



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Issue No 33

June 2006

The New Parish Council

The Parish Council is just beginning its new four year term of office. There are 14 seats in total on the Council, 13 for Councillors representing the Saughall Ward and 1 for the Shotwick Park Ward.



An election was held on Thursday, 4 May 2006 and 13 of the 19 candidates who stood for election in the Saughall Ward were elected. Unfortunately, no-one stood for election in the Shotwick Park Ward.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 15 May 2006 Brian Kerr and Mrs Jenny Young were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. At the meeting it was agreed to co-opt the candidate with the most number of votes who was not elected on to the Council to represent Shotwick Park. Councillor Dennis Holman accepted the co-option.

The Council is being proactive and is forging ahead with its initiatives to develop its land on Fiddlers Lane for recreational purposes. It has also declared its intentions to follow through projects already begun by the previous Council such as achieving Quality Parish Council status and facilitating the provision of activities to occupy the young people of the village, working in partnership with the Youth Club Management Committee and a number of parishioners who have volunteered to help.

You will be receiving regular updates on the progress the Council makes through this newsletter.

Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on Wednesday, 19 April 2006 at the Methodist Hall. This Parish meeting is required to assemble

between 1 March and 1 June each year and seven days notice must be given specifying the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted.

The meeting was reasonably well attended and very constructive. The Chairman's Annual Report is reproduced in full within this newsletter for your information.

However, discussion and deliberation centred for the most part on the following three issues:

Youth Issues – A number of mothers attended the meeting to draw attention to the lack of youth provision in the village along with the need to find activities and interests to occupy their children and keep them out of trouble. It was noted that the Drop-In Centre at the Vernon Institute was only open one evening a week during term time and that it could probably open more often if responsible adults came forward with offers to help.

Consequently, a number of parishioners present at the meeting did volunteer to help provide facilities and activities for the youngsters of the village and the Parish Council, who has put money aside in its budget for this purpose, agreed to act as the facilitator. Meetings are being held and arrangements are being made with the Youth Club Management Committee and representatives of the Vernon Institute in the hope that the number of evenings the Youth Club is open can be increased.

Golden Jubilee Park – The Parish Council will do all it can to ensure that Saughall residents can make maximum use of this facility. It has borrowed £30,000 from the Public Works Loan Board to pay for the development now underway on Fiddlers

Lane. The contractor employed by the Council will be on site by the end of June to complete Phase 1 of the development. This will include rolling and seeding, path laying, fencing and a hard play area. This work is expected to take approximately 2 months, weather permitting.

Saughall Fest 2007 – Richard Small agreed to lead on the organisation of this event that will be held at the beginning of July and will involve a lot of hard work. It will be a weekend community fund raising event, incorporating a number of things that go on in the village. These will include sporting events and a musical extravaganza called “Rock the Vicarage”.

All Saints Church have established a Committee to oversee and steer this initiative and residents, various organisations and groups, including the Parish Council, have agreed to throw their weight behind it to ensure that the weekend is both enjoyable and successful.

Bus Terminus Shelter – Lodge Lane, Saughall

Cheshire County Council has informed that under its Parish Bus Shelter Scheme (where the Parish Council pays £1,000 towards the shelter and £500 a year maintenance costs whilst the County Council contributes the rest) it may be possible for a lit shelter with CCTV to be provided at the Terminus in 2007/08.

The Parish Council gave serious consideration to this proposal at its Annual Meeting on 15 May 2006 and agreed that it be supported in principle but a consultation exercise be carried out to obtain your views before Cheshire County Council is given a firm answer.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could complete the tear-off slip on the last page of this newsletter by **30 June 2006** and post it through the letterbox of the Parish Room on Fiddlers Lane or alternatively give it to any of the Parish Councillors whose details are set out in this newsletter.

Street Cleaning Contract

Following the recent tendering exercise (see Chairman’s Annual Report) the Council has let its Street Cleaning Contract to Mr R Hipkiss of Long Lane, Saughall in the sum of £10,992.80 per annum.

Mr Hipkiss will keep the village as free from litter and broken glass as possible. He will empty all Council owned litter bins regularly so that they are never full and overflowing. He will dispose of the litter and waste collected in a responsible manner at an appropriate Local Authority owned site and he will spray all the bus shelters with disinfectant on a monthly basis.

Mr Hipkiss is contracted to spend 20 hours per week on litter picking irrespective of public holidays. He will manage his own hours but the Council expects them to be spread out throughout the working week to ensure that the village is regularly and adequately de-littered to its satisfaction.

Litter picking routes have been agreed and the stretch from and including the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field, down Church Road to the Co-operative Store will be covered on every occasion Mr Hipkiss is out litter picking.

This contract will run from 22 May 2006 until 21 May 2010 and will be subject to annual review.

Grounds Maintenance Contract

Tenders were recently invited for the Council’s Grounds Maintenance Contract. This involves work on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field. The grass will be cut on a weekly basis from May through to the end of October for the next four years. It does not include grass cutting on the Council’s adjacent land (the Golden Jubilee Park) which is not yet fully developed. (Tenders will be invited for work on this parkland at the appropriate time.) Hedge cutting will also be carried out under this contract 2/3 times per year on both the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field and roadside hedges in the Golden Jubilee Park. There will also be a weekly play area inspection and a written report will be provided.

The tender was awarded to All Cheshire Garden Services of Chester as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Weekly grass cutting and play area inspection | £120 per cut |
| Hedge trimming 2/3 times a year - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field | £160 per cut |
| Hedge trimming 2/3 times a year - Golden Jubilee Park – roadside only | £120 per cut |

Chairman’s Annual Report

The Chairman presented the following report at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2006 and it is reproduced here in its entirety for your information:

Parish Council Administration

This report covers the final municipal year of the present Parish Council. A new Council will be elected on Thursday 4th May 2006 and it is very pleasing to note that there will be a contested election, with 19 candidates for 13 seats.

In September 2005, the then Chairman – Alan Bailey - resigned, both as Chairman and as a Parish Councillor and the Council elected Brian Kerr to serve as Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year. Mrs Jennifer Young continued as Vice Chairman. In addition, the resignation of Councillor Andrew Marsden for Shotwick Park was received in August and having gone through the proper process, the Council co-opted Mrs Helen Thorniley-Jones to replace Councillor Marsden and Ian Humphrey to replace Alan Bailey.

During the municipal year the Parish Council undertook 32 business meetings as shown below;

| Meeting Type | Number of Meetings | Comments |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Parish Council | 14 | includes the budget meeting and a further two special meetings to discuss Golden Jubilee Park business. |
| Planning Committee | 11 | held prior to full council |

| Meeting Type | Number of Meetings | Comments |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Finance and General Purposes Committee | 3 | meetings held post October 2005 |
| Golden Jubilee Park working party | 3 | meetings held prior to October 2005 |
| Parish Plan steering group | 1 | meeting held prior to October 2005 |

In total there were 32 business meetings.

Monthly surgeries continued to be held although poorly attended. The Parish Council is to consider holding surgeries outside the Woodvale Store.

The Council responded to a number of consultation documents issued by government and continued to keep abreast of developments in the local government sector.

The Council also responded to a number of consultation documents issued by both Cheshire County and Chester City Councils but the main focus as always was on dealing with local issues.

Finance

The Councils budget for financial year 2005/06 and 2006/07 are detailed below;

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 2005/06 | £51,236.00 |
| 2006/07 | £57,696.00 |

The Parish Council budget for financial year 2006/07 shows an increase of 12.6%, but the Parish Council is able to keep the level of Council Tax increase at the current inflation rate of 2.4%. A contributory factor has been a grant from the City Council of £1,585 in financial year 2005/06 as a contribution towards the double taxation issue and it is pleasing to report that the grant in financial year 2006/07 will increase by 50% with a further increase guaranteed for the following financial year.

Policing matters

Good progress has been made in establishing an effective working relationship with the Community Action Team working out of the new police station in Blacon. Effective action has been taken by the Police to deal with Youth anti-social behaviour problems and feedback from residents is positive with the recognition of an improved police presence regularly within the Parish.

The Parish Council wishes to explore the opportunity for a dedicated full-time Parish Police Community Support Officer, but the cost of doing this would result in £11 being added to the average Council Tax bill.

The Homewatch organisation is currently being reorganised and a volunteer sort to take over as Chairperson. The Parish Council has resolved however that it will not let Homewatch die and if no volunteer comes forward will take positive action to ensure the continuation of a Homewatch team within the Parish.

Bus Services

Despite strong representations the Parish Council has been unsuccessful in persuading Chester City transport to reinstate a service via Frodsham Street and Foregate Street to the Railway Station. The situation continues to be monitored.

Bus Shelters

A new bus shelter has been installed on Hermitage Road/Meadows Lane and after public consultation the Parish Council decided to retain the Shelter on Church Road/Greenway which had been the subject of much vandalism. However, since the installation by the County Council of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) there has been a significant reduction in nuisance activity.

The next project will be to replace the wooden bus shelter on Church Road/Vernon Institute. Currently there are three bus stops without shelters, The Terminus, Aspen Grove and Hermitage Road/Wash Hall Farm. Consideration should be given to establish whether this is a requirement for the future.

Street Cleaning

The Parish continues to be kept relatively free of litter due to the street cleaning contract with Ellesmere Port Borough Council. That contract terminates May 2006 and the Parish Council is currently inviting tenders from Contractors or the Self employed. It will be a serious issue if no suitable tenders are submitted.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan was published last year and has been reviewed recently by the Parish Council which is committed to ensuring that the actions within the plan are carried through to fruition.

Affordable Housing

There has been no progress with Arena Housing Association in developing the site off Lodge Lane. The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation and has identified with the Chester and District Housing Trust an alternative site off Church Road.

Planning Matters

The Planning Committee continues diligently to consider and comment upon all planning applications within the Parish. Generally the observations made to Chester City Council are taken into account but on occasion it is necessary for the Parish Council to insist on appropriate enforcement action. A reciprocal arrangement has been put in place with Sealand Community Council who will keep Saughall Parish Council informed of any planning applications in Flintshire which could affect the Parish.

Speeding / Parking

The Police are continually being requested to deal with the problem of speeding vehicles and the Parish Council continues to be active in discouraging vehicle owners from parking vehicles on pavements. Although not a police matter, the Parish Council wishes to discourage parking on grass verges.

Golden Jubilee Park Development

This project has had to be drastically restructured due to the withdrawal of previously agreed funding. The scheme is now to be financed by the Parish Council with a loan from the Public Works Loans Board. The scheme has been

scaled down and acting on the advice of the Contractor, new drainage is now not to be provided. Subject to the loan being secured, work is scheduled to commence May 1st 2006, with completion during the summer of phase 1 – to make the land suitable for recreational activities and will include a full sized football pitch to be utilised by the newly formed Greyhound Public House football team and a cricket square and completion of the perimeter pathway.

Children’s Playground

The facility continues to be well utilised and had a detailed annual inspection in the summer. A number of issues were identified which have been addressed. The Parish Council has no immediate plans for new equipment but the existing equipment is being repainted.

Further development of the playground will be incorporated into Phase 2 of the Golden Jubilee Park.

Quality Parish Council Status

The Parish Council had resolved to aspire to quality status by April 2006. This target has not been met. There are a number of improvements required including newsletter publication frequency. These will be a matter for the new Council following the May elections.

(End of Chairman’s Annual Report)

Activities at the Vernon Institute

A variety of activities take place at the Vernon Institute. Please see the notice board in the entrance hall for exact times and contact numbers. Activities include:

- Pilates
- Badminton
- Table Tennis
- Snooker/Billiards
- Women’s Institute
- Saughall Library in the small hall. Open: Tuesday 3pm-4pm Thursday 7:30pm-8:30pm
- Gardening Club
- Golden Link
- Play School
- Whist
- Art Club
- Dancing Schools
- Weight Watchers
- Model Dolls House Making

Activities at the Methodist Church

The following activities are provided in the Methodist Hall. The Bookings Secretary is Linda Pleasant who can let you have further details (Tel: 01244 881103).

- Mother and Toddlers Group
- Friday Club
- Mollington Singers Choir
- Slimming world
- Dancing Classes
- Coffee Morning, once a fortnight

Activities at All Saints Church

- Senior Monday Meeting
- Children’s Group Meetings and Activities
- Youth Football Teams
- Uniform Groups
- Card Making Class

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Women’s Institute

Mrs Norah Murchie,
Tel: 880701

Saughall Cricket Club

Mr Brian Huxley, Tel: 880753

Saughall Table Tennis Club

Mr Bob Salisbury, Tel: 881323

Pre-School Group

Mrs Pam Roberts, Tel: 880219

Saughall Gardening Club

Barbara Goode,
e-mail: barbara@gardencycles.wanadoo.co.uk
Tel: 880513

Golden Link Club

Miss Dorothy Carline,
Tel: 880658

Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School

Headteacher – Mrs L Kwissa
Tel: 880473

The Ridings Infant School

Headteacher – Mrs J Davies,
Tel: 881451

All Saints Church

Vicar: Rev Brian Harris
Tel: 880213
Church Wardens
Mr Roger Leslie, Tel: 880597
Mrs Margaret Lundy,
Tel: 372038

Methodist Church

Rev Margaret Banks,
Tel: 674734

WHO'S WHO on the Council

Parish Councillors

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Dennis Holman 28 The Ridings Saughall Chester CH1 6AX 01244 881593 d.holman@chester.ac.uk | Ian Humphrey 1 Smithy Close Saughall Chester CH1 6ED 01244 880011 williamian.humphrey@ntlworld.com | Philamena Humphrey 1 Smithy Close Saughall Chester CH1 6ED 01244 880011 phil.humphrey53@ntlworld.com |
| Jean Johnson Oaktree Nurseries Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester CH1 6DH 01244 880895 | John Johnson Oaktree Nurseries Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester CH1 6DH 01244 880895 | Brian Kerr OBE – Chairman 33 Greenway Saughall Chester CH1 6EG 01244 880347 briankerr@uwclub.net |
| Colin Moss 2 Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester CH1 6DH 01244 881422 | Rakesh Shukla 22 Darlington Crescent Saughall Chester CH1 6AY 01244 881765 rakesh@saughallpharmacy.co.uk | Andrew Storrar Hey House Farm Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester CH1 6DH 01244 880226 a.storrar@chester.gov.uk |
| Jeanne Storrar Hey House Farm Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester CH1 6DH 01244 880226 j.storrar@chester.gov.uk | Helen Thorniley-Jones The Greyhound Inn Sea Hill Road Saughall Chester CH1 6BJ 01244 880205 Hthornileyjones@aol.com | Andrew Warrington 6 Worsley Avenue Saughall Chester CH1 6BG 01244 880418 awarring@jaguar.com |
| Dolores Whitton JP 2 Darlington Crescent Saughall Chester CH1 6DB 01244 881411 | Jenny Young – Vice Chairman 212 Hermitage Road Saughall Chester CH1 6AE 01244 881133 | Clerk to the Council Shirley Hudspeth 10 Merton Close Little Neston Cheshire CH64 0TR 0151 336 3367 clerk@saughall.gov.uk |
| District Councillors | | County Councillor |
| Andrew Storrar Hey House Farm Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester CH1 6DH 01244 880226 a.storrar@chestercc.gov.uk | Jeanne Storrar Hey House Farm Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester CH1 6DH 01244 880226 j.storrar@chester.gov.uk | David Rowlands The Grange Warrington Road Mickle Trafford Cheshire 01244 300655 davidrowlands@cheshire.gov.uk |
| Member of Parliament | Local Police | Homewatch |
| Mrs Christine Russell MP Constituency Office Abbey House Abbey Green Chester CH1 2JH | Blacon Police Station 01244 350222 (The number to ring when reporting a crime) | Ian Humphrey 1 Smithy Close Saughall Chester CH1 6ED 01244 880011 williamian.humphrey@ntlworld.com |

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

'USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!'

CO-OPERATIVE STORE

Church Road, Saughall.
'Everything you need from your local
friendly village shop'
Tel. No. 881408

SAUGHALL POST OFFICE

Within the Co-operative Stores,
Tel No. 880403

SAUGHALL SERVICE STATION

Church Road, Saughall
'For all your motoring needs'
Tel. No. 881625

CHESTNUT HOUSE DAY NURSERY

Church Road, Saughall
'Quality care for Children'
Tel. No. 880371

OAK TREE NURSERIES

Fiddlers Lane, Saughall
'Come along and see us – you won't be
disappointed'
Tel. No. 880895

K's GARDEN CENTRE

Off Parkgate Road, Saughall
'Solve your garden problems'
Tel. No. 880468

CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

'Wedding and Social'
Maurice Alley, Church Road, Saughall
Tel. No. 880606

PIANO AND ORGAN TUITION

'Children and Adults'
Derek Whatling
Tel. No. 881388

W. GATER, PLUMBER

'Plumbing and Heating Engineers'
Tel. No. 880654

RON STUART AERIALS

'All types supplied and installed'
Tel. No. 880449

CHESTER PAINT STRIPPERS

Reclaimed doors & fire places for sale
Sea Hill Farm, Saughall
Tel. No. 881771

PERFECTIONS UNISEX SALON

2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall
Tel. No. 881122

READES RESIDENTIAL

'Lettings and Property Management'
www.readesresidential.com
Tel. No. 08450 097 097

B&B MINI SKIP HIRE

Hermitage Road, Saughall
Tel. No. 881681

If you would like your local business advertised in the next newsletter, please contact the Clerk.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

'USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!'

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">B. J. CLEGG & SON 'Plumbing, heating and gas fittings' Tel. No. 880120</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PETER GARNETT 'For all your decorating needs' Tel. No. 881249</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BARRA BOARDING KENNELS Parkgate Road, Saughall Tel. No. 880837</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LITTLE CREEK DOG KENNELS Kingswood Lane, Saughall Tel. No. 880267</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FAR EAST <i>CHINESE TAKE-AWAY</i> Fiddlers Lane, Saughall Tel. No. 881621</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">EPTOWING Mobile Tow Bar Fitting Service Darlington Crescent, Saughall Tel. No. 881609</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DR. WILLIAM RICHARDSON Homeopathy Church Road, Saughall Tel. No. 880574</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHESTER SECURITY SYSTEMS 32, Church Road, Saughall 'Our business is your peace of mind' Tel. No. 881399</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SAUGHALL PHARMACY 30, Church Road, Saughall 'Your very own friendly dispensing chemist' Tel. No. 881765</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">SAUGHALL VILLAGE SURGERY Church Road, Saughall Tel. No. 881590</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREYHOUND INN Seahill Road, Saughall Tel. No. 880205</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEATSHEAF INN Parkgate Road, Saughall Tel. No. 851804</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EGERTON ARMS INN Hermitage Road, Saughall Tel. No. 882001</p> |
|---|---|--|

If you would like your local business advertised in the next newsletter, please contact the Clerk.

BUS TERMINUS/SHELTER – LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

I would/would not like to see a new bus shelter erected at the Bus Terminus on Lodge Lane.

I do/do not want a new bus shelter erected there because:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

I am/am not a regular bus user.

Signed:.....

Print Name:

Address:

.....

.....

.....

*delete as appropriate