

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 5 July 2010 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman  
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Chairman)  
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 JM Young (in the Chair)

PCSO Mike Butler  
Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe  
\*Steve Williams, Senior Manager – Integrated Transport Service,  
Cheshire West and Chester Council  
\*Jackie Speakman, Manager – Public Transport Operations  
Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council

\* For Minute No. 128 only.

124. APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs K Ford  
Councillor JG Johnson  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Bob Salisbury, Internal Auditor

125. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

126. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 June 2010 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No. 113 (d) Kingswood Lane – Proposed Traffic Prevention Order (TPO) amend the date of the meeting of the next Area Forum to 21 July 2010.

## 127. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

### RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7 June 2010 be received:

## 128. BUS PROPOSALS THAT AFFECT SAUGHALL

Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council's Officers Steve Williams and Jackie Speakman had asked to attend the meeting to inform the Council of forthcoming changes to bus services in the local area.

As Members were aware there had been unsustainable competition in Blacon and Saughall for two years. It was not sensible to maintain it at that level. The Transport Act allowed CWAC Council Officers to discuss this in a meaningful way. Consequently, Officers had held informal discussions with both Arriva and First Bus. A quality partnership arrangement had been agreed with full interchangeable tickets. Services would be operated jointly once the partnership came into being. It was noted that these arrangements were quite rare as only four other local authorities in the country were operating in a similar manner.

These new arrangements meant that the travelling public would have access to a mix of new and newer buses and would see a marked improvement in quality and standards. They would mean cleaner air in the City Centre. Another benefit of this new approach was that because bus services would be able to down size, it would take pressure of supporting budget elsewhere in the Chester area, thus bringing wider community benefits.

It was reported that there was still a lot of work to be done to get the partnership up and running but the agreement had been signed and would be used as a template for further voluntary arrangements.

Officers provided Members with bus timetables, which detailed routes and times.

There then followed a question and answer session where the following issues were raised:

- The size of the buses used, problems negotiating corners and damage caused as a result to kerbs and verges. It was noted that these problems may not be resolved by August 2010. The lead in time before new buses were available was 7 – 8 months. Comments made would be reported back to CWAC Council.
- GHA tickets would also be interchangeable.
- The need for a bus to go from Saughall to Chester Railway Station. Bus operators had concluded that the costs of operating extra buses would be too high. A modification was suggested to one of the City Rail Link buses where its route could include George Street, dropping off in the Town Hall square and then moving on to Foregate Street.

- Bus shelter provision and maintenance. A full audit had been undertaken and sites identified for further exploration, where new shelters could be installed. Locations would be shared with the Parish Council. A regime was in place for bus shelter maintenance and cleaning and this would be extended to include any new shelters.
- Real time – computerised information at bus stops. This had been discussed with the operators who felt resources were best used to develop shelters in the first year. Given the level of frequency it was considered that there was no need for real time information.

RESOLVED:

That the two CWAC Council Officers be thanked for their attendance at the meeting and for their informative report.

## 129. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery held on Saturday, 3 July 2010

Councillor Mrs K Ford had presided over the Parish Council Surgery held at the All Saints School Fair. Issues raised by parishioners had included the following:

- A parishioner on Hermitage Road being without gas for several days whilst work on the gas infrastructure was underway.  
**The parishioner be advised that she must contact the Gas Company**
- A parishioner had fallen on a utility cover that was sticking up above the path on Church Road, near the All Saints School crossing, opposite the School.
- Weeds were growing out of the drains on Saughall Hey.  
**The Clerk would pass these issues to Cheshire West and Chester Highways Officers and request they receive attention.**

(b) Surgery to be held on Saturday, 4 September 2010

It was noted that as the Council had agreed not to hold a meeting in August (Minute No. 86/2010 refers), it would not be necessary to hold a Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 31 July 2010.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 4 September 2010 to be held during the Farmers' Market at the Vernon Institute between 10 and 10:45am.

## 130. 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 7 June 2010 as follows:

#### Crimes

At the start of the month there was an increase in the amount of reported burglaries. Unfortunately there were five burglaries with the majority of the properties being near to the cycle track on Hermitage Road. The burglary team had some good leads at present and all addresses along Hermitage Road have been made aware.

There had also been three reported incidents of criminal damage which were made up of two vehicles being scratched and criminal damage to a door of a business premises.

There was also one fuel theft drive off but the offender concerned had been identified and dealt with.

One youth had been identified for assaulting a man on Church Road.

#### Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Since the last Council meeting there had been no reports of ASB in the Golden Jubilee Park. There had only been one report of ASB in the village.

#### Other

Between 16 and 21 June 2010 the community speed watch gun was used around the village. This resulted in 98 motorists being caught exceeding the speed limit with the worst offending road being Hermitage Road. All motorists had been issued with a warning letter.

One fixed penalty notice was given out for obstructive parking on a footpath.

The Saughall Thursday Football Club had been spoken to regarding car parking on Tuesday evenings. Since then there had been no further complaints about parking.

Following requests PCSO Butler obliged by setting out exactly what constituted an obstruction. He told Members he had a limited supply of tamper proof screws that he would give to motorists affected by number plate theft.

PCSO Butler also informed that a Drop-in would be held for young people of the village on Thursdays and Fridays during the schools' summer holidays, commencing the week after the Saughall Neighbourhood

Management Team's Play Scheme. He had secured £400 worth of equipment to help make it a success.

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:

- Small fires being started, smoking and alcohol being consumed in the Golden Jubilee Park and empty cans dumped in the pond.
- An incident at the Co-op Store resulting in a door sensor being broken.
- Litter in the Golden Jubilee Park including empty vodka and cider bottles and cake wrappers, which had been obtained from the Co-op Store.
- Standard Newspapers being dumped in bins around the village.
- Gates in Saughall Hey interfered with during the night.

Councillor Humphrey also thanked everyone who had helped with the speed gun that the Council had recently had on loan. He reported that the last exercise had definitely had an affect on the local area and having a Police Constable in attendance did improve the situation.

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 had now run out. Members would now continue on a voluntary basis using the £1,000 the Parish Council had included in its budget for its activities. Arrangements for the Summer Play Scheme were in hand, it was getting booked up but there were still a few morning sessions available. The Clerk had arranged public liability insurance cover for the Play Scheme. The team had applied for a £750 grant from Cheshire Community Action and were through to the next round in respect of it. The Team had also been successful in its application for four cycle racks as had the Vernon Institute Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the Council consider, later in the meeting, whether the cost of the public liability insurance cover in respect of the Play Scheme will be borne by the Council or taken out of the £1000 set aside for the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team.

(d) Police Question Time – Thursday, 15 July 2010 at 7pm, Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port. CH65 0BE

Councillors B Kerr and WI Humphrey agreed to attend and bring a report on proceedings to the next meeting of the Council.

#### 131. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Committee who had arranged previous Christmas Lights Celebration Events would not be able to organise this year's event. It had been proposed that the Vernon Institute Management Committee be encouraged to take this on. The Committee was due to discuss this the following week.

RESOLVED: That

(1) it be noted that Christmas Lights Celebration Event has been a focal point for the village; and

(2) Councillor Mrs J Johnson and her Committee be sincerely thanked for all their hard work in arranging the previous Christmas events.

#### 132. PARISH STREET ORDERLY SCHEME

Further to Minute No. 109, Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council's Senior Streetscene LEQ, Asset and Development Officer, Kay Lennon, had agreed to meet with representatives of the Parish Council so that it could re-negotiate the street cleaning grant payable as it was currently heavily subsidising it. The meeting was scheduled for 6:30pm Monday, 26 July 2010 at the Uniform Groups' Headquarters. The Council was asked to agree who would represent it at this meeting

RESOLVED:

That Councillors D Holman, B Kerr, Mrs JE Storrar, A Warrington and Mrs JM Young be requested to represent the Council at the meeting as detailed above and report on its proceedings to the next meeting of the Council.

#### 133. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

It was noted that there was little progress to report in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park and that the Finance and General Purposes Committee was set to have a full debate on the Park at its next meeting on Thursday, 29 June 2010.

Councillor A Warrington reported that an order had been placed for a replacement multi-play unit/slide shute and the provisional date for installation was Wednesday, 4 August 2010. This new piece of play equipment would cost £ 9,763 plus VAT but the VAT would be claimed back. The Council had been successful in attracting grant aid of £3000 to help fund this play equipment.

Councillor Mrs JM Young had reported that the Saughall Cricket Club had requested a cash advance on its grass cutting work because its grass cutter had broken down. Unfortunately, the Club had done this the day after the last Council meeting so the Council had been unable to help but this matter was now resolved. The Club would send the Clerk regular invoices in respect of the grass cutting carried out under the joint agreement and intended to spend some of what it earned on a specific weed killer to bring the cricket pitch up to a specific standard.

It was reported that every time the Cricket Club took the park benches out of the storage container and located them in the Park they were scattered all over by nuisance youths.

It was also reported that the cable of the aerial runway was frayed and required attention. It might be the result of wear and tear or vandalism.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports be received; and
- (2) Councillor A Warrington be requested to ask the company who previously repaired the Playnet to carry out a site visit with a view to carrying out the necessary repairs.

#### 134. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that three kayak sessions had been organised as part of the Club's summer pursuits. The second session was being held this week. The Club had asked for space in the next Parish Council Newsletter for stories and photographs of the event. The sessions were held adjacent to the Rowing Club and the Groves, in Chester.

The Clerk informed that the closing date for articles for the July Parish Council Newsletter was Friday, 9 July 2010. Anything received after this date would be unable to be published.

RESOLVED;

That the report be received.

#### 135. THE NEW SCHOOL AND THE FUTURE OF THE FORMER INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

##### (a) All Saints Primary School

Members were 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. Councillor A Warrington informed that there had been chaos at the Co-op Store that morning as it had received two deliveries whilst parents were dropping off their children.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the Council will continue to monitor the situation.

(b) The Former Ridings Community Infant School Building

Councillor RA Storrar informed that there was no progress to report. Cheshire West and Chester Council would be submitting an application for outline planning permission at some stage but the detail was not known yet.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

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

There was no progress to report. The Clerk had not been informed whether the planning application to erect new brick outer face to south-facing elevation of the existing building following part-demolition and insertion of window had been successful.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

136. HIGHWAY ISSUES

It was reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee would debate highway issues in detail at its next meeting on Thursday, 29 July 2010. Consequently, Members were requested to only report on urgent items of business relating to Saughall Highways.

Councillor WI Humphrey informed that because of the number of complaints the Council had received about the state of the roads and pot holes he had carried out a survey of the 35 pot holes forgotten by the Highways Authority, Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council and had plotted them on a map he had drawn. Some of them had been marked with white paint so long ago that it had now faded.

Councillor Humphrey also informed that the Church Walk pathway at the end of the cul-de-sac was very uneven and complaints had been received from old age pensioners using motorised wheel chairs. He had logged a job with the Highways Authority and the number was 311 6456. Also, CWAC Council had leafleted properties in the vicinity of the Wain House development informing that Rakeway would be closed on Thursday, 12 July 2010; this should have read Thursday, 15 July 2010. This was in order to connect electricity.

Councillor RA Storrar reported that Fiddlers Lane would be resurfaced the following week and it may take up to five days.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highways Officers be alerted to the problems identified.

137. THE REDEVELOPMENT OF WAIN HOUSE

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that Chester and District Housing Trust and G and J Seddon had held a coffee morning at the meeting room on site at Wain House on 2 July 2010 between 10:30am and 12 noon. This had been an informal event with the aim of introducing the Project Team and providing an opportunity for local residents to raise any concerns that they may have. A number of parishoners and Council Members had attended and there had been a question and answer session.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

138. VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the VIMC was working well under its new Chairman. Its proposals for a five year maintenance and refurbishment plan would be discussed the following week. The planned rendering would go ahead after the gas works had been completed.

It was noted that the Farmers' Market, held on Saturdays, now closed at 12:00 Noon and not 1:00pm as it had previously.

Councillor RA Storrar had offered some help with the painting of the clock tower and the VIMC was of a mind to bring back a memorial service on Remembrance Sunday.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that there would be a table top sale on Saturday, 14 August 2010 held in conjunction with the Farmers' Market.

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the VIMC would have a bottle stall at Saughall Sports Day on Saturday, 17 July 2010 and that she intended to purchase some bottles for the stall out of her Chairman's allowance.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted;

## 139. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 7 June 2010:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2010/2011</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Community Consultation Ltd (Public Liability Insurance for Play Scheme)	73.50	102397
<b>As the Council agreed to pay this itself this payment would not be taken out of the £1,000 set aside to support the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Committee</b>		
Cheshire Community Action (Membership Fee)	50.00	102398
Mr R Hipkiss (Litter Picking)	1,007.67	102399
HM Revenue and Customs	792.08	102400
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	474.73	102401
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	54.00	102402
NALC (Conference Fees – Mr D Holman)	105.75	102403

Public Works Loan Board 14 May 2010 £2,771.22 by direct debit.

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	£
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 June 2010	0.01

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

## 140. SAUGHALL SPORTS DAY – SATURDAY, 17 JULY 2010

Councillor Mrs HL Thorniley-Jones reported that everything was going to plan in relation to the arrangements for Saughall Sports Day. Two further planning meetings would be held before 17 July. Everyone was praying for good weather.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the Parish Council will ensure it has a presence at this event.

#### 141. ODD JOBS

There were no odd jobs to be done at present. The roof repairs to the bus shelter on the Parkgate Road would be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

#### 142. 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 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 Thorniley-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.

#### 143. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

- Cheshire West and Chester Council's - Have Your Say on the future of waste collections. Responses are requested by 26 July 2010.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Concessionary Travel Scheme.
- Letter dated 14 June 2010 from Stephen Mosley MP introducing himself as the new Chester City MP

RESOLVED:

That the detail of the communications received be noted.

144. CIRCULARS

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

- Cheshire Community Action's Newsletter June 2010
- Leaflets regarding Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

145. POWER OF WELLBEING

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had sent the Council a holding response on 11 June 2010 on receiving its letter dated 7 June 2010. It was the Clerk's intention to provide a full response in due course.

The Council revisited its decision not to hold a meeting in August (Minute No. 86/2010 refers).

RESOLVED:

That a Council meeting be held at 7:30pm on Monday, 2 August 2010 in the Library at the Vernon Institute.