

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 4 September 2012 at the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs K Ford (Part)
Councillor WI Humphrey, (Homewatch Chairman) (Part)
Councillor DF Holman
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor Mrs J Knox
Councillor JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)
Councillor PP Young

PCSO Wendy Leason (Part)
Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe (Part)
Nigel Crossby, Community Lead on the Parish Plan Refresh

Public Speaking Time

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Council was addressed by **Mr H Jennings** on proposals to improve the Vernon Institute building.

Mr Jennings spoke on behalf of the residents of the village who lived near to the Vernon Institute. He informed that they wanted the Vernon Institute to be refurbished and wanted to enter into negotiations, in a reasonable forum, to examine ways to carry out the refurbishment works. He referred to a questionnaire which the Vernon Institute Management Team had drawn up to canvass opinion and informed that it appeared to be promoting its plans and a yes vote. Mr Jennings considered that there was no opportunity for a no vote. He also believed that there was evidence that people were being coerced to agree with the plans.

Mr Jennings reminded the Council that this was the third time residents had addressed it on this matter, requesting a reasonable consultation exercise. He informed that he, and those he represented, were losing confidence and considered that it was time that the Vernon Institute Planning Committee considered its position.

97. APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were accepted from Councillor RK Shukla.

98. DISQUALIFICATION OF A COUNCILLOR

It was noted that Councillor Mrs D Whitton had not attended a Council meeting for a continuous period of six months. Although she had sent her apologies, they had not been accepted and her absence had not been authorised.

The law expressly provided that where a Council Member failed to attend any meeting of the Council throughout a continuous period of six months from the date of their last attendance at any Council meeting, they ceased to be a

Member and were unable to continue in office, unless their absence was due to some reason approved by the Council, before the expiry of six months since the date of the last meeting attended.

The Clerk had written to Councillor Mrs Whitton on 3 July 2012 to inform her what would happen if she remained absent and was unable to attend this meeting. Consequently, Mrs Whitton was no longer a Member of the Council.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Council already had a vacant seat as only thirteen people had put themselves forward for election and there were fourteen seats. The Council had made the decision not to fill the vacant seat by co-option. Therefore, there were now two vacant seats on the Council.

The Council agreed that the Clerk would now declare two casual vacancies on the Council and the Returning Officer would commence the process to fill them by election. If no election was called the vacant seats could be filled by co-option if the Council so wished.

Members expressed their disappointment that Mrs Whitton had rendered herself unable to continue as a Councillor. They paid tribute to her for her long service to the local community.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the position be noted; and

(2) Mrs D Whitton be thanked for her long service to the local community and wished well for the future.

99. NEW STANDARDS REGIME

(a) Completing New Declarations of Interest Forms

Members were reminded that the onus was on them to complete their Declaration of Interest Forms as a matter of urgency. Instructions on this matter had been provided by the Monitoring Officer and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils and circulated to all Members by the Clerk.

(b) Declarations of Interest

Councillors RA Storrar, Mrs JM Young and PP Young declared disclosable non pecuniary interests in respect of agenda Item No. 17 – Vernon Institute Management Committee (VIMC) (by virtue of them being members of the VIMC (Minute No. 113 refers). Councillor RA Storrar also declared a disclosable non pecuniary interest as he was also a member of a Rotary Club in respect of agenda Item No. 16 (c) - Saughall Olympics – 2013 (Minute No. 114 (c) refers).

100. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 6 August 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

101. PLANNING MATTERS

The Council, as a statutory consultee, considered the planning applications which had been lodged with the planning authority, Cheshire West and Chester Council, since its last meeting and set out its observations as follows:

(a) Planning Applications

(i) 12/03027/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of workshop, refurbishment, alterations and extension to redundant shippens to accommodation for person in need of supervised care.

Location: The Covert Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Shotwick Park, Chester

“No objections.”

(ii) 12/03569/FUL

Proposal: Riding arena surrounded by post and rail fence.

Location: Wash Hall Farm, Hermitage Road, Saughall, Chester

“No objections.”

(iii) 12/03447/OUT (Adjoining Parish Consultation)

Proposal: To erect a student village including accommodation for up to 2,300 students, recreational open space, a combined student hub/sporting facility (comprising café/bar, kitchen, student services, launderette, fitness areas, treatment/consulting rooms and changing areas), full sized football pitch, four mini-sports pitches, construction of a new access from Parkgate Road, an emergency vehicular access link off Milton Road, internal access routes, ground modelling and drainage works, parking provision for up to 400 cars, footpaths, cycle routes, Energy Centre, Refuge and Recycling facilities, sub stations and associated works including access (OUTLINE APPLICATION), at Chester Student Village, land of Parkgate Road, Chester

Location: Land between Parkgate Road and Shelly Road, Chester.

After a comprehensive presentation in favour of the student village proposal from Councillor DF Holman, counter arguments and substantial deliberation, it was agreed by a majority vote that:

“The Parish Council, as an adjoining Parish Council, is objecting to the above proposal as it is considered inappropriate development in the greenbelt.”

- (b) Planning Application for the change of use of the former filling station offices and shop to taxi offices and call centre at the Wheatsheaf Garage, Parkgate Road.

Members considered the details of a complaint made by Mollington Parish Council against Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Councillor Brian Crowe informed that Mollington Parish Council had been in dispute with Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Planning Officers over the boundary between Mollington and Saughall. Members were of the opinion that the parish boundary was where the brook ran. The matter was now in the hands of the principal authority’s lawyers. Mollington Parish Council believed that the consultation that had recently been undertaken was flawed because Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council had not been consulted on a planning proposal within its administrative area. Members agreed that they should have been afforded the courtesy of being consulted.

Councillor Crowe promised to keep the Council informed as the complaint was progressed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (c) Planning Decisions

The Council noted the following in respect of a planning decision that had been made by Cheshire West and Chester Council – the Planning Authority:

- (i) 11/01766/FP

Proposal: Demolition of Existing Chapel and Adjacent Community Hall.
Erection of New Chapel/Community Building with Integral
Facilities Including Parking Area

Location: The Methodist Church, Church Road, Saughall.

“Noitice of Planning Permission”

- (d) 12/01573/FUL – Amended Plans

Proposal: Residential development of 29 two storey dwellings including
new site access (demolition of existing building)

Location: Former the Ridings Community Infants School, Rake Way,
Saughall.

Objections to a Planning Application (Minute No. 75(a) (ii) refers)

The Council noted that the objections submitted by the Clerk in respect of the planning application along with the detail of a letter she has received

from Stephen Mosley MP dated 13 August 2012 who had written to the Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Steve Robinson.

(e) Protection of the Greenbelt

Councillor Mrs JM Young assured the Council that this initiative was progressing well and most of those who owned land in Saughall were being identified using a map. The exercise was not quite finished however.

Councillor B Kerr drew attention to an email Members had received which had been generated by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils about proposals to build housing on a massive scale in Cheshire and approximately 25% of it on greenbelt land. The Government was introducing a 'homes bonus' as an incentive to build. Concerns were being raised over the scale of the development being proposed up to 2030. It was noted that the consultation period on this ran until September 2012.

Members considered the questionnaire and agreed how it would be completed.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be noted; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

102. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER (CWAC) COUNCIL
- LOCAL MEMBERS' REPORT

Councillor Brian Crowe presented his monthly report. He informed that:

- he had attended a seminar with a planning barrister on the new policy framework. There was little point in putting together Neighbourhood Plans until a District Plan was in place;
- seven Saughall children had not been allocated places in reception at All Saints C of E Primary School from September 2012. In the case of five of them places had been allocated following appeal hearings;
- school transport issues had been resolved; and
- he had attended a meeting in Saughall regarding anti social behaviour.

Following the meeting the Clerk would be providing Councillor Crowe with a list of Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) matters which needed to be addressed and he was requested to monitor them and ensure progress was made.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Brian Crowe be thanked for his monthly report and his help in ensuring that the CWaC matters identified as requiring attention are progressed.

103. PARISH PLAN REVIEW AND REFRESH

It was reported that Nigel Crossby had met with Councillors B Kerr, Mrs JE Storrar, A Warrington and Mrs JM Young in order to progress the new Parish Plan. A questionnaire containing ten questions had been drawn up for distribution to Saughall households.

Mr Crossley provided Members with copies of the draft questionnaires and requested their comments and amendments before the questionnaire was finalised ready for printing.

Once completed and returned these questionnaires would be analysed and the findings would inform the new parish plan process.

Mr Crossley undertook to continue to work with Members to refresh the Parish Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and Mr Crossley be thanked for his help with this important initiative.

104. POLICE, HOMEWATCH AND SAUGHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS

(a) Police

PCSO Wendy Leason would provide a written report on policing matters for the month of August and the Clerk would circulate it with the agenda for the October Council meeting.

(b) Homewatch Report

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Chairman, presented an oral report informing that:

- there had been good attendances at the panna and samba football sessions and at the Ramp Riders and Mountain Monkeys Juniors and Seniors during the summer holidays;
- there had been an incident at the Vernon Institute involving a lady's handbag;
- he had received complaints about an individual knocking on doors offering to wash cars and he had asked the individual to wear a name badge to identify himself; and
- numerous parents had approached him requesting a bike/scooter marking session and he intended to make arrangements for this with the help of the PCSO.

Councillor WI Humphrey thanked everyone who had made this year's Summer Play Scheme a success, including all members of the Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team, the Police and sponsors.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team Report

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Neighbourhood Management Team had held a very successful Summer Play Scheme in the week commencing Monday, 20 August 2012. Eighteen children had consistently attended and it had cost £301 in total. The Team had contributed over £1,000 on other enjoyable activities for youngsters this year.

To generate more funds there would be a fish and chip supper at the Vernon Institute on 14 December 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

105. WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ZAP STAND

(a) Website

Councillor DF Holman informed that most of the work on the new website had been completed and it was about to go live. There was a news feature on the front page. There was also a photograph album. The report a problem form could now be completed online. Training in word press had been received by those who would maintain the website.

(b) Zap Stand

Councillor DF Holman informed that he had used the new zap stand at his Parish Council Surgery held on Saturday, 1 September 2012 and it had attracted a number of positive comments.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and further progress reports be considered at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 7pm on Monday, 1 October 2012.

106. K'S NURSERIES

The Council noted that the K's Nurseries site, currently in the ownership of Gordales Garden Centre, had seen little improvement and remained in a dilapidated state. The Clerk had included an article about it in the September 2012 Parish Newsletter.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted and the condition of the site continue to be monitored;
and
- (2) a copy of the September 2012 Parish Newsletter be sent to the owners of K's Nurseries for their information.

107. PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN – ACTION LIST

The Council received a revised copy of the Business Plan's Action Plan. Members reviewed it page by page. As the new website was about to be launched, the action list would be amended to show that website work had been completed.

RESOLVED:

That the revised action list will remain a standard item on Council agendas, as a means of reviewing progress made against the Business Plan.

108. MEMBERS' TRAINING

The Clerk would ascertain what training, if any, was available on the Power of General Competence, so that Members could obtain an overview of what it would mean to the Council, if it was ever in a position to be able to use it.

109. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

Vehicles continued to be parked on pavements and the Council continued to monitor the situation.

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

This matter was referred to Cheshire West and Chester Councillor B Crowe for investigation and a report to the next meeting.

(c) Bus Stop Lights and No Waiting Sign

Sometimes the lights at the bus stop worked and sometimes they did not. It was thought there was a loose electrical connection and Cheshire West and Chester Streetscene Officers were supposed to be arranging for necessary repairs. This matter was referred to Cheshire West and Chester Councillor B Crowe for investigation and a report to the next meeting.

(d) Kingswood Lane – Proposed Traffic Prevention Order

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe was still pursuing a Traffic Prevention Order on the Parish Council's behalf. A report was requested from him at the next Council meeting.

(e) Overgrown Hedges/Trees

The Clerk would ask Gordon Dutton to trim the hedge around the Golden Jubilee Park on Fiddlers Lane.

(f) Fiddlers Lane, Rakeway and the Church Road/Hermitage Road junction – Potholes

A list of potholes had been compiled and Members would continue to monitor the state of the roads in the village. Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe would be asked to report on progress at the next meeting of the Council.

(g) No Waiting at Any Time - Missing Sign from the Peg.

A new sign had not been provided yet. Councillor Brian Crowe had agreed to follow this up with Cheshire West and Chester Council's Area Engineer for Ellesmere Port and Rural West (North), Ian McNeill. Councillor Crowe would be asked to report on this at the next meeting of the Council.

(h) Pavements and Mobility Scooters

110. LITTER PICKING, WASTE BINS AND DOG BINS

Councillor A Warrington reported that Cheshire West and Chester Council's Streetscene Officers were unable to provide any more dog bins at the present time.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the situation with litter picking, waste bins and dog bins continue to be monitored at future Council meetings.

111. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Report of the Field Committee (Councillors WI Humphrey, RA Storrar, A Warrington and Mrs JM Young)

The Field Committee had met the previous day and a report was provided as follows:

- In future this Committee would always meet on the Sunday before the Council meeting.
- There was lots of water in the ponds and they would need to be cleaned out.
- The Committee would like to recommend some more work to be carried out to alleviate the flooding problem.
- The picnic table in the swing park had disappeared.
- It would cost £75 plus vat to remove the middle post and rails at the access. Then a means of securing the gates would have to be found and priced up.
- The uneven surface in the swing park would need to be rolled after the next heavy rain.

- Someone living close by had dumped hedge cuttings in the Park.
- The Committee recommended that trees (hedging and deciduous) be ordered from the Woodland Trust for planting in the Park.
- The goal end would need to be moved if the tarmacked area was to be extended.
- The bin in the Park had been burnt and then removed.
- A meeting would be held shortly with all users of the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters to discuss the proposed plan to build a Sports Pavilion in the Golden Jubilee Park.

A proposal to extend the tarmac area to accommodate a multi use games area (MUGA) was being considered and quotations would be obtained in respect of this.

Members had met with Simon Goacher, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council who had been very supportive of the Council's initiative.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and actions set out therein be agreed.

112. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the Youth Club Leader, Jane Clark had decided to give up running the Club because of family reasons. The Club would be closed until the end of September 2012 at least and adverts would be put up around the village to try to attract people willing to help out at the Club.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

113. VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

(a) VIMC

Councillor PP Young reported that a new caretaker had been appointed. The successful candidate was the assistant caretaker. The VIMC would now advertise for a new assistant caretaker on the village notice boards.

The planning application to redevelop the Vernon Institute had been withdrawn. Opinions were being canvassed on the proposed development options by means of a questionnaire. The results were being collated and a report would be provided for the VIMC's Development Committee the following Tuesday.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Clock Automation

Councillor A Warrington informed that he had received a further application form to complete and more quotations may be required.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

114. COMMUNITY EVENTS

(a) "Music in the Park"

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that a meeting had been scheduled for 6pm on Thursday, 6 September 2012 in the Uniform Groups' Headquarters to discuss arrangements for the 2013 "Music in the Park" event.

The Clerk had just been presented with a copy of the finalised accounts for the 2012 "Music in the Park" event and would circulate it with the agenda for the October 2012 Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

(b) Remembrance Sunday – 11 November 2012

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that arrangements were being progressed.

(c) Saughall Olympics – 2013

It was reported that there was a possibility that the 2013 Games would be held on land in the ownership of the VIMC.

(d) Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremony – 5 December 2012

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that arrangements were being progressed.

115. CHAIRMAN'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Chairman inform of issues she had been involved in during the month as follows:

- following an incident of anti social behaviour on 16 July 2012 talks had been held and it had been agreed that the culprits would be closely monitored in future; and
- it was recommended that a letter be sent to the Co-operative Store's head office requesting that the security of the local store be reviewed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Chairman be thanked for her report; and
- (2) detailed information be provided for the Clerk on break ins and robberies at the Co-op Store etc. to assist her in drafting a letter to the company's Head Office, setting out the concerns of the local community over the shop's security arrangements.

116. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery held on Saturday, 1 September 2012

Councillor DF Holman had presided over the Surgery held outside the Co-op Store on Saturday, 1 September 2012 between 10 and 10:45am. He reported on issues and questions raised included the following:

- more concerns were raised about cars obstructing the pavements making it difficult for people with prams, push chairs and disability scooters to negotiate them;
- the hedge at All Saints C of E Primary School was overgrown and restricting the visibility of motorists exiting the Co-op Stores car park;
- there were concerns raised over drug dealing and youth "activities";
- dog mess on pavements was on the increase;
- displeasure over Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council's new recycling arrangements; and
- there were various concerns expressed over the VIMC proposals to develop the Vernon Institute and over its consultation arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor DF Holman be thanked for his very informative report and those Members who are school governors take the message back to All Saints C of E Primary School and request that the offending hedge be trimmed as soon as possible.

(b) Surgery on Tuesday, 25 September 2012.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to preside over the next Council Surgery to be held between 5:45 and 7:30pm on Tuesday, 25 September 2012 at the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters on Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

117. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 August 2012:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2012/2013</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Wirral Borough Council (Postage and Printing)	51.85	102606
Smith of Derby (Clock Maintenance)	253.20	102607
Just a Mow (Grass cutting and Weed Killing)	650.00	102608
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	35.00	102609
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	489.84	102610
Mr J Davies (Litter Picking)	50.48	102611

(b) Receipts

The Clerk received a cheque for £600 from the Committee who had organised the Diamond Jubilee celebration 'Music in the Park'. This was for funding that had been provided by the Council which had not been spent.

RESOLVED:

That the receipt of £600 be noted.

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

(d) Funding Opportunities/Attracting Grant Aid

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that a meeting was being arranged with the Monitoring Officer, Simon Goacher to discuss the proposed initiative. An article would then be written for a future edition of the Parish Newsletter.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

118. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) The Council noted the following outside body meetings coming up and agree representation where required:

- Cheshire Association of Local Councils' Annual Meeting 2012 on Thursday, 25 October 2012 at Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Winsford. Refreshments will be available from 6pm.

Councillors B Kerr, WI Humphrey and Mrs JM Young would be attending. The Council agreed not to put any motions forward for debate

(b) The Council received a report from Councillor Mrs JM Young on proceedings of the following outside meeting:

Blacon Action Group – Planning and Greenbelt

Councillors WI Humphrey and Mrs JE Storrar had attended this event. They reported that they had learnt that in some areas the greenbelt was too tight and development should work in star shapes.

119. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The Council noted the content of the following communication which had been circulated with the agenda.

- Letter dated 13 August 2012 from Stephen Mosley MP regarding the Council's objections to Morris Homes planning proposals for the former The Ridings Infants School. He informed that he had written to the Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, Steve Robinson and would share Mr Robinson's response with the Parish Council when he received it.

120. CIRCULARS

No circulars had been received.

121. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the 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 by paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

122. VILLAGE EVENTS

Members discussed issues associated with a recent village event and the need to encourage community spirit by being more supportive.