

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 9 November 2009 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs K Ford
Councillor DF Holman
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Coordinator)
Councillor JG Johnson
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor Mrs J Knox
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar (Part)
Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton (Part)
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor B Crowe (Part)
PCSO Mike Butler (Part)
PC Yvonne Graham (Part)
Mr B Salisbury – Internal Auditor (Part)

324. APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors JG and Mrs J Johnson, RK Shukla and RA Storrar.

325. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

326. PRESENTATIONS

(a) Homewatch Scheme

Liz Biddle, Cheshire Homewatch Officer, made a presentation, at the invitation of the Council, on the Homewatch Scheme in Cheshire.

Members noted that Homewatch, in its original form, was established in Cheshire 25 years ago. Several of the Co-ordinators that started a scheme were still in charge of them. Things had changed a lot since then:

- People were much more mobile (including criminals)
- Mobile phones, computers, email, etc were now in common use
- our communities and community feeling has declined because we work further away and have a much wider network of contacts
- the availability of drugs and cheap alcohol prompt certain characters to exhibit certain behaviour

Most people joined or started up a Homewatch Scheme after they had been a victim of some kind. The aim was to report information to reduce future crime and give some reassurance to residents. Homewatch Schemes were supported by the Police but were community initiatives

owned and run by their members. Homewatch Schemes not only improved the security of people's homes and personal belongings, they could provide real peace of mind. They had significant impact in enhancing the quality of life of local residents.

Ms Biddle informed that Homewatch was moving towards email and asked what could be done in Saughall to stimulate interest and get people to join the Scheme. It was important to increase the membership. Homewatch did not have the formalised structure it used to have. The aim now was to open up eyes and ears in the local community. An email cascade had a lot of credibility. People were being actively encouraged to join an email scheme as information was a two way process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Ms Biddle be thanked for her attendance and for her informative presentation; and
- (2) Ms Biddle be requested to start off the email cascade by emailing the Clerk who in turn would email messages on to Parish Councillors who would email them on to their friends, etc.

(b) Saughall Fun Day

Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones informed that the new Saughall Rotary, which met at the Greyhound Public House, was keen to form a Committee and arrange a Saughall Sports Day in May 2010. The Rotary would like to have those volunteers on board who had helped to arrange the very successful Saughall Fun Day in 2008 as they had a wealth of experience to bring to this initiative.

The aim was to arrange a community event that would have something of interest for everyone, whatever their age.

RESOLVED:

That the initiative to organise a Saughall Sports Day be welcomed and supported.

327. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5 October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

328. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery held on Saturday, 31 October 2009

Councillor DF Holman had presided over the Surgery held on Saturday, 31 October 2009 between 10:00am and 10:45am, outside the Co-op Store. Issues discussed had included:

- lack of buses from Saughall to Chester Railway Station
Councillor B Kerr informed that he had made representations to Cheshire West and Chester Council who was now pursuing the matter
- no bus services from Foregate Street to Saughall continuing difficulties being experienced driving along Church Road because of the number of parked vehicles, exacerbated by long buses
- parents parking in the Co-op Store's car park whilst taking children to and from School were causing the Store and shoppers problems
- the need for more dog waste bins in the village
- parking on pavements, especially on corners, was causing obstruction as well as restricting the visibility of oncoming cars
- a hedge in Parkway was overgrown and obstructing the path

RESOLVED: That

(1) Councillor DF Holman be thanked for his report; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to include an item about parents parking in the Co-op Stores car park whilst they take their children to/from School and the problems this causes the Store's customers in the December 2009 Parish Council Newsletter.

(b) Surgery on Saturday, 5 December 2009

RESOLVED:

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

329. POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

(i) PCSO's Monthly Report

PCSO presented his report covering the time period since the last Council meeting on 5 October 2009. The report detailed the following issues:

- Burglaries and thefts

- Anti-social behaviour
- Damage to vehicles
- Parking issues at the new All Saints Primary School
- CCTV equipment

PCSO Butler also reported on the Bike Marking Day held on 10 October 2009 and informed that there would be another such day on 14 November 2009.

PCSO Butler told the Council that at Police Surgeries held on 8 and 9 October 2009 the main concern raised was the Council's policy of not allowing people to walk their dogs in the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Mike Butler be thanked for his informative report.

(ii) Inspector Steve Beddows

Inspector Beddows had recently taken up his new post and had written on 20 October 2009 to Members to introduce himself.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Inspector Beddows if he is available to attend the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, 19 November 2009 and if he is, invite all Members of the Council to attend this meeting.

(b) Policing Priorities

Cheshire Police Authority and the Constabulary were jointly consulting on future policing priorities. A group of Members had considered a questionnaire and completed it in order to submit a response in good time. The Clerk had appended the completed questionnaire to the agenda for information.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's completed questionnaire and response to the consultation on policing priorities be noted.

(c) PCSO Scheme

The Council noted the content of a letter dated 5 October 2009 from Ian Wiggell, Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Neighbourhoods), which informed that the Cheshire Police Authority and the Constabulary had decided to set the level of contribution for the new PCSO Service Level Agreement from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013 at £11,800 per annum, which was less than half the amount previously indicated.

RESOLVED:

That the cost of the PCSO Service Level Agreement for the next three years, commencing 1 April 2010, be noted.

(d) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Co-ordinator, 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 included:

- Fuel switch canvassers – “cold calling”
- Windows broken at Wain House
- Park bench vandalism
- Littering on and damage caused to cricket pitch and the need for regular Police patrols at night
- Damaged fence on Church Road
- Issues relating to the new All Saints Primary School security

RESOLVED:

That Councillor WI Humphrey be thanked for his informative report.

(e) PCSO Liaison Group

The Cheshire Association of Local Councils had requested nominations to sit on the PCSO Liaison Group.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to put Councillor WI Humphrey's name forward as the Council's nomination for the newly formed PCSO Liaison Group.

(f) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

The Chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Management Team was busy behind the scenes pursuing issues at the request of local people.

The Team had been set up as a result of a successful grant application for £10,000 from the Cheshire Community Council's Cheshire and Warrington Social Community Programme, Community Safety Challenge. This grant had helped fund the Team's activities for a three year period which would end next spring. If this initiative was to continue, funding for it would have to be found. It was noted that any successful grant would probably require match funding.

It was reported that the Team was proposing to run a Summer Play Scheme in May 2010 and details of this were still being decided but volunteers would be needed to help.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to include, or at least have, the cost of running the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team in the draft budget when it meets to consider the 2010/11 budget on 19 November 2009;
- (3) the Clerk be requested to find out if Cheshire Community Action is funding similar initiatives; and
- (4) the Clerk be requested to explore funding options such as:
 - Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rural Support Fund
 - Cheshire West and Chester Council's Ward Member's Allocation
 - The Criminal Justice Board's Community Cash Back Scheme

330. ANNUAL AUDIT – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council considered an Overall Summary of the Council's risks and draft Action Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk and Councillor DF Holman (in his capacity as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee) be thanked for the work they have carried out culminating in a Summary of Risks and the proposed Action Plan; and
- (2) the Risk Management Action Plan be adopted and reviewed and revised on a regular basis.

331. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

The following issues were discussed:

(a) Probation Service – Community Payback Scheme

It was reported that work was ongoing and had been carried out for nine weeks now. Some of the work undertaken had saved the Council money as it had previously had to pay contractors to carry it out. Currently, painting jobs were underway in the Uniform Groups' Headquarters and on the Cheshire railings (weather permitting). For carrying out the work the Scheme was requesting £50 but it was proposed to pay £100 as this represented value for money.

Members proposed other jobs that could be carried out including pruning various trees in the village and tidying the footpath from Church Road to Parkway.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Payback Scheme be paid £100 for the work it has undertaken and asked to carry out further work as detailed above.

(b) Fiddlers Lane Car Park – Drainage

It was thought that the drainage was working, but only time would tell if this was the case.

(c) Perimeter Path

The Community Payback Scheme's workers had pulled out thistles and large weeds from the path. The state of the path would be looked at again in the spring.

(d) Multi-Play Unit – Slide Chute

It was agreed that the Multi-Play Unit was now in need of replacement and it may be possible to attract grant aid to help fund some new play equipment.

(e) Park Benches

Park benches would not be reinstated in the Park until the spring, in the light of recent anti-social behaviour.

(f) Playnet and Signage

It was reported that the Playnet would be replaced and signage installed later in the week.

(g) Trees and Hedging

It was reported that the Woodland Trust was providing ten each of the following trees:

Rowan, Cherry, Silver Birch

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to ask the Woodland Trust for some free hedging; and

(2) some of the trees be planted on the grassed area at Saughall Hey, in consultation with the Tree Warden.

332. YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the Youth Club would be packing bags at Morrison's during December to raise funds.

The girls had gone to Pizza Hut one evening.

A fire safety meeting had been held on 26 November 2009.

There were issues associated with the paved area and this would be discussed by the Vernon Institute Management Committee the following evening.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

333. THE NEW SCHOOL AND THE FUTURE OF THE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

(a) All Saints Primary School

The Clerk had written to Steve Robinson, Chief Executive, Cheshire West and Chester Council, on 6 October 2009 about expected traffic congestion when the new School opened. Mr Robinson had written back on 13 October 2009 to say that traffic engineers would be monitoring the situation and the Police's help had been enlisted to lend a presence during the initial period. Everyone agreed that parents should be encouraged to walk their children to school.

It was noted that the double yellow lines had not yet been put down so cones were being put out to stop parents parking on the road outside the School. A lot of parents were using the Co-op Store's car park causing problems for shoppers.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the two letters be noted and the School and traffic continue to be monitored at times when parents drop off and pick up their children.

(b) The Ridings Community Infant School Building

It was reported that there were expressions of interest from third parties to run the former Infant School partly as a business and partly for community use. The Council was willing to assist by leasing the building from Cheshire West and Chester Council if it considered the proposals were acceptable.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask David Cardwell of Cheshire West and Chester Council if this proposal would meet the criteria laid down.

(c) The Proposal to Use the "Church Hall" for Community Use

There was no progress to report on this proposal. The Council would continue to monitor the situation.

334. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER (CWAC) COUNCIL INITIATIVES

(a) Local Service Delivery under CWAC Council

There was no progress to report as Alison Armstrong, LSP Director, was not responding to the Clerk's emails.

(b) Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

It was noted that CWAC Council's SCI had been amended to reflect the Parish Council's comments.

(c) Rural West Area Partnership Board Update – Revised Priorities

RESOLVED:

That the priorities of the Rural West Area Partnership Board be noted, namely:

Young People
Transport
Access to Services

(d) Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

The consultation ran until 13 November 2009 and all Members were encouraged to submit their comments.

335. HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

Cars continued to park on pavements in the village.

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

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that speed gun operations had taken place on 1 and 8 October 2009 and members of the Residents Association had helped. There had been 109 positive readings.

As a result of this, there had been increased Police activity in the village, including the Camera Van on 19 and 20 October 2009.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Residents Association be thanked for their help with the speed gun.

(c) Issues brought to the Attention of Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highway Officers

A number of highway issues had been brought to the attention of Cheshire West and Chester Council Officers but there had not been any improvement.

(d) Kingswood Lane – Proposed Traffic Prevention Order

There was no progress to report.

(e) Bus Stop at the Peg

It was reported that the weeds were growing high at the Peg.

RESOLVED:

That Tony Summers, the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team's Co-ordinator, be requested to cut the weeds back by the bus stop.

(f) Traffic Speed Limit on the A540 – Parkgate Road

A meeting had been held between six Members of the Council and two members from both Mollington and Puddington District Councils on Monday, 19 October 2009. It had been noted that a decision on speed restrictions on the A540 was an outstanding issue of the now demised Cheshire County Council. The Chester Joint Highways Committee had deferred the decision for the new Council to make, post local government reorganisation.

It had been agreed, at the meeting, that each Parish Council would now consider its position. Members considered that the new Cheshire West and Chester Council should be asked to review the speed limit on the A540 from the Chester boundary to the other side of Puddington where the speed limit is 50 mph.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform the Clerks to Mollington and Puddington District Councils that this Council would like a speed limit review as detailed above so that a joint approach could be taken if possible.

(g) A5117 Access by Shotwick Bridge

Councillor WI Humphrey reported his observations of traffic using this access between 5 and 9 November 2009.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor WI Humphrey's report be noted.

(h) Review of Highway Maintenance

Cheshire West and Chester Council was consulting on Highways and their maintenance until 3 November 2009. Each Member had been given a questionnaire to complete and return.

336. THE REDEVELOPMENT OF WAIN HOUSE

The Clerk reported that the planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of a two storey block of flats consisting of 27 2-bed flats and 10 1-bed flats and associated works, including parking areas, and landscaping, had been passed by Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Planning Authority. The planning permission was subject to 18 conditions.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

337. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON CELEBRATIONS
THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2009

Councillor Mrs Johnson brought the Council up to date with the arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch-on event. Various stalls and entertainment had been planned, there would be hot chocolate and soup served outside for children.

It was agreed that an offer of Christmas lights from Saltney Community Council would be accepted.

Members were asked to each donate a raffle prize.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

338. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 5 October 2009:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2009/2010</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Cancelled		102300
All Cheshire Garden Services	560.00	102301
Cheshire Association of Local Councils (Training Event – previous cheque was lost in the post and not cashed)	250.00	102302
Mr R Hipkiss (Litter Picking)	1,007.67	102303
Just a Mow (grass cuts around pond and weed killer)	395.00	102304
Wirral Borough Council (Printing and postage)	127.12	102305
Playcon Ltd (Repair to wet pour safety surface)	129.38	102306
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	640.98	102307
Oaktree Nurseries (Bulbs)	63.25	102308
Mr H Wilkinson (Odd Jobs)	125.00	102309
Cheshire Landscape Trust (Donation – Minute No 342/2009 refers)	50.00	102310

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	<u>£</u>
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 October 2009	0.41

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

339. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE NEW CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER UNITARY AUTHORITY

It was reported that the Boundary Committee would be posting its initial findings on its website the following day.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

340. ODD JOBS

There were no odd jobs to be done at the present time.

341. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Councillor B Kerr reported that he had attended a good meeting that had been well attended by approximately 120 delegates. There had been a good robust discussion on the motions submitted for debate.

Subscriptions would increase again this year as part of a five year strategic plan towards the Association's independence.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (ii) Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8 October 2009, 6:30pm at Helsby Community Centre, Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, Frodsham, WA6 0BW

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor B Crowe had attended this meeting and provided a report on its proceedings. There had been discussions on the criteria some Planning Officers used when interested parties objected to planning application. The Committee's Chairman had now asked for a report on the rules Planning Officers use re. Delegation.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (iii) Cheshire West and Chester Council's Local Councils Event
Wednesday, 14 October 2009 at the Winsford Lifestyle Centre

Councillors B Kerr and WI Humphrey had attended this useful meeting. There had been a number of presentations followed by a question and answer session that was quite lively. Cheshire West and Chester Council's Chief Executive, Steve Robinson, had made a presentation on targets achieved in the new Council's first six months in existence. There had been a Customer Access presentation, a presentation by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and one by the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

342. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

The following communication had been received:

- A letter dated 21 October 2009 from the Cheshire Landscape Trust who ran the Tree Warden Scheme, requesting financial assistance and enclosing an Annual Review Newsheet.

RESOLVED:

That the Council make a donation of £50 to the Cheshire Landscape Trust.

343. CIRCULARS

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

- The Land Registry's – Registering your land: A Guide for Parish Councils
- Cheshire Police Authority's Have Your Say Newsletter – September 2009
- Cheshire Community Council's Annual Accounts and Summary Financial Statements 2008/09
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Newsletter, Partnership West
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Newsletter, Spatial Planning News