

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday, 7 November 2016 at the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall.

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Council was addressed by the following residents:

Lauren Surridge spoke on a proposal for Sanctuary Housing's Garage Site, off Church Road, Saughall.

Ms Surridge was opposed to this development proposal and was disappointed by Sanctuary Housing's approach. They had been selective with the letters they had sent to residents and had not picked a good time to speak to people. Letters had been placed on parked vehicles threatening action.

Saughall Housing had said that they would not be building bungalows on the site as the site was not suitable for them. The plans proposed would mean that the new properties would overlook the bedrooms of the houses already there. Ms Surridge considered that a mix of housing should be provided. People who wanted to stay in Saughall had to leave as there was no suitable housing for them to occupy in the village.

Mrs Noller also spoke on a proposal for Sanctuary Housing's Garage Site, off Church Road, Saughall.

Mrs Noller agreed with what Ms Surridge had said. She informed that there was no footpath on the plans for the housing. Mrs Noller raised concerns over the access available to emergency vehicles, the one way system, noise levels and that the bin store was being located by her back garden.

Mrs Noller informed that she lived in a tight knit little community where the residents had maintained their back gardens to a high standard. Now they were being told that they were not allowed to park outside of their back gates. She asked if the residents were going to be compensated for maintaining their properties to a high standard.

Dennis Holman who informed that Councillor Brian Kerr had been awarded an Honorary Masters in Business Administration Degree.

Mr Holman stated that one did not become a Councillor for any personal benefit but rather to enable one to serve the local community. However, personal recognition for one's efforts was always appreciated, and for parish councillors brought not only personal esteem but also brought prestige to the whole Council and raised public confidence.

Mr Holman congratulated the Chairman, Councillor Kathy Ford on her nomination for Parish Councillor of the Year at the LCiU awards ceremony, last week. He said that although Kathy didn't win it had been a fantastic achievement to be shortlisted.

Councillor Brian Kerr had devoted 41 years of service to this Parish Council as well as 12 years to Chester City Council. He was the President of the Cheshire

Association of Local Councils, Vice-President of the National Association of Local Councils, and has previously also served the community as a magistrate and as CEO and Vice-Chairman of Chester Aid to the Homeless.

Her Majesty recognised Brian's service in 2006 when he was awarded the OBE for "Public Service in Regional Government" but Mr Holman was pleased to be able to congratulate Brian publically, on behalf of the parishioners of Saughall, for his recognition by the University of Chester at its graduation ceremonies the previous week. Brian was awarded a prestigious Honorary Masters in Business Administration Degree "in recognition of his outstanding contribution and commitment to Local Government and to the City of Chester and the County of Cheshire".

Mr Holman informed that this award now put Brian on a par with luminaries such as Terry Waite, Tony Robinson, the last Poet Laureate, Ken Dodd and Prince Charles. He asked the Council to join him in congratulating Brian on his well-deserved honour.

Councillor Mrs Kathy Ford congratulated Councillor Brian Kerr on behalf of the whole Council and presented him with a small gift.

Councillor Kerr responded as appropriate informing that he had not been expecting this. He thanked Mr Holman and Councillor Mrs Ford for their kind words and informed that the award had been a wonderful experience which he would treasure.

In attendance:

- Councillor A Bailey
- Councillor Ms M Collins
- Councillor Mrs K Ford (in the Chair)
- Councillor H Jennings
- Councillor B Kerr
- Councillor Mrs J Knox (Part)
- Councillor Ms A Manning (Part)
- Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
- Councillor Mrs JM Young
- Councillor PP Young

- Sanctuary Housing's Project Manager, Louise Chambers (Part)
- Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe (Part)
- PCSO Wendy Leason (Part)

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed the Council that she intended to raise an item of urgent business at the end of the meeting. This item would be considered in the absence of the press and public and the Clerk would not be required to be in attendance.

267. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J O'Malley and A Warrington.

268. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

269. MINUTES

Concerns were raised over the work the Clerk had commissioned for the installation of the height restrictor at the entrance to the Golden Jubilee Park. The restrictor was now in situ but the suspended nudge bar had not been fitted. The Clerk informed that she had received the invoice from the contractor for the work he had carried out.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 October 2016 be confirmed as a correct record;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to ensure that the work carried out in respect of the installation of the height restrictor at the entrance to the Golden Jubilee Park corresponded with the invoice provided before the cheque is released; and
- (3) subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the Special meeting of the Council held on 21 October 2016 be confirmed as a correct record:

Second line - delete Extra Ordinary and replace with Special.

Minute No. 259 - delete Janet and replace with Janette.

Minute No. 263 - delete off and replace with of.

Minute No. 266 - delete.

Re-number Minutes to ensure the last number used is 266.

{Following the meeting the Clerk contacted the Contractors (Modern Ironage Designs) who informed that they had included a nudge bar in the quotation provided. However, after further consideration they were of the opinion that it would be vulnerable to vandalism so they had not fitted one. The cost of this had not been included on the invoice. Therefore, the Clerk had released the cheque in payment for the work carried out.}

270. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Applications

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

(i) 16/04347/FUL

Proposal: Removal of existing boarding kennels and construction of two dwellings.

Location: Leven's Farm, Parkgate Road, Saughall.

'The Parish Council objects to this planning application. This is because the property is in the green belt and there has already been a conversion of buildings for the Kennel Manager's use.'

(ii) 16/004841/FUL

Proposal: Extension to existing primary school.

Location: Saughall All Saints Primary School, Church Road, Saughall.

'No objections.'

(b) Planning Decisions

RESOLVED:

That the following planning decisions, made by the planning authority, be noted:

(i) 16/03062/FUL

Proposal: Rear extension including accommodation within loft space, new driveway and pavement crossing.

Location: Lyndhurst, Seahill Road, Saughall.

'Approval.'

(ii) 16/03969/FUL

Proposal: Two storey side extension.

Location: 13 Lodge Lane, Saughall.

'Approval.'

(iii) 16/04051/FUL

Proposal: Alteration to detached garage to insert a single roller shutter door (retrospective).

Location: 1 Shotwick Park, Seahill Road, Saughall.

'Approval.'

(iv) 16/03916/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of existing outbuildings and replacement with single storey side extension to provide annexe.

Location: Lyndhurst, Seahill Road, Saughall.

'Approval.'

(v) 16/03756

Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension, porch to front and small side garage

Location 20 The Ridings, Saughall.

'Approval.'

(c) 122 Hermitage Road, Saughall

The Enforcement Officer, Keith Sharp had emailed the Clerk on 4 October 2016 to inform her that he had met with and heard from the owner's planning agent, who had submitted information on his client's behalf. A planning application had not been submitted. Therefore, formal Planning Enforcement action would be taken. He promised to update the Council in more detail on the action taken as soon as it was possible.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the Enforcement Officer and request a further update on this planning issue.

(d) Cheshire West and Chester Council's Development Planning – Parish and Town Council (Local Council) Relationship Protocol

Members received a copy of the proposed Protocol and noted that the consultation period ran until Friday, 18 November 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the proposed Parish and Town Council (Local Council) Relationship Protocol be noted.

(e) Cheshire West and Chester Council's Local Plan: Draft Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution SPD

Members were informed that a consultation on Cheshire West and Chester Council's Local Plan: Draft Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution SPD was running from Friday, 7 October to Friday, 18 November 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the details on the consultation on Cheshire West and Chester Council's Local Plan: Draft Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution SPD be noted.

(f) Flintshire Local Development Plan
Strategic Options – Growth and Spatial Options

Members were informed of the details of a consultation on Flintshire Local Development Plan Strategic Options – Growth and Spatial Options which was running from Friday, 28 October to Friday, 9 December 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the details on the consultation on Flintshire Local Development Plan Strategic Options – Growth and Spatial Options be noted.

(g) Suspension of Standing Orders

Councillor Mrs K Ford proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order that Ms Chambers could address the Council and answer questions.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Standing Orders be suspended whilst the planning proposal for the Garage Site, off Church Road is under consideration so that Ms Chamber can speak and answer Members' questions on the proposed development as well as those from members of the public.

(h) Sanctuary Housing – Garage Site, off Church Road, Saughall – Affordable Housing Scheme

Louise Chambers, Project Manager at Sanctuary Housing thanked the Council for her invitation to attend the meeting to address Members on her employer's proposals to develop affordable housing on the garage site in its ownership and passed copies of the plans around.

Ms Chambers informed that Sanctuary Housing was now of the view that it could provide six x one bedroom general needs apartments on the site for rent plus parking for each apartment. Previously, it had been the intention to provide eight of these apartments.

Ms Chambers had informed the Clerk by email that when visiting and surveying the site, Sanctuary Housing officials had noticed that there had been a considerable amount of vehicular and pedestrian access taken from the site, without consent, for individual rear gardens and a number of cars had been parking on the site without permission. Sanctuary Housing knew that this had been a long standing use of the site and it did not wish to cause disruption to residents until it was able to firm up plans for development. However, it did need to advise the residents of its intentions in respect of the site to ensure that no further access points were taken from the site which may impede its development opportunity. The Housing Management Team was sending out notices to those using the site to advise that no further access points would be granted.

Ms Chambers also informed that she was awaiting comments on the development proposal from the Highways Authority and would also take on board comments received from members of the public.

The following points were noted:

- The access was a concern, particularly in respect of emergency vehicles and the Highways Authority's comments were awaited.
- Sanctuary Housing had been unnecessarily high handed with people who had been parking on the site for 40 years.
- The properties would remain in Sanctuary Housing's ownership and there would be a Local Lettings Policy introduced. People who had a local connection would need to register with Sanctuary Housing to apply and be considered as tenants for the properties.
- The access road has never been maintained. Parents with children at the All Saints C of E Primary School parked their vehicles there and it was difficult to get in and out. There have been near misses there already. This could be an accident waiting to happen.
- There were no footpaths at access points. Providing paths would make the access points smaller. However, Sanctuary Housing may provide paving in a different colour instead of footpaths.
- There were serious drainage issues in the village. Saughall was water logged. Recent examples of this problem included Long Lane and Willow Hey.
- Asbestos had been found on the site where the new vicarage was going to be built. That site was consequently condemned. However, Sanctuary Housing would carry out a site investigation prior to any building work.
- The housing being proposed would be for a mixed age range. There was a potential social conflict with this proposal.
- The number of vehicles to be accommodated on this site with 1-1½ parking bays per housing unit was a concern. It may be necessary to further reduce the number of proposed apartments further from six to four.

Standing Orders back in force.

Members discussed the proposal further and proposed that Ms Chambers take the concerns expressed back to Sanctuary Housing for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to set out the concerns raised at this meeting over Sanctuary Housing's proposal for the Garage Site off Church Road, Saughall in writing and send them to Louise Chambers at Sanctuary Housing for consideration.

271. POLICE/HOME WATCH

(a) PCSO's Report

PCSO Wendy Leason provided a report on crimes and anti-social behaviour in Saughall between 1 and 31 October 2016 as follows:

Over the Beat Area there had been 158 Incidents, 38 of them occurred in Saughall.

Anti-Social Behaviour - 8

7 of the incidents had been at the location of Wain Court. A Sanctuary Housing Officer had been made aware. There have been regular patrols from Officers in the area which had resulted in a number of youths being spoken to and no recent incidents had been reported.

Burglary Other

A male who had been committing theft offences in Chester, Ellesmere Port and the Wirral had been arrested. He may have been responsible for the theft from the construction site at Costco.

Theft from Motor Vehicle – 4 reported

It was known that there has been at least one other incident which had not been reported.

Theft Other - 4

All occurred at the Red Ensign Garage.

Shoplifting - 1

The incident was at the Red Ensign Garage.

Suspicious Activity 7

There was nothing of concern or connected.

Violence - 2

Concern for Safety - 2

Highway Dispute – 2

Domestic – 2

Missing Person – 1

Drugs – 1

Criminal Damage – 1

Public Order - 1

It was noted that the bus shelter on Hermitage Road at the end of The Ridings had been damaged.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Wendy Leason be thanked for this informative report.

(b) PCSO Funding

The Clerk reported that she had requested a rebate on the Council's financial contribution towards the cost of providing a PCSO in Saughall during the period 10 April to 10 August 2016 when the PCSO assigned to Saughall had her police duties moderated due to injury. Consequently, four months payments were to be refunded.

Sarah Boycott, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, Operations had replied to the Clerk on 14 October 2016 to inform her that she had asked the Finance Department to make arrangements for the Council to be reimbursed for four months' worth of payments.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk's report be noted and the agreed refund be awaited.

(c) PCSO Partnership Arrangements

The Council received a copy of a letter dated 17 October 2016 from the Chief Constable, Simon Byrne which set out the partnership arrangements in relation to PCSOs.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Chief Constable's letter be noted.

(d) Operation Shield

Councillor A Bailey informed that he had nothing to report on this initiative at the present time.

(e) Home Watch

Councillor A Bailey informed that the Police had praised the community spirit which had been instrumental in the arrest and subsequent jailing for six years of a man who had been acting suspiciously.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be thanked for his report.

(f) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the Team had been asked to assist with traffic control and monitor the car park during the Christmas Lights Switch-On event on Wednesday, 7 December 2016.

The Team was also arranging a quiz night on 9 December 2016 and the proceeds would assist the Summer Play Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her report.

272. ACCOUNTS

(a) Audit of Accounts 2015/16

The Council received a letter dated 29 September 2016 from the External Auditor along with the Annual Return and noted that he had qualified the audit because a Risk Assessment had not been minuted during the year. The Council reaffirmed its intention to ensure in future that it reviewed the effectiveness of its internal controls on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the content of the External Auditor's letter of 29 September 2016 and the Annual Return be noted; and

(2) the decision taken at the Council meeting on 3 October 2016 (Minute No. 239(a) refers.) that Council's Business Plan and Action List be revised to include an annual review of the effectiveness of its internal controls, including carrying out an annual risk assessment, at the same time as the Council reviews its insurance cover, be reaffirmed.

(b) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 3 October 2016

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2016/2017</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
RBL Poppy Appeal (2 wreaths)	34:00	103047
Vernon Institute (Grant to Table Tennis Club from Cllr B Crowe)	500:00	103048
The University of Chester (Printing of Newsletter)	406:00	103049
Mr D Holman (Mileage – delivering Newsletter to the Standard for distribution)	6:82	103050
NWN Media Ltd (Newsletter Distribution)	39:19	103051
Morrall Play Services Ltd	54:00	103052
Dutton's Agricultural Contractors Ltd (Hedge cutting)	288:00	103053

All Saints Church (Parish Room rental)	10:00	103054
Cheshire Association of Local Councils (FOI and Data Registration Training for 3 Cllrs)	180:00	103055
Modern Ironage Design (Height Restrictor for Golden Jubilee Park)	2,485:00	103056
Mr JE Davies (Litter Picking)	72:00	103057
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	494:58	103058
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	70:26	103059
Vernon Institute (Room Rental)	161:25	103060
Mr J Kerr (Piper – Remembrance Sunday)	50:00	103061
Mr N Pnematicatos (Minister - Remembrance Sunday)	75:00	103062

On 14 November 2016 an instalment of £943.14 would be paid by direct debit to the Public Works Loan Board.

(c) Receipts

RESOLVED

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

(d) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

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

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

Councillor Brian Crowe reported on the following issues of interest to the Council as follows:

- Flooding on Willow Hey – Cheshire West and Chester Council was still in negotiation with Welsh Water and a further report would be provided in due course.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council would not provide free flower tubs but could provide the contact details for suppliers of them.
- Boundary Commission – Next General Election. Under draft plans the number of parliamentary constituencies would fall significantly, reducing the number of MPs in Parliament by 50 to 600, while most seats would change in size and character, for the first time in at least a decade. The Parish Council was asked to support the draft proposals
- The Boundary Commission was proposing that from 2018 the number of constituencies in the North West must reduce from 75 to 68 and consequently the number of Councillors would reduce.
- Negotiations continued with the developer regarding the planning proposal for Pear Tree Farm.
- A report had been placed in the public domain about special expenses. The point was made that special expenses benefited the Council Tax

Payer not the Parish Council. It was an attempt to address double taxation.

- It was proposed that Fracking planning applications would be approved if local criteria were met.

Councillor A Bailey raised concerns that Cheshire East Council had informed that from 12 January 2017 it would be unable to provide the Parish Council with the email service and this could mean that it may lose its gov. domain.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Councillor Brian Crowe be thanked for his report; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to ask the company who hosts the Council's website (Daisy Communications Limited) if it is able to provide an email service.

274. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE UN-PARISHED AREA OF CHESTER

Members received an email dated 27 October 2016 from the Democracy Programme Manager at Cheshire West and Chester Council, Andrea Thwaite which set out the details of the Stage 1 consultation exercise which ran from 20 October to 14 December 2016.

The Council's view on this matter was requested.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform the Democracy Programme Manager at Cheshire West and Chester Council that this Council is of the view that all areas of Chester should be parished.

275. VILLAGE AMENITIES AND AESTHETICS

(a) Amenities

- Closure Threat to Saughall Pharmacy

Councillor H Jennings reported that the fees Pharmacies received for prescriptions were being reduced. This would hit the local Pharmacy on Church Road very hard. Mr Shukla the Pharmacist carried out a considerable amount work for nothing to support the aging population in the village e.g. advising and deliveries. This was not recognised by the Government.

Members agreed that the Pharmacy was a valuable village asset and they did not want it to close but if it did they were aware that residents could not access another local Pharmacy by bus. The Government was encouraging people not to visit their Doctor but to visit a Pharmacy instead and this was contrary to its plans to reduce Pharmacies fees and charges.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP in support of community Pharmacies in the rural area and ask him to revisit Pharmacy funding to ensure they can be sustained going forward.

- Post Box at the Co-op Store

The Clerk had been informed that the work to lower the Post Box would be carried out no later than 16 October 2016. Unfortunately, this work had not been done at all. The Clerk had made further representations and had been reassured that the work had now been re-classified as a high priority.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

- BT Telephone Box Removal Consultation

The Clerk had received an email dated 7 October 2016 from Cheshire West and Chester Council's, Senior Localities Officer (Rural), Sarah Dobbins. She had informed that BT currently had a 90 day consultation running on BT telephone box removals. There was one under review in Saughall. This was the one at the Egerton Arms Public House which had been not been used in last 12 months.

Ms Dobbins asked the Clerk to confirm whether the Parish Council wanted to submit any comments on the telephone box's proposed removal.

Councillor A Bailey reported that it was impossible to make calls from this telephone box as it had been out of order since June 2015. He had reported this to BT twice but unfortunately repairs had not been carried out. It also needed a new door.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write back to Ms Dobbins informing her that the telephone box has been out of order since June 2015 and proposing that the necessary repairs be carried out and the telephone box be left in situ for a further 12 months to see if it is used before a decision is made on its future.

- Saughall Rotary Club – Seats/Benches for the Village

It was known that the Rotary Club wanted to fund the purchase of some seats/benches to be located around the village. Members agreed to obtain more information in respect of this proposal.

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be included on the agenda for the next Council meeting scheduled for 5 December 2016.

(b) Aesthetics

- Footpath Map refurbishment

Councillor A Bailey informed that there was nothing to report at present but hopefully he would have some good news to impart at the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the situation be noted.

- Proposal for Tubs of Flowers

Councillor Ms A Manning reported that she had obtained some quotes for tubs of flowers and the preferred option was to hire tubs of plants from June to September at a cost of £199 per tub.

Councillor Ms Manning proposed that three planters of one metre square be located on the grass verge opposite All Saints Church in Saughall. They would be between the turning into Saughall Hey and the path across the grass verge before the bus stop was reached. These planters would be placed five metres apart to deter cars from parking.

It was suggested that perhaps the Rotary Club may be willing to fund a tub of plants.

If Councillor Ms Manning's proposal was to go ahead it would need the agreement of Cheshire West and Chester Council. She agreed to draw up the proposal for the Clerk to submit to the Area Highways Manager, Kieran Collins for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed planter scheme be supported, in principle, and the Area Highways Manager be consulted on the detail.

276. UNCONVENTIONAL GAS EXTRACTION (UGE)

The Clerk had received an email dated 5 October 2016 from Councillor Ms Jean Evans of Upton-by-Chester Parish Council in relation to the problems of Unconventional Gas Extraction, which impinged directly on Upton. Upton-by-Chester Parish Council was of the view, however, that this was a matter which affected everyone and it wanted to be able to work with other Parish Council's in the area to agree a policy on it.

Upton-by-Chester Parish Council had set up a working group on UGE and one of its Members had written an excellent draft policy which the group was hoping to get ratified by the Parish Council shortly.

At a recent meeting Upton-by-Chester Parish Council had discussed getting together with other Parish Councils in the area to work together in formulating policy, taking action etc.

Upton-by-Chester Parish Council had tried contacting the Cheshire Association of Local Councils in an effort to get together with other Parish Councils but nothing had happened as a result and the working group had decided to get in touch with individual Parish Councils in order to make some progress. Councillor Ms Evans asked whether this Council would be interested in supporting this fracking policy initiative and informed that people in Upton were very much against fracking.

RESOLVED:

That this Council will not enter into any dialogue on fracking as it has not discussed it and come to a view, therefore, it is inappropriate for Members to represent the Council on this fracking initiative at this time.

277. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Project to Develop the Park and Provide New Play Equipment – Master Plan

The Landscape Architect, Fiona Huyton had produced the final draft of the Master Plan for the re-development of the Golden Jubilee Park following a request from the Council, at its last meeting on 3 October 2016, to revise it. (Minute No. 244 refers.) The Council was happy with the final draft and the Clerk informed that she would post it on the Council's website as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

That the approved Master Plan be posted on the Council's website at the earliest opportunity.

(b) Official Complaint about Saughall Cricket Club

The Clerk had been copied in on an email dated 5 October 2016 from Mr Clinton Bird, who lived in Fiddlers Lane, to Mr Brian Huxley, Chairman of Saughall Cricket Club. The email contained an official complaint about cricket balls being hit over the fencing and netting that was put up around the Golden Jubilee Park and the damage caused to Mr and Mrs Bird's property as a result.

Mr Bird had asked the Council to take this matter very seriously as one day it may not be just property that was hit by a cricket ball. He had asked the Cricket Club for a reply outlining proposals to remedy the situation so that cricket balls could not escape.

Councillor B Kerr informed that, as the landowner, the Council had a duty to remind the Cricket Club that it had a duty of care to ensure cricket balls did not leave the Golden Jubilee Park. If the Club's netting was inadequate it must do something about it.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to ascertain from Mr Brian Huxley exactly what the Cricket Club was intending to do to address this serious complaint and ensure that there is no further damage caused by cricket balls; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to Mr Clinton Bird to let him know that the Council has considered his official complaint, that it is taking it very seriously and that she has asked the Cricket Club what it intends to do to ensure there is no further damage caused.

(c) Funding Sources

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be kept on the agenda.

(d) Producing a Management Plan for the Park

This item would be covered in the Report of the Field Inspection Group. (Minute No. 277(e) (iii) below.)

(e) Maintenance

(i) Play Equipment Inspection – 3 September 2016

The Council was informed that Massey and Harris were in the process of compiling a price list for the work they would be able to undertake.

RESOLVED:

That the list of the work Massey and Harris can carry out along with associated costings be awaited.

(ii) Multi-Use Games Area – Weekly Inspections

The Clerk reported that Mr A Dymond had promised to provide a checklist. He had also been requested to confirm whether any more bolts needed to be cut. The contractor (Leisure Services Co UK – Carl Motterhead) had informed that all protruding bolts that were just above head height had been cut.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(iii) 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 recently in inclement weather and the Tree Warden, Mrs Helen Cakebread had been in attendance. She informed that:

- The dead tree was still overhanging.
- The hedges had been cut and there was now more of the field exposed.
- Possible signs of badgers had been observed.
- The pond needed to be cleaned out urgently.
- A five year Maintenance Plan for the Golden Jubilee Park had been discussed and would be drawn up at a further meeting that would be held shortly.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the Field Inspection Group's report be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to obtain quotations for pond clearance and the disposal of the rubbish.

(iv) Rabbits

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be deferred for consideration to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 7 November 2016.

(v) Quotations

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported on quotations she had obtained as follows:

- A.J's Fencing and Garden Maintenance

Remove the old gate, relocate 4.5m into field with new metal posts, 3 rail wooden fence both sides.
Cost including all materials and labour £840.

- Bell Stone Masonry

Option 1

Remove the gate and unstable hinging post. Re-fit new steel post, hinges and re-hang the gate.
Cost £505 + Vat.

Option 2

Remove and re-instate the gate with new steel posts and hinges, approximately 4.5m back from the original position.
Cost £790 + Vat.

RESOLVED:

That Bell Stone Masonry's Option 2 quotation be accepted in the sum of £790 + Vat.

(vi) 'Safe Places for Local Wildlife' Project'

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the Group had a Bug Hotel in place and Water Butts would be put in place next week.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(vii) Grass Cutting

No quotations had been obtained for cutting the grass in the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that this Council will continue with the contract to cut the grass in the Golden Jubilee Park it has with Saughall Cricket Club.

278. HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Speeding Traffic

The Council considered an email dated 5 October 2016 from Mrs Kelly Bird. She was concerned about the speed of cars driving through the village, particularly by the Golden Jubilee Park, coming from the Parkgate Road and speeding down Long Lane into Church Road.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Cheshire West and Chester Council's Principal Engineer – Place Operations, Kay Parry to remind her that she agreed to arrange a speed analysis on Long Lane with a view to introducing a 30mph speed limit all the way to the Parkgate Road;

(b) Proposed 20mph Zones

In January 2016, the Cheshire West and Chester Cabinet had voted to introduce Borough wide 20mph speed limits.

The policy agreed to introduce 20mph speed limits where the following criteria were met:

- Residential roads where the mean speed was below 24mph
- Outside schools where the mean speed was below 30mph.

Cheshire West and Chester Council was proposing to implement the scheme during the current financial year.

The Council received a copy of a letter dated 3 October 2016 from Mr Keith Stinson to the Area Highways Manager about the proposed 20mph speed limit in Saughall recommending that the proposed 20mph limit on Hermitage road be extended 100 metres past the junction with Meadows Lane to considerably reduce the risk of collision.

The Council also received a copy of an email dated 4 November 2016 from Mr Ian Mason to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Speed Management making the following points in respect of the proposed 20mph zones:

- Wherever possible, the opportunity should be taken to reduce the proliferation of 20 mph signs and street signage in general. Particularly when located within the boundary of the Saughall village conservation area. On Seahill Road the restricted area and the 20 mph signs should be located beyond the boundary of the conservation area to Fernlea Close or beyond and signage should not be placed outside the village pub or opposite the Vernon Institute such as to affect the visual amenity of the centre of the village.
- On Hermitage Road, the restricted area should commence beyond Fox Lea. This will avoid the necessity of placing multiple signs at the entrance to Vernon Close, Fox Lea and Whaley Court. If possible, I would like to see the restriction and signage extended to beyond Meadows Lane.
- On Church Road, I would like to see the restricted zone extended to the entrance to the village at Fiddlers Lane. Again, this would reduce the proliferation of signs at each of the side roads along that stretch of Church Road.

Mr Mason believed that speeds were effectively below 20mph throughout all of the above stretches of road through the village. The limit would, therefore, be self-policing and the proliferation of signage kept to a minimum.

Councillor Mrs J Knox left the meeting.

Members considered the proposed 20mph Zones and were of the view that they were going to be in the wrong place. There were also concerns about the amount of signage that would be needed.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Cheshire West and Chester Council's Principal Engineer – Place Operations, Kay Parry that this Council is not happy about what is proposed as it considers the 20mph zones are in the wrong place. Members' preference is 20mph for the whole village. They are also concerned about the signage, particularly as there is a conservation area in the village.

(c) Parking on Grass Verges

The Council considered an email dated 7 November 2016 from Ms Jean McGlynn who asked the Council to take action to stop motorists from parking on the grass verges on Church Road before there was a fatal accident. Motorists pulling out of Saughall Hey could not see the traffic coming down the road as their visibility was obscured by parked cars. If these cars were parked on the road they would help to slow the traffic down.

An email dated 2 November 2016 was also considered from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Principal Engineer – Place Operations, Kay Parry who informed that she could look at a prohibition of waiting on the grass verges on Church Road but suggested that if she did it should be on the full length from Saughall Hey to Fiddlers Lane. Before she did this she requested that the Council consulted residents along the length to check if they were in favour of the proposal. Also, the Council would have to fund 50% of the cost.

However, with regards to the section Mrs McGlynn referred to, whilst Mrs Parry did not condone the parking on the grass verges as it caused considerable damage she actually considered vehicles parking on the carriageway would reduce the visibility of oncoming traffic more if parked on the carriageway and considered that the double yellow lines which were in place protected the junction adequately, particularly given that this section of the village was within the proposed 20mph speed limit currently being consulted upon.

Encouraging vehicles to park on the carriageway at this point, if parked on the same side of the road as the verge was also likely to lead to congestion being opposite the bus stop and would also conflict with where parking currently occurred at church and school times so overall Mrs Parry considered that it would make the situation at that location worse.

Mrs Parry proposed, as a preferable first course of action, that the PCSO spoke to the residents and asked those with driveways to ensure they used them when possible and those who did not have driveways to consider parking further away from the junction?

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact PCSO Wendy Leason and ask her to speak to the residents as Mrs Parry had suggested and arrange to meet with her to progress this.

(d) Parking on Footpaths

The Council considered an email dated 1 November 2016 from Ms Anne Walker who was concerned about selfish parking on pavements in Saughall. Often when she was out wheeling her grandchildren in a pram she was forced to step down into the road because she was unable to get passed on the path because of vehicles being parked on it.

The Council was well aware that PCSO did not have the power to issue tickets to motorists who caused an obstruction.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask PCSO Wendy Leason to, in future, arrange for a Police Officer to ticket vehicles that were parked on pathways causing an obstruction.

279. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND ALLOTMENTS

(a) Footpath Warden's Report

Councillor A Bailey informed that he had nothing to report but he would have a report for the next Council meeting.

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

Councillor H Jennings informed that he had been in contact with the engineers at Sustrans and they would not allow volunteers to carry out the work required to provide a new track which would allow pedestrians, horses and cyclists to avoid the bridge crossing. However, Sustrans were willing to carry out the work thereby ensuring it met their standards but it would cost the Council between £1000 and £2000 for them to do this.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ascertain if an English Parish Council could commission and fund this piece of cycle track in Flintshire, Wales.

(c) Allotments

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

280. VILLAGE EVENTS

(a) Remembrance Sunday – 13 November 2016

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported on the arrangements she had made for Remembrance Sunday. She informed that the Minister Mr Nick Pnematicatos required a fee of £150. This had come out of the blue as it had been thought he was providing his services for free. The Ex Service Men and Woman were prepared to pay the fee but she asked if the Council would be willing to make a financial contribution towards it.

Councillor Mrs K Ford also informed that she had commissioned a Piper, Mr J Kerr to play. Mr Kerr was willing to attend the afternoon service and provide his services for free. However, she proposed that the Council give him £50 as a gesture of good will.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to provide two signed cheques as follows:

- £75 made out to Mr N Pnematicatos
- £50 made out to Mr J Kerr.

(b) Christmas Lights Switch On – Wednesday, 7 December 2016

It was reported that the Christmas Lights would be switched on at 6:30pm.

RESOLVED:

That the time of the Christmas Lights Switch-on be noted.

(c) 'Music in the Park' – Saturday, 3 June 2017

The Clerk had received an email dated 28 October 2016 from Mrs Kath Evans requesting the use of the Golden Jubilee Park for the 'Music in the Park' event on Saturday, 3 June 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to reply to Mrs Kath Evans informing her that the Council had agreed to her request for the use of the Golden Jubilee Park for the 'Music in the Park' event on Saturday, 3 June 2017.

281. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Parish Surgery at the Farmers' Market

Councillor H Jennings provided a brief report on the proceeding of the Parish Council Surgery held on Saturday, 29 October 2016 at the Vernon Institute.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor H Jennings' report be noted.

- (b) Arrangements for the Next Parish Council Surgery

RESOLVED

That Councillor A Bailey be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery to be held on Saturday, 26 November 2016 at the Farmers' Market in the Vernon Institute from 10am until 12 noon.

282. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Outside Events Coming Up

- The Mayor of Frodsham's Thanksgiving Service and High Tea at 3pm on 23 April 2017 at the Parish Church of St Laurence.
Councillors Mrs K Ford and A Warrington indicated that they would be attending.

(b) Outside Events Attended

- Cheshire Playing Fields Association's Annual General Meeting at 10:30am on Tuesday, 11 October 2016 at Helsby Community Sports Club, Chester Road, WA6 0DL

Councillor Mrs JM Young had attended this meeting and reported that it had been very interesting and the Six Acre Standard had been discussed. Also, the advice she had received in respect of the Council's decision to move the Children's Play Area to a different site within the Golden Jubilee Park was to consult the Insurance Company on this decision that had been made.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Council's Insurance Company and ask for advice in respect of the relocation of the Children's Play Area.

- National Association of Local Council's Annual Conference on Wednesday, 19 and Thursday, 20 October 2016 at Jury's Inn Hotel, Birmingham

Councillor Mrs K Ford provided a brief report on the proceedings at the National Association of Local Council's Annual Conference.

- Cheshire Association of Local Council's Annual Meeting at 6pm on Thursday, 20 October 2016 at Middlewich Town Hall, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9AS

Councillors A Bailey, H Jennings, Mrs JE Storrar and A Warrington had attended along with two invited guests (Jack Hughes and his partner Victoria). Members informed that those in attendance at the Annual

Meeting had been impressed with the Motion the Council had put forward and Jack Hughes had performed very well indeed.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

283. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The Clerk had received correspondence from Ms Julie Wilson applying to be co-opted onto the Council. Ms Wilson had informed that she was enthusiastic about being involved with community affairs and with the improvements to be made to the Children's Play Area. She also had experience in editing newsletters and was interested in being involved with the new Community Newsletter.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to inform Ms Wilson that currently there are no vacancies on the Council so it is not possible to consider her for co-option;
- (2) Councillor A Bailey be requested to contact Ms Wilson to see if she is willing to edit the new Community Newsletter; and
- (3) Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to contact Ms Wilson to invite her to join the Field Inspection Group.

Councillor Ms A Manning and the Clerk left the meeting.

284. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under section 100 (A) 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 I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act in that it contains commercially sensitive information. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

285. PARISH COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

RESOLVED:

That employment practices be considered at an informal meeting.