

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 7 June 2010 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

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

PCSO Mike Butler
Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe

Public Speaking Time

Councillor Mrs J Johnson thanked Members, the Clerk and others who had visited her while she had convalesced after her recent knee operation. She had received lots of get well soon cards and flowers for which she was very grateful.

102. APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor B Kerr
Bob Salisbury, Internal Auditor

103. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

104. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 May 2010 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No. 79 Police/Homewatch (a) Police – add at end of third paragraph

Members' email addresses be added to the Police's Western Division newsletter's distribution list so they can receive copies electronically.

Minute No. 84 Parish Council Insurance

Add a second resolution as follows:

The Council's two bus shelters be added to the schedule.

Minute No. 89 Highway Issues (g) All Saints School (i) Road Surface and New Puffin Crossing replace with:

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that she had provided residents with the address of Cheshire West and Chester Council's Solutions Team where letters of complaint should be sent.

105. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 May 2010 be received:

106 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery held on Saturday, 5 June 2010

Councillor Mrs J Knox had presided over the Parish Council Surgery held on the morning of Saturday, 5 June 2010 during the Farmers' Market in the Vernon Institute. Issues raised by parishioners had included the following:

- A bush over hanging the pavement at Ivy Cottage on Church Road.

Councillor Mrs JM Young agreed to ascertain the name of the letting agent.

- Barriers removed and not replaced by bus stop at the Edgerton Arms on Hermitage Road, where the road narrows. This was very dangerous and a request had been received that they be put back.

The Clerk agreed to inform the Highways Authority.

- Problems caused by parked cars on Fiddlers Lane on Tuesday evenings

Those using the Golden Jubilee Park be requested to use the car park and PCSO Butler would monitor the situation and take any necessary action.

(b) Surgery to be held on Saturday, 3 July 2010

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Knox be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 3 July 2010 to be held during the All Saints Primary School's Summer Fair in the Golden Jubilee Park commencing at 2:00pm.

107. POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PCSO Mike Butler presented his report on crimes committed and anti-social behaviour that had occurred in the village since the last Council meeting held on 10 May 2010 as follows:

Crimes

Burglary –

Since the last meeting there had been one reported burglary within the village. The burglary occurred at a property on Hermitage Road whereby the garage doors were forced open and a quantity of scrap metal was stolen.

Theft –

On the 1 June 2010 a report was received of a theft of a number plate from a vehicle parked on Parkgate Road. PCSO Butler was seeking grant aid to provide special screws for number plates.

There had also been three reports of fuel drive offs from the petrol station on Parkgate Road and a further one this very evening.

Anti Social Behaviour

Cheshire police had not received any reports of anti social behaviour (ASB) in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park in the last month.

However, since the last meeting two complaints of ASB had been received: One was in respect of youths switching off the traffic lights at the road works on Hermitage Road. The other was in respect to youths throwing items at a passing bus on Church Road. On this occasion five youths were spoken to and strongly advised in front of their parents.

Other

From 17 – 21 May 2010 the PCSO had been working closely with Saughall All Saints Primary School during its 'Every Child Matters' week. During the week PCSO Butler had arranged for different agencies to attend the School including Police, Fire, St Johns Ambulance and Cheshire West and

Chester Council's Community Safety Wardens who had given safety around the home talks. Some of the inputs given included cycle safety and environmental safety.

PCSO Butler had also liaised with Derek Bowker and had been able to borrow the community speed gun for one week. Members were asked to assist with this initiative.

Shift Pattern

PCSO Butler provided copies of his most recent shift pattern that ran for seven weeks and its flexibility was discussed.

CCTV

The current situation in respect of the CCTV equipment in the Golden Jubilee Park was discussed and the situation was noted.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Mike Butler be thanked for his informative report.

(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 few weeks in the village and any actions taken as a result. This included:

- The balancing beam in the Golden Jubilee Park had been vandalised. Repairs had been carried out
- Scam telephone calls
- Sales people ringing parishoners trying to sell burglar alarms
- Parking issues on Fiddlers Lane, Church Road and Long Lane and the Golden Jubilee Park car park not being used when it should be

Councillor Mrs D Whitton reported on incidents of scam telephone calls.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor WI Humphrey be thanked for his informative report.

(c) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team's funding ran out in June but Team members would continue on a voluntary basis using the £1,000 the Parish Council had included in its budget for its activities. The Team was concentrating on dog fouling and had applied for grant aid in order to run a Summer Play Scheme for thirty children. It was also pursuing free cycle stands for the Uniform Groups' Headquarters.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received

108. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs J Johnson reported that she was not able to lead on this initiative this year. She would speak to Committee members and let the Council know, at its next meeting, whether a volunteer had come forward prepared to lead on the Christmas Lights Celebrations.

109. PARISH STREET ORDERLY SCHEME

Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council's Senior Streetscene LEQ, Asset and Development Officer, Kay Lennon, had written to the Clerk on 21 May 2010 informing that her Council would continue with the present funding arrangements for Street Orderlies until the end of this financial year pending a review of the current scheme. In the meantime, there was an urgent need to further formalise the current Parish Street Orderly Grant Scheme to clarify roles, responsibilities and expectation and provide greater accountability for local service delivery and the effective use of public monies.

The Parish Council received £5,249.92 pre annum based on 16 hours per week at an hourly rate of £6.31. However, the Council heavily subsidised this as it paid its contractor for 22 hours of litter picking a week. Consequently, Members wished to renegotiate the grant it received.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the agreement be not returned by 30 June 2010 as requested and the Clerk be requested to apply for an extension instead; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to also send CWAC Council details of the contract it currently has with Mr R Hipkiss and request a meeting to renegotiate the grant the Parish Council receives.

110. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Field Committee

Councillor Mrs J Young reported that a quotation to replace the gates had been received and others would be requested. Members offered suggestions on who to obtain quotations from.

(b) Replacement Multi-play Slide Shute

Councillor A Warrington informed that he had spoken to a number of suppliers of play equipment about replacing the multi-play slide shute and believed it would be possible to replace it with something similar. A number of suppliers would be providing quotations and the details would be reported to the Council and the Finance and General Purposes Committee in due course.

(c) Annual Inspection and Risk Assessment of Fixed Equipped Play Area 2010

It was reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee would consider the findings of the Annual Play Equipment Inspection at its next meeting.

111. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

There was nothing to report at the present time.

112. THE NEW SCHOOL AND THE FUTURE OF THE FORMER INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

(a) All Saints Primary School

Members informed that parents continued to use the car park at the Co-op Store and cause congestion.

PCSO Mike Butler informed that he had not witnessed any traffic congestion outside of the School when he was there every day of the week.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

(b) The Former Ridings Community Infant School Building

Councillor RA Storrar informed that CWAC Council was likely to apply for outline planning permission before March 2011. There had been expressions of interest to buy the site as it was but CWAC Council would rather sell it with outline planning permission. This would not be progressed until the Wain House re-development was nearing completion.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

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

The Planning Committee had considered a plan earlier in the evening to make the Church Hall good and had had no objections to it. It was thought that it had been sold.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

113. HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

The parking of cars on pavements was still a problem. PCSO Mike Butler would take action where he could.

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

PCSO Mike Butler would borrow the speed gun on an agreed date. Members agreed who would help with the speed gun and would discuss this further at the next meeting of the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team and ask for volunteers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Potholes

It was reported that temporary repairs had been carried out on Fiddlers Lane. Potholes had been outlined in white paint but, so long ago, that the paint had faded.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to seek a progress report from CWAC Council's Highways Officers.

(d) Kingswood Lane – Proposed Traffic Prevention Order (TPO)

Councillor RA Storrar reminded the Council that Cheshire West and Chester Council's next Area Forum Meeting was on 30 June 2010 in Saughall (to be confirmed). There would be a site visit to Kingswood Lane first before the meeting in the Vernon Institute.

Members noted the problems being experienced on Kingswood Lane at the current time that could be remedied with a TPO. It was noted that CWAC Council had a problem with funding for this.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(e) Traffic Speed on A540 – The Parkgate Road

Councillor Eddie Jones of Puddington and District Council had drafted a letter to CWAC Councillor Riley to be sent jointly by both Parish Councils.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the letter to Councillor Riley regarding speed limits on the A540 be noted.

(f) Bus Stop Opposite Aspen Grove on Hermitage Road

Councillor Mrs JM Young had asked the tenant farmer to enquire of the landowner if paving stones could be put down on land where the bus stopped. The tenant farmer had agreed to do this and let her know the outcome. He had not got back to her yet so she agreed to chase this up.

(g) Hedge on Hermitage Road/Aspen Grove

No progress had been made and so Clerk agreed to chase this up again.

(h) Proposal to have Traffic Lights at the Parkgate Road/Long Lane Junction

No progress had been made and so Clerk agreed to chase this up again.

(i) Bus Shelter on Parkgate Road

A quotation had been received from Mr Herbert Wilkinson but others would also be sought. Whilst the work on the roof was being carried out the PCSO would be requested to provide safety cones as a safety precaution.

(j) What constitutes an obstruction?

Sergeant Darren Griffiths had promised to set out for the Council what constituted an obstruction.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Mike Butler be requested to obtain this information from Sergeant Griffiths and report it at the next meeting of the Council.

(k) Fox Lea

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask CWAC Council to provide a sign stating No Through Road or Cul-de-Sac, to deter people from driving in and then having to turn around.

114. THE REDEVELOPMENT OF WAIN HOUSE

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that Seddons, the contractors, had apologised for digging up the pavement in Rakeway to allow low and high voltage cables to be located. The road would be channelled during the week. It was noted that the site would be closed to pedestrians until this work was completed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

115. VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the VIMC was working well. Chris Harman was the Chairman and Geoff Barnsley was the Vice-Chairman. The cottage had been renovated and let to a couple from Blacon.

The corners for the VI were being reinforced; it would be re-roofed and redecorated. It was thought that Seddons may provide some help with this.

It was noted that the Farmers' Market continued and some information would be provided for the Parish Newsletter.

Councillor A Warrington reported that he had come across details of a professional survey completed in the 1970s along with the original constitution and a copy of an old agreement with the Vernon family. It was suggested that the old documents were placed on the internet. It was noted that the Clock Tower would be included in the redecorations.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted;

(2) Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to discuss the roof of the Clock Tower with the VIMC and make enquiries regarding holding a Remembrance Day ceremony; and

(3) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of both the Council and the VIMC be requested to meet to discuss repairs, refurbishment and funding.

116. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 8 March 2010:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2010/2011</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Smith of Derby (Clock Maintenance)	233.83	102388
Morrall Play Solutions (Annual Play Equipment Inspection)	49.93	102389
Mr D Gorman (3 grass cuts)	420.00	102390
Just a Mow (hedge cutting and weed killer)	395.00	102391
Cheshire Police Authority (PCSO initiative)	11,800.00	102392
Mr R Hipkiss (Litter Picking)	1,007.67	102393

<u>Financial Year 2010/2011</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	647.23	102394
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	30.00	102395
Wirral Borough Council (Printing and Postage)	272.78	102396

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 May 2010	£	0.18
Street Cleaning Grant (1 April to 30 September 2010)		2625.00

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

117. SAUGHALL SPORTS DAY – SATURDAY, 17 JULY 2010

Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones reported that everything was going to plan in respect of arrangements for Saughall Sports Day.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

118. ODD JOBS

There were no jobs to be done at present.

119. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Member attendance was agreed for the following outside body meetings:

- NALC Conference and Exhibition – “Come and learn about good practice and innovation!”, Thursday, 9 September 2010, The Royal York Hotel, York

Councillor DF Holman agreed to attend. He would make his own arrangements and report back.

- Cheshire Association of Local Council’s Annual Meeting On Thursday 21 October 2010, 6.30-9.00pm at Middlewich Civic Hall.

Councillors WI Humphrey, B Kerr and Mrs JM Young to attend this event.

- Zurich - Local Council Advisory Service Annual Health and Safety Seminars 2010 – Winsford Lifestyle Centre at 9.30pm on Thursday, 8 July 2010.

Councillor Mrs JM Young to attend this event

- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rural West Area Partnership Board on Friday, 23rd July, 2010 at 2.00 pm at a venue to be agreed

Councillor Mrs H Thornley-Jones to attend.

(b) Reports from Members on proceedings at outside body meetings:

- Cheshire West and Chester Council's First Seminar to Support the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review of relationships between itself and Town and Parish Councils at 7:00pm on Wednesday, 19 May 2010 at the Lifestyle Centre, Winsford

Councillors WI Humphrey provided a report on proceedings including progress with the refuse collection and litter picking grants to Parish Councils.

120. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that she had received a request from the Headteacher at All Saints Primary School to use the Golden Jubilee Park for its Sports Day as the School's field would not be ready until next year.

RESOLVED:

That All Saints Primary School be granted permission to hold its Sports Day in the Golden Jubilee Park on the afternoon of Monday, 14 June 2010.

121. CIRCULARS

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

- Exhibitions and Events in Chester, June to September 2010
- Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's Engage, Issue 8, 2010
- The Playing Field Spring 2010
- Rural West Area Partnership Board's Quarterly Report – April 2010

122. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

123. POWER OF WELLBEING INITIATIVE

Members discussed how the Council could be granted the power of wellbeing.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be sent a letter.