CWAC Council’s LSP Director, Alison Armstrong, immediately prior to this Council meeting. She had informed that she wanted to have an understanding of all Parish Council issues previously logged including grants, partnership arrangements, services provided and details of any services the Parish Council wished to take on from the Principal Authority.

Members provided Mrs Armstrong with full details of all issues previously logged in the run up to Local Government Reorganisation along with the details of the successful funding application to Cheshire Community Council for £10,000 (for a three year period ending 31 March 2011) to establish the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team. It was reported that this had been a very successful project that Members may wish to continue and seek funding for in future years.

Members made the point that the delegation of any extra specific responsibilities to the Council would have to include appropriate funding/grant aid.

Mrs Armstrong undertook to take away the information provided and write it up in consultation with the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) any notes on local service delivery and associated issues discussed at this meeting be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 24 September 2009.

## 294 ACCOUNTS

### (a) Accounts 2008/09

The Internal Auditor, Mr Bob Salisbury, had begun his audit of the 2008/09 Accounts. He had some queries that he needed to discuss with the Clerk. This would happen within the next few weeks with a view to the Accounts being signed off at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

### (b) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 3 August 2009:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2009/2010</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
All Cheshire Garden Services (4 grass cuts)	560.00	102283
Mr R Hipkiss (Litter Picking)	1,007.67	102284
Just A Mow	255.00	102285
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	640.98	102286
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	71.98	102287
Mr A Summers (Chain and padlocks for field gates)	48.70	102288
Mr H Wilkinson (Odd Jobs and materials)	145.00	102289
1st Saughall Brownies (Minute No 294(c) refers)	230.00	102290
CABRAS (Newsletter delivery)	20.00	102291

### (c) 1st Saughall Brownie

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter dated 3 September 2009 from Ms Pamela Howe, Brownie Guider asking the Council to consider making a grant towards the cost of hiring a coach to take the Brownies away for a weekend. They were going to Boreatton Park in Shropshire for a weekend stay at the PGL Centre near Shrewsbury. This weekend would give Brownies and Guides the opportunity to get to know one another and encourage the younger girls to continue into the Guides. Girl Guiding was celebrating its Centenary this year so it would be an extra special occasion for them.

It was noted that the cost of the coach was £460.

RESOLVED:

That the Council make a financial contribution of £230 towards the cost of a coach to take the Brownies to Shrewsbury for the weekend.

(d) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	£
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 July 2009	0.56

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

295 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK – REPAIRS

(a) Playnet

It was reported that Monsterplay Ltd, the playnet supplier, had recently carried out an inspection and prepared two quotations for the playnet's repair. These quotations had been sent to Members with their agendas.

The Clerk had written to the Insurance Company to inform it that the Council would be making a claim against its insurance to carry out the necessary repairs to the playnet. In the meantime, and until it was made safe to use, the area where the playnet was located had been fenced off.

The Chairman reported that the next edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter would carry information on the vandalism to the playnet and the cost of repairs. It would also include an appeal for information and a telephone number to ring to report it.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be received; and

(2) further quotations for the necessary repairs to the playnet be obtained before a decision is made on who to contract to carry out the work.

(b) Play Surface Repairs

The Clerk had asked Morral Play Solutions to carry out repairs necessary to the play surface by the Multiplay unit in accordance with the quotation received in the sum of £150.00, as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED:

That the action of the Clerk as set out above be endorsed.

(c) Multiplay Quotations

RESOLVED:

That this matter be deferred for the time being.

(d) Quarterly Operational Inspection Report

Councillor A Warrington took Members through the last Quarterly Operational Inspection Report setting out progress. It was noted that repairs had been carried out to the chains on the swings and that the Multiplay Unit/Chute needed replacing. The park benches had been secured and work was required by the lid to the foul drain.

RESOLVED: That

(1) The report be received;

(2) the foul drain be covered with soil and grass if it is appropriate to do so;

(3) in respect of (2) above, Mr H Wilkinson be requested to carry out the work required; and

(4) the fact that the Multiplay Unit/Chute needs replacing be considered when the Council sets its budget for 2010/11.

296 WAIN HOUSE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT

The Chairman had spoken to Ms Danielle Harrison of the Chester District Housing Trust the previous week and was able to update Members on the consultation on the planning application to redevelop Wain House.

It was reported that Wain House was in an area classed as a flood area.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

297 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Councillor Mrs J Johnson reported that the Christmas Lights Switch-on celebration event had been moved from Thursday, 26 November 2009 to Thursday 3 December 2009.

RESOLVED:

## 298 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.

It was agreed that this Council would not submit any Motions for consideration at this meeting.

- (ii) PCSO Liaison Meeting  
Monday, 7 September 2009

Councillor WI Humphrey had sent his apologies for non-attendance at the Council meeting so that he could attend the PCSO Liaison Meeting and make a report to the next Council meeting on Monday, 5 October 2009.

- (iii) Mickle Trafford Community Forum  
Wednesday, 9 September 2009 between 6:30pm and 9:00pm at the former Dunham Hill Primary School, Village Road, Dunham, WA6 0CX

Councillors WI Humphrey and B Kerr be requested to attend and report on proceedings at the next Council meeting.

- (iv) Community Select Panel  
Monday, 21 September 2009, 6:30pm at Tarporley High School

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar requested a copy of the details.

### (b) Outside Meetings that had taken place

- (i) Cheshire Police Authority – Western Police Area, Have Your Say  
Tuesday, 1 September 2009, 7:00pm at the Lifestyle Centre, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AH and Tuesday, 22 September 2009, 7:00pm at The Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

Councillor A Warrington had attended a Have Your Say meeting and reported on its proceedings.

## 299 COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

The following communication had been received:

- letter dated 12 August 2009 from Mr John White of the Cheshire Local Access Forum encouraging applications from suitable candidates for selection to vacancies to which it is recruiting.

Noted

- The Clerk reported that she would take up her new full time post as Democratic Services Manager at Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council on Monday, 12 October 2009. Unfortunately, her new authority had its Council meetings on Monday evenings and there were clashes with Parish Council meetings in November 2009 and March 2009. Obviously, she would be unable to attend both Councils' meetings.

It was provisionally agreed that Parish Council meetings in the months indicated above would be moved to the second Monday of the month to be held at the Uniform Groups' Headquarters if the Vernon Institute was unable to accommodate the revised dates.

## 300 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received. Anyone requiring a copy would contact the Clerk.

The Playing Field – Summer 2009

Electoral Review on Cheshire West and Chester – The Proposed Scheme for New Electoral Arrangements Submitted to the Boundary Committee for England – July 2009