

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday, 5 September 2016 at the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall.

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey
Councillor Ms M Collins
Councillor Mrs K Ford
Councillor H Jennings
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor Mrs J Knox (Part)
Councillor Ms A Manning
Councillor Mrs J O'Malley
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs JM Young
Councillor PP Young

204. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe and PCSO Wendy Leason.

205. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Bailey declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 6(d) Accounts – Application for a Grant from All Saints Church as he was the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council. (Minute No. 209 (d) refers.)

206. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 August 2016 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No. 184 Mobile Phone Signal in Saughall
Second Paragraph, last word - amend from 2017 to 2016.

Minute No. 193(c) Village Events – Remembrance Sunday -13 November 2016
First Paragraph, Second Sentence – replace 'held at' with 'led by'

207. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Applications

The observations on the following planning application were agreed and the Clerk was requested to notify Cheshire West and Chester Council - the Planning Authority of them.

(i) 16/03336/FUL

Proposal: Engineering and ground works associated with the culverting of approx. 30m of open ditch and connecting to existing downstream culvert (Retrospective).

Location: Land at Grid Ref 336172 370552, Lodge Lane, Saughall, Chester.

“The Parish Council has serious concerns over this proposal which it would like you to take into account. There are ongoing drainage issues in this area. The excess water from the Lodge Lane development is being piped into a pit that isn’t big enough to take it. We could end up with the same problem we now have in the Willow Hey development.

Please note that the Council does expect you to respond to this email to confirm that you have put on record these concerns as it may need to refer to them in the future if there are flooding issues as a result of these actions.”

(b) 122 Hermitage Road, Saughall

The Enforcement Officer, Keith Sharp had informed Councillor Brian Crowe who had in turn informed the Clerk that he had spoken to the owners of the property’s agent. The agent had requested further information from the owners with a view to submitting a planning application. Mr Sharp had informed that unless it was submitted within the next 14 days, he would consider taking formal Enforcement action.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and this matter will continue to be kept under review.

(c) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule

The Council was informed that Saughall fell within the Chester and Rural area where the CIL was chargeable on residential development (subject to certain exclusions). Councillor Brian Crowe had informed that 15% would go to parish councils for identified infrastructure streams but there would be a new limit of £100 per new household.

RESOLVED:

That the details of the consultation be noted.

208 POLICE/HOME WATCH

(a) Meeting with Inspector Paul Loughlin about Policing Issues in Saughall

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that several Members had attended the meeting with Inspector Paul Loughlin, who had responsibilities for beat management in the rural ward, to discuss Policing in Saughall. They had discussed some specific problems. There had been a period of time from

10 April to 10 August 2016 when the village had not had a police presence because PCSO Lauren Davies had been assigned light duties due to injury. On 11 August 2016 PCSO Wendy Leason had been re-assigned to Saughall. Consequently, it was considered that the Council should apply for a rebate in respect of the annual financial contribution of £11,918 it had made to the PCSO initiative that provided Saughall with a designated PCSO. The possibility of this had been discussed at the meeting.

Members paid tribute to PCSO Lauren Davies for all the good policing work she had carried out whilst she had been assigned to Saughall.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to apply for a rebate in respect of the annual financial contribution of £11,918 it has made to the PCSO initiative; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to PCSO Lauren Davies to express the Council's appreciation for the work she has carried out whilst she was assigned to Saughall.

(b) PCSO's Report

PCSO Wendy Leason had submitted a report but was unable to be at the meeting as she was on her rest day. The PCSO's monthly report on policing matters and anti-social behaviour in Saughall was read out as follows:

- There had been five incidents at the Red Ensign Garage between 1 and 31 August 2016 (Theft 2, Violence 2, Anti-Social Behaviour 1 and Drug Driving 1).
- Anti-Frackers camping on Shotwick Lodge Farm land.
- Suspicious Activity - 2
- Theft from Motor Vehicles – 1 – Letters had been delivered in the local area.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle – 1
- Attempted break in of a garage on Saughall Hey causing criminal damage.
- Attempted break in of a garage on Haymakers causing criminal damage.
- Newcroft
There had been a number of incidents reported by residents who had concerns that a resident had been targeted by Travellers/Rogue Traders.
An incident had occurred at the victim's address where two males had attempted to gain entry into the property and had caused damage. The Burglary Team were involved in ongoing enquiries.
- Chester LPU was operating a "Street a Week" initiative. In Saughall this was from 1 – 7 August 2016. During this week door to door consultations had taken place on Hermitage Road and in Wain Court.
- The Speed Indicator Device had been deployed on Hermitage Road from 1 – 7 August 2016.

- Speed enforcement had been carried out on Hermitage Road from 5 to 18 August 2016.
- Operation Shield had been delivered to a number of properties on Lodge Lane.
- A Dog Fouling Patrol had been conducted by the CSWs.
- A number of anti-social behaviour “hotspots” had been visited.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Wendy Leason be thanked for her informative report.

(c) ‘Street a Week’ Initiative – 1 -7 August 2016

The Council considered a summary of the findings following the Police presence in Saughall during the ‘Street and Week’ initiative as follows:

- **122 addresses** were provided with leaflets about their local officers (Beat supervisor, Beat Manager and PCSO), various useful contact numbers including Cheshire West and Chester Council, 101, Crime stoppers and various social media information to obtain local updates including Twitter and Cheshire Alert.
- **81 residents** were spoken to about their issues in the community and offered advice and reassurance.
- **12 addresses** were given operation shield kits to property mark with.
- **22 people** provided email addresses to be signed up to Cheshire Alert.
- **SID** Undertaken on **Hermitage Road** and **Church Road**.
- **16 Speed letters** sent out to 16 drivers from the Trucam deployment on Hermitage Road.
- **2 items of dog fouling** highlighted by Cheshire West and Chester Council for removal and relevant literature delivered to houses.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour hotspots attended.**
- **26 addresses** were attended in Lodge Lane to offer operation shield. Fieldway was also attended.

The Council noted that the main issue raised by residents as a concern was speeding throughout the village.

RESOLVED:

That the detailed summary set out above be noted.

(d) Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable’s Update – July and August 2016

RESOLVED:

That the content of the publication be noted.

(e) Operation Shield

Councillor A Bailey referred to the Operation Shield initiative that had been covered in the ‘Street a Week’ report above. He informed that he intended

to speak to PCSO Wendy Leason about this initiative during the next week or so.

(f) Home Watch

Councillor A Bailey informed that he had nothing to report at the moment.

(g) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the Summer Play Scheme had been held from Monday, 8 to Friday, 12 August 2016 and 23 children had attended. The Management Team had fund raised in order to keep the costs of this initiative down.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her report.

209. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 1 August 2016

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2016/2017</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Cancelled		103026
Cancelled		103027
St John Cymru – Wales (2 Defibrillators)	2,280:00	103028
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire (PCSO contribution)	11,918:00	103029
Saughall Cricket Club (Grass Cutting)	3,600:00	103030
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	511:80	103031
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	82:14	103032
Mr JE Davies (Litter Picking)	72:00	103033
Reserved for University of Chester (October Newsletter)		103034
All Saints PCC (Grant for Willow Beds Car Park)	1000:00	103035

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED

That it be noted that no receipts had been received since the last meeting of the Council.

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the cash to bank reconciliation sheet be noted.

(d) Application for a Grant from All Saints Church

The Council was requested to consider making a financial contribution to the work commissioned by All Saints Parochial Church Council on the Willow Beds Car Park that had cost £10,115 + Vat - £2,023 in total.

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £1,000 be made to All Saints Parochial Church Council to assist the work of the Willow Beds Car Park.

(e) Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rural Support Grant

The Council noted the detail of the Rural Support Programme 2016/17 and agreed that it was the sort of fund it could apply to for a grant towards the play equipment refurbishment, at the appropriate time.

210. MID-YEAR REVIEW OF THE BUDGET

The Council received a position statement prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer, Mr Graham Hudspeth, along with a list of estimated receipts from 1 April to 31 March 2017 and an estimated Fund Statement.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's budgetary position at the mid-year review stage be noted.

211. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL (CWaC) – WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Brian Crowe was not in attendance at the meeting but had sent the following reports to the Clerk which were read out:

- Work was supposed to be starting on 5 September 2016 to tidy up and improve the drains on Long Lane at long last! Councillor Crowe had requested that the hole be filled in opposite the play area at the same time.
- There was to be a designated litter pick on Fiddlers Lane and Councillor Crowe had asked for Seahill Road to be included as well.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's own work force was going to spray the weed killer from now on. Contractors had carried out the spraying on the two previous occasions.
- Councillor Crowe had nothing to report back, as yet, on the flooding in Willow Hey. However, the flag pole issue was being looked at by Morris Homes.
- The weeds on the field alongside Parkway.... apparently the Housing Trust was not making any progress on this because there was still some work to

do on the surface water drainage from the new development and Cheshire West and Chester Council would not accept it back in that condition. David Job was the contact.

- The old Baptist Cemetery was now being classed as a priority and would be brought up to an acceptable standard.
- There was an agreement to reinstate the ditch on the field behind Wain House but Welsh Water would not take the water. Councillor Crowe would provide a further report on this in due course.
- There was a proposal for a new junction on the M56 between Frodsham and Preston Brook.
- The first report of the Boundary Commission was due on approximately 13 August 2016.

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that she had contacted Councillor Brian Crowe about the possibility of the field behind the new development on Lodge Lane, that was in the ownership of his Council, being transferred to the Parish Council for a nominal fee as it would make good allotments and there was a list of parishioners waiting for them to become available. Councillor Crowe had replied informing that he would not be in favour of this proposed asset transfer. The land was close to the village centre and, therefore, a most sustainable location in planning terms and consequently a valuable asset.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be noted; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to include the proposed asset transfer on the agenda for further consideration at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 3 October 2016.

212. EMPLOYEE MATTERS

(a) The Council's Performance Appraisal Policy and Proposed Practices and Procedures

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that it was best to agree the Council's new Business and Action list before carrying out the Clerk's performance appraisal so that appropriate key tasks could be set in accordance with the Council's priorities etc. A new Business Plan was expected to be presented to the Council for approval at its meeting scheduled for 3 October 2016.

Councillor Mrs K Ford also informed that she would be making a further report in Part 2 of this meeting once the press and public had been excluded. (Minute No. 212 refers.)

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

(b) Workplace Pensions

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that the Council had to take certain actions in respect of the new workplace pension's legislation by 1 October 2016.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Ms M Collins and Mrs K Ford be authorised to take all necessary actions to ensure that the Council complies with the Workplace Pension legislation.

213. DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE VILLAGE

(a) Progress with the Order

It was reported that the Clerk had ordered two IPAD SP1 SEMI AUTOMATIC AED defibrillators from St John Cymru – Wales in the sum of £1,900 plus vat (£2,280) and the cheque had been sent to the company. They would be delivered to her once the cheque had cleared and she would bring them to Saughall.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(b) Co-op Store

Councillor A Warrington reported that he had spoken to the Manager of the Co-op Store who had informed him that the defibrillator that was to be located at the Co-op Store had to be self-funded by the Store raising the money to pay for it. The Store would be raising funds in the same way as it was doing for the litter bin that it wanted to provide in the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

214. CO-OP STORE - POST BOX

The Clerk had written the Co-op's Plant Collections Planning Manager, Ms Lynne Ashall, at Chester Mail Centre to request that the new Post Box be lowered by approximately one foot as it had been positioned too high on the wall. Consequently, residents in wheel chairs were unable to reach it.

Ms Ashall had written back to the Clerk to inform her that she was agreeable to her request and would make the arrangements with the Engineers for the Post Box to be re-positioned lower down the wall.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

215. MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL IN SAUGHALL

(a) Letter to the Secretary of State

Further to Minute No. 184, the Clerk had written to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley MP (and sent copies to Christian Matheson MP, Ofcom and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils) urging her to take appropriate steps to improve the signal in the Saughall area.

A letter dated 25 August 2016 from Mr Thomas Hall of the Ministerial Support Team had been received in reply. The letter informed that the Government was keen to improve mobile phone coverage across the UK and it remained a key issue. This was why, in December 2014, a landmark agreement had been reached under which all four MNOs had a legally binding obligation to provide voice and SMS text coverage to at least 90% of the UK landmass by the end of 2017. This was a significant change in the way MNOs provided coverage in this country and would guarantee £5 billion of investment in mobile infrastructure.

Additionally, Telefonica (02) had a further licence obligation to deliver indoor 4G coverage to 98% of premises in the UK by the end of 2017 and other MNOs had indicated that they would match this commitment. EE had also announced its ambition this year to increase 4G coverage from 60% of the UK landmass to 95% by 2020, which would ensure near-complete 4G coverage from the UK population (99.8%).

These licence obligations would bring improved coverage to the UK. Areas where there was coverage from at least one operator but not all four would be halved and areas where there was no coverage at all would be cut by two thirds, leaving just 2.4 % of the UK's landmass without a signal from any MNO by the end of 2017.

Whilst the licence obligations were legally binding and would be enforced by Ofcom, the exact extent of local improvements would be subject to commercial decisions made by MNOs. Licence obligations would result in improved coverage for Cheshire West and Chester, where partial not-spots were expected to be eliminated by landmass by the end of next year.

The Government was also making reforms to the Electronic Communications code that would make it cheaper to provide digital infrastructure and grant stronger rights for communications providers to upgrade equipment and share apparatus. Further reforms announced in March 2016 would provide greater freedoms and flexibilities in England for the deployment of mobile communications infrastructure, including new rights to build taller masts. It was hoped that these reforms would be brought into effect by late summer.

Mr Hall stated that he noted that the Ofcom coverage maps reflected residents' concerns that coverage was patchy in Saughall and varied between the different Mobile Network Operations (MNOs). Ofcom maps allowed consumers to provide feedback if stated coverage did not match

user experience and Mr Hall encouraged Saughall residents to take advantage of this facility.

Mr Hall hoped that this information would provide assurance that the Government was taking action to drive improvements in connectivity and it would continue to work with industry to support investment deliver coverage improvements in the UK.

Ofcom, the communications regulator, had been sent a copy of the Clerk's Letter for information and the Council noted that it had responded as follows:

'I am sorry to hear about the problems the residents are experiencing. We recognise that a reliable mobile phone signal is increasingly important to consumers and expect companies to resolve any network faults within their control as quickly as possible to minimise the impact on customers. However, our statutory duties require that our approach to this relates to consumers as a whole rather than engaging with individuals or groups of people.

We do, however, record complaints that are raised with us to identify trends and inform how we regulate companies. In addition, we regularly publish information about the number of complaints we receive against major companies as we hope it will incentivise them to improve their performance. The data should also be useful to consumers to allow them to choose between companies and take full advantage of competition.

It is also important that customers get treated fairly when they have a complaint against their mobile phone company. Under our rules, we require all mobile phone companies to have a customer complaints code setting out how they deal with complaints. The mobile phone company should give a customer a copy on request from its customer services and also make it easily accessible on its website.

A consumer can also consider the option of submitting an unresolved complaint about the quality of customer service they have received from their company to an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) scheme. An ADR scheme is free to access and companies are bound by any decisions it reaches. There are more details about this on Ofcom's website at: <http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/complain/phone-and-broadband-complaints/adr/>.

Regarding mobile coverage in the UK, improving this for consumers is a priority area for Ofcom and we are leading or supporting initiatives to achieve this. 99% of premises can receive a 2G signal but the proportion of the entire UK landmass able to receive a signal from all four operators has remained at 55% since 2014. This is expected to increase following an [agreement between the Government and all major operators](#) for them to achieve 90% geographic coverage of voice services by 2017.

Our Review of Digital Communications has also set out how we plan to bring better mobile coverage to consumers. We will ensure that consumers

have accurate and easy-to-use coverage information, to help them choose the best mobile phone company. This will place further pressure on network operators to improve coverage. Alongside this, we have published a call for inputs in order to help develop our potential rules on automatic compensation. The aim of these new rules would be to protect consumers from the negative impacts that service quality problems can cause. Although the call for inputs has closed, you may wish to look at the document we published at:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/automatic-compensation/summary/Automatic-Compensation.pdf>.

We intend to issue a detailed consultation with our proposals on automatic compensation by the end of this year.'

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Clerk's letter, sent on 3 August 2016 and the subsequent responses be noted.

(b) Notice of Motion – Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) Annual Meeting

The Council received a copy of the Notice of Motion the Clerk had submitted to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. It was intended that this Motion would be moved at the Annual Meeting scheduled for 6pm on Thursday, 20 October 2016 at Middlewich Town Hall as follows:

'IMPROVE MOBILE RECEPTION

Many villages and areas in Cheshire and other counties too, are mobile phone signal deserts! They have serious difficulties in receiving a signal. Consequently, customers who are resident in such areas should have discounted tariffs or the providers should improve the signal.

Our economy needs good communications. Many businesses and organisations depend on mobile phones. In the 21st Century people's expectations are high and mobile phones are a necessity.

Therefore, this Conference calls upon the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to lobby the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport along with Ofcom, the communications regulator, to carry out urgent reviews of this unacceptable situation, with the purpose of bringing about the changes required to resolve this frustrating and unacceptable situation, to the benefit of all of those people who are currently affected by poor mobile phone signals.'

It was reported that Mr Jack Hughes, a resident of Saughall, had been carrying out research on the impact and effect the poor mobile reception had on local people. He had agreed to keep the Council informed of his subsequent findings.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the wording of the Motion that will be moved by Councillor H Jennings be noted;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to send Mr Jack Hughes copies of the correspondence received from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and from Ofcom; and
- (3) Mr Jack Hughes be invited to attend the Cheshire Association of Local Council's Annual Meeting on the evening of Thursday, 6 October 2016 as a guest of this Council.

216. SAUGHALL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Councillor A Bailey proposed that the Newsletter (and the Website) be refreshed and re-launched in 2017 to include various organisations and businesses in the local area.

In the meantime, he was willing to take on the role of editor of the Parish Council Newsletter.

Parish Council items for the Newsletter would include the Mobile Phone Signal and Provision of Defibrillators in the village.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey's proposal be endorsed and he be requested to act as the Newsletter's Editor in the interim period.

217. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

- (a) Project to Develop the Park and Provide New Play Equipment – Consultation Update

Immediately, before this Council meeting Members of the Council had met with the Landscape Architect, Mary Lavery as a Work Shop to make recommendations to the Council in order to finalise the Master Plan so that progress could be made. In doing so Members were reminded that the Master Plan had been drawn up taking account of the findings of the consultation exercise that had been undertaken in the village to ascertain what local people wanted to see provided in the Golden Jubilee Park etc.

Councillor Mrs K Ford set out the recommendations of the Working Group as follows:

- (1) Leave the car park where it is currently.
- (2) The car park marked on the latest draft of the Master Plan be allocated as an area for the youth and a general meeting area.

- (3) The present swing park area be moved to the area on the latest draft of the Master Plan where the boules court is currently.
- (4) There be no boules court in the redeveloped Park so it be removed from the Master Plan.
- (5) There be no hedging around the Cheshire Railings.
- (6) There be no new pedestrian and cycle access as currently included on the latest draft of the Master Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the recommendations of the Working Group as set out above be agreed;
- (2) the Landscape Architect be requested to revise and finalise the Master Plan in the light of the recommendations that are agreed; and
- (3) in the light of the actions at (2) the revised Master Plan be approved so that progress can now begin to be made with its implementation.

(b) Play Equipment to be retained

Councillor Mrs JM Young reminded the Council that the refurbishment of the swing park had come about following the Sowden family coming forward to ask if they could provide a piece of play equipment in memory of their little girl, Emily Ffion who had died of a chest infection when she was 21 months old. Emily's parents had set up the Emily Ffion Trust in 2013.

It was noted that most of the existing play equipment failed the safety standards now required. It had been installed under the previous safety standards but if re-sited would not meet the current safety standards.

Members were informed that the Council may be able to sell the sputnik roundabout.

RESOLVED:

That the Goal End, Multi-Use Games Area, Aerial Runway and Pyramid be retained.

(c) Proposal from Mr Evans (Go-Right Cycling) to assist (by attracting external funding from Sports England) the provision of a new perimeter path around the Park for joint use of pedestrians and cyclists

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to contact Mr Evans to ascertain if he is still willing to seek external funding so that this project can go ahead.

(d) Funding Sources

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be deferred until the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 3 October 2016.

(e) Management Plan for the Park

RESOLVED:

That a Management Plan for the Park be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 3 October 2016.

(f) Memory Walk – Saturday, 20 August 2016

Councillor A Warrington informed that the Memory Walk had gone well and had been finished in time for the Cricket Club to set up for the match held in the afternoon. Approximately £300 had been raised.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(g) Pavilion Project

The Clerk had received an email dated 26 August 2016 from Mr Andrew Errington. He informed that the Saughall Rotary Club had £10,000 which it had agreed to donate if the Pavilion Project went ahead. He wanted to know if it was the Council's intention to pursue this project.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to include this item of business on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 3 October 2016.

(h) Maintenance

(i) Play Equipment Inspection – Saturday, 3 September 2016

It was reported that Councillors Mrs K Ford, H Jennings and A Warrington attended the Play Equipment Inspection held on the previous Saturday and had also received training from Mr Alan Dymond on how to carry out the weekly inspections of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at a cost of £249:95 + Vat. The point was made that there was now a lot of onus on those Members who had attended the training to check the MUGA. Therefore, in the interest of fairness and to share this responsibility, it would be prudent to agree a further date with Mr Dymond for other Members to receive training.

Mr Dymond had agreed to provide a check list for the MUGA and this would be circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(ii) Report of the Field Inspection Group

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported on the proceedings of the Field Inspection Group's meeting which had taken place on Friday, 2 September 2016. She informed that:

- the roadside hedge needed to be cut urgently. It was proposed that the hedge be thinned from the roadside as it was a hazard in certain places.
- Litter and dog dirt was in evidence.
- The Tree Warden's advice was required in respect of the 'orchard'.
- The pond was full of rubbish and the field roller had been rolled in too.
- The Co-op Store had raised £105 towards the cost of a litter bin.
- There were concerns about the ditch behind the fence as it was full of objects and litter.
- The play area was looking well but monthly maintenance would be required to keep it like this.
- The back gate required attention.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Field Inspection Group's report be noted.

(iii) Park Security – Field Gates and Height Restrictor

Three quotations had been received to supply and fit height restriction barrier, 4.4m span, to include hinge post and locking post as follows:

Modern Iron Age Designs	- £1,650
Lee Edwards	- £1,650
JC Baker	- £1,775

Members were very impressed with the work that Modern Iron Age Designs had carried out to the Cheshire railings around the Golden Jubilee Park and considered that the company did provide good value for money. Therefore, it was

RESOLVED:

That the quotation in the sum of £1,650 plus Vat from Modern Iron Age Designs be accepted.

(iv) Multi-Use Games Area

The Clerk had chased up the Contractor again (Carl Mottershead of Leisure Services (Cheshire) Ltd) regarding the work require on the Multi-Use Games Area (the bolts on the yellow boards were protruding). However, the work had still not been done.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to send another reminder to the Contractor (Carl Mottershead of Leisure Services (Cheshire) Ltd) regarding the work require on the Multi-Use Games Area (the bolts on the yellow boards were protruding).

(v) Rabbits

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that there was no progress to report on this matter.

RESOLVED:

That the situation be noted.

(vi) Quotations

There were no other quotations to discuss currently.

(vii) 'Safe Places for Local Wildlife' Project

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the Group that was running this project was awaiting the results of the competition being run by Chester Zoo. If it won the Zoo would help with the work that would be required in the making of the garden. The results were expected this month. Other workshops for children of the Uniformed Groups had been booked.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(viii) The Bungalow, Long Lane

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that she had received a telephone call from the occupier of the above property which was next to the Play Area. The occupier, Ms L Thompson had informed that her garden was not draining because the ditches were full. Her gardener was going to dig and clear her side of the ditch but the Council's side was full of tree debris and also needed to be dug and cleared out. Ms Thompson was querying whose responsibility the ditch was.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed that if you owned the hedge, the ditch at the other side was your responsibility and any work required paid for by you.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs K Ford be requested to inform Ms Thompson that the ditch was her responsibility.

218. HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Flooding on Long Lane

This matter had been covered during Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) - Ward Councillor's Report. (Minute No. 211 refers.)

(b) Speeding Traffic

Further to Minute No. 157(b) Councillor H Jennings had produced some posters asking people who had been hit by wing mirrors at or near the junction of Church Road and Hermitage Road to come forward. He had put some up but no one had approached him in respect of this.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor H Jennings be requested to put up a few more posters in the village.

(c) Parking on Grass Verges and Footpaths

RESOLVED:

That parking of vehicles on grass verges and footpaths continue to be monitored.

(d) Drop Kerbs

RESOLVED:

That motorists parking over drop kerbs is unacceptable and will continue to be monitored.

219. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

(a) Morris Homes Development – Willow Hey

This matter had been covered during Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) - Ward Councillor's Report. (Minute No. 211 refers.)

(b) Former Pear Tree Farm Site

Councillor A Bailey reported that he had attended a Planning meeting and had noted that Cheshire West and Chester Council had deemed the site to be green belt land. Consequently, the developers would need to prove exceptional circumstances existed to get planning consent.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

220. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND ALLOTMENTS

(a) Footpath Warden's Report

Councillor A Bailey informed that most of the permissive paths had been strimmed and the kissing gates had been realigned. The permissive paths would now be digitally mapped and then adopted.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be thanked for his report.

(b) Safety of Horses and Cyclists on the Old Railway Bridge over the Cycle Track

Councillor H Jennings informed that he had no progress to report.

(c) Allotments

Councillor A Bailey informed that there was no progress to report in respect of this initiative.

221. VILLAGE AESTHETICS

(a) Footpath Map Refurbishment

This item of business had been covered earlier on the agenda. (Minute No. 220 (a) refers.)

(b) More Christmas Lights in 2016?

So far no one had offered to contribute to the cost of additional Christmas Lights. This item would remain on the agenda in the hope that people may wish to financially assist this project that can be match funded by the Council.

(c) Wild Flowers, Hanging Baskets and Flower Tubs

Councillor Ms A Manning informed that she would continue to investigate the possibilities and obtain some quotations as she considered necessary.

222. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that some work had been completed but there were no recommendations for consideration at the moment.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

223. VILLAGE EVENTS

Remembrance Sunday – 13 November 2016

The Clerk informed that she had ordered two poppy wreaths. One was for the Chairman to lay at the War Memorial and the other was for the Woman's Institute, who in previous years had asked the Clerk to order its wreath and had then reimbursed the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

224. WAR MEMORIAL – VERNON INSTITUTE CLOCK TOWER – SURVEY ON THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST 2016

Councillor A Warrington reported that he had met with the ladies who had carried out the survey and it had been agreed that the War Memorial was in very good condition.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

225. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

(a) Youth Club

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Youth Club was closed at present.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(b) Vernon Institute Management Committee

Councillor PP Young reported that there was some decorating to be carried out in the Vernon Institute.

An email dated 25 August 2016 had been received from Mr Chris Harman, the Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee. He was requesting financial support from the Council towards some essential fire

safety work recently completed in the main buildings at a total cost of £2,600.

Mr Harman also informed that the Vernon Institute Management Committee was planning to refurbish and paint the outside of the building during 2017 (June – August). The Clock Tower was the Council's responsibility so it was requested that the Council bear this in mind when it set its budget for 2017/18.

Mr Harman also drew the Council's attention to the projector the Vernon Institute Management Committee was hiring out at a small nominal fee.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Chris Harman's email be considered at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 3 October 2016.

226. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) "Hop on Hop off" Parish Surgery Bus – Saturday, 27 August 2016

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported on the proceedings of the Parish Surgery on a Stagecoach Bus. It had gone very well and issues discussed had included the mobile phone signal in Saughall and the cost of buses to the Bishop's High School in Chester.

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that she had drafted a press release about the successful Bus Surgeries which she would send to the Clerk to forward to the Chester Chronicle.

Members considered other venue options for holding Parish Council Surgeries including holding them at the Saturday, Farmers' Market and providing bacon and sausage butties.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports on proceedings at the Parish Surgery be noted;
- (2) it be agreed that there will not be a Parish Surgery held before the next Council meeting on Monday, 3 October 2016; and
- (3) the Clerk be requested to include transport to High Schools on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 3 October 2016.

227. MEMBERS' TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Training Session coming up

It was noted that the following training sessions were coming up:

- Chairmanship Advanced – The afternoon of Wednesday, 28 September 2016 in Congleton.
Councillor H Jennings would attend.
- The Council and the Community on Thursday, 6 October 2016 (Evening) in Middlewich.
Councillors H Jennings and Ms A Manning would attend.

Councillor Mrs J Knox left the meeting.

228. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Members had not attended any meetings of outside bodies since the last meeting of the Council held on Monday, 5 September 2016.

It was noted that the Cheshire Association of Local Council's Annual Meeting was scheduled for 6pm on Thursday, 20 October 2016 at Middlewich Town Hall, Civic Way, Middlewich and Members gave consideration to who would attend to represent the Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillors A Bailey, H Jennings, Mrs JE Storrar and A Warrington be requested to represent the Council at the Cheshire Association of Local Council's Annual Meeting; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Jack Hughes if he would like to go along to the Cheshire Association of Local Council's Annual Meeting as the Council's guest and hear the Motion 'Improve Mobile Reception being proposed along with the debate that will follow. (Minute No. 215 refers.)

229. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that the Council was on the long list for the National Association of Local Council's Star Council Awards 2016 and the Judging Panel would meet on 15 September 2016 to decide on the winners and two runners-up (finalists).

Councillor Mrs K Ford also reported that she had received an invitation from the Mayor of Frodsham, Councillor Mallie Poulton to Castle Park House on Wednesday, 14 September 2016 at 2pm for afternoon tea with him and Councillor Judith Critchley, the Council Chair. After tea she would be taken on a tour of the gallery at Castle Park Arts Centre, before attending the Cheshire West and Chester Apprentice Fair.

RESOLVED:

That the communications received be noted.

230. CIRCULARS

No Circulars had been received.

231. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

232. CLERK'S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

Councillor Mrs K Ford referred to the Members' Code of Conduct, the ongoing conflict in the Council and poor behaviour of some Members. She requested that those Members who were behaving poorly to consider their places on the Council. The behaviour was affecting the conducting of the Council's business and was making the Clerk feel uncomfortable.

Councillor Mrs K Ford also informed that at some stage it may be appropriate to appoint a Staffing Committee. Councillor H Jennings informed if this Committee was established he was willing to chair it.

RESOLVED:

That, the position be noted and be kept under review.