

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE  
held on 23 January 2002 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson  
Councillor A Bailey  
Councillor Mrs B Bell  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey

Co-opted Member: Mr C McIlwrick

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor A Warrington

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 September 2001 be confirmed as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 21 – Crime and Disorder in Saughall, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)

Mr McIlwrick reported that Chief Inspector Dave Hill had mentioned specifically that details on ABCs would be provided soon.

It was noted that following the Clerk's letter to Mr Paul Durham, Chief Executive, Chester City Council, Mr Robert Callow, the Council's Community Safety Officer, had eventually been given the task of liaising with the Parish Council and had agreed to attend the next meeting in order to make a presentation on his role and the work of the Chester Community Safety Partnership

Minute No 27 – Policing in Saughall

It was reported that there had been a meeting earlier in the evening between various interested parties in order to form a Management Committee for the Saughall Youth Club.

4 SAFER CHESTER  
CRIME AND DISORDER AUDIT AND CONSULTATION 2001/2002

Chester City Council, Cheshire County Council and the Police, working with other organisations, had shared responsibility to help make Chester a safer place by working in partnership.

In 1999 the Chester Community Safety Partnership had published a three year strategy – A Safer Chester. This document was now being reviewed. A Crime and Disorder Audit had been carried out and a consultation exercise was underway to find out if interested parties (those people who had a representative or community role) believed that the partnership had got it right.

Members considered the Audit Summary which had been produced to help set a range of priorities which complimented local policing plans and local authority strategies, together with the plans of the Youth Offending Team, Drug Action Team and the Probation Service. A full review of the existing Community Safety Strategy, together with an analysis of a wide range of information relating to crime, unemployment, housing, education, health and poverty formed the basis of the Audit carried out.

Members noted in particular that of the wards in the rural area, Saughall had the third highest incidents of crime recorded and this was obviously disproportionate to other villages of a similar size.

After a full analysis of the content of the Audit Summary, Members formulated a number of questions to put to Mr Callow at the Council meeting scheduled for Monday, 4 February 2002.

5 GRASSED AMENITY AREAS – “NO BALL GAMES”  
IN PURSUIT OF A BYELAW

Since the last meeting of the Committee the Clerk had been in regular contact with Chester City Council Officers in an attempt to get them to support the Parish Council’s initiative and apply for a byelaw in respect of the four grassed areas in the village. To inform the process the Parish Council had carried out a consultation exercise with those residents affected. Only two of these had indicated opposition to the proposal to introduce a byelaw.

Mr Clive Roberts of Chester City Council’s Leisure Services had now responded to the Clerk, following representations from Councillor Mrs JE Storrar, informing that the City Council had not sought to control nuisance on open spaces in this way in the past because of enforcement implications and had found that in the majority of cases voluntary notices and/or landscaping to break up natural pitch areas had been effective. Due to this possible departure from current policy therefore he intended to refer the matter to the Environment Portfolio holder Councillor Paul Roberts. Therefore it would be appropriate to furnish Councillor Roberts with the details of the local consultation.

The Chairman of the Parish Council had arranged through the local Ward Councillors to hold a meeting and site visits with Councillor Roberts to fully brief him on why the Parish Council considered a byelaw was the appropriate way forward.

#### 6 ISSUES OF CONCERN

The Committee had wanted to air issues of local concern with the rural police officer and were disappointed that he had neither attended nor apologised for his absence.

Concern was also raised over the profile of the village's nominated rural police officer and it was perceived that his presence was sadly lacking in the village when he was on duty.

It was agreed that other police officers were communicating very effectively with Homewatch Officials and with the Parish Council.

#### 7 PROJECT RURAL MATTERS

Mr McIlwrick provided Members with a brief report on the new policing initiative – Project Rural Matters, informing on what it entailed and what it was hoped to achieve from it.

#### 8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date and time of the next meeting of the Committee would be set at the Annual Council Meeting on 13 May 2002.