

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 2 July 2001 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson
Councillor A Bailey
Councillor Mrs BW Bell
Councillor H Dobson
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar (part)
Councillor RA Storrar (part)
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs J Young

County Councillor D Rowlands
Mr C Wynne-Eaton – Tree Warden

110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor SS Evans
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor GF Williams

111 LOCAL RADIO FOR CHESTER AND SURROUNDING PARISHES
THE RADIO AUTHORITY AND LICENCE

Mr Steven Maskery, Founder and Non-executive Director of Deva FM, had been invited to the meeting to tell the Council about the new local radio licence which was to be advertised by the Radio Authority.

Members received a presentation and were told that during July 2001 the Radio Authority, the regulatory body for independent radio in the UK, was expected to advertise a local radio licence for Chester or South Flintshire and the immediately surrounding areas. This was only the second time such a licence had been available. Most recently in 1997 the Authority advertised two 'SALLIE' or Small Scale Alternative Location Licences in the County. In the event the successful applicants were for new services in Warrington – Wire FM and Macclesfield – Silk FM. The licence would be for eight years although the vast majority of licensees did have their licenses renewed.

The licence was awarded to the applicant who could best demonstrate the ability to run a suitable service with strong local support and financial stability. Mr Maskery believed that the Board and Investors of Deva FM would be able to demonstrate its suitability.

The commercial radio industry in the UK started in 1973. Of the 250 commercial local and regional licences and 3 national stations Chester was the

only city not to have its own BBC or commercial radio station. Granted, it was served from a technical perspective by the services of Marcher MFM and Gold from Wrexham, Buzz FM from the Wirral, City FM and Gold from Liverpool and Century FM, the North West regional station from Manchester, as well as the BBC and other specialist services. Editorially however including news, features, presenter chat and advertising all of these services had a different or at least a wider editorial brief than just Chester.

The process of winning a local radio licence was rightly a very competitive one. There were likely to be at least four applicants for this licence including Deva FM. In 1997 there were 10 applicants for 2 licences.

This licence could be awarded to Chester or South Flintshire based on a range of criteria in the application document. Deva FM's objective was to demonstrate to the Radio Authority that this licence should be awarded to Chester.

Mr Maskery informed that Community and 'Localness' would be his company's overriding strength – with quality and parish news, interesting features and local history, competitive local advertising and local voices. Deva FM intended to be fully involved in the community from news gathering to making its presenters available for village events. It would be commercial but it would minimise the intrusive nature of poorly produced advertisements. His Board and Investors would be substantially local but with the backing of a major radio group. Overall it was intended to make Deva FM a local radio station of which its listeners, staff and Board could be proud.

Mr Maskery answered a number of Members' questions and agreed to provide additional information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr Maskery be thanked for his attendance at the meeting and detailed presentation; and
- (2) further consideration be given to whether or not to support Mr Maskery's application at the next meeting of the Council.

112 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 4 June 2001 be confirmed as a correct record.

113 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

114 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 June 2001:

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
United Utilities (Water Rates)	15.98	101418
Denton Clark & Co	361.72	101419
Mr P Garnett (Play equipment painting)	1040.00	101420
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils	15.00	101421
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	78.84	101422
Mr C Kearton (Pay arrears)	4.22	101423
Inland Revenue	436.12	101424
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	375.78	101425
Mr C Moss (Parish Room rental)	437.50	101426
Chester City Council (Rates)	103.00	Direct Debit

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 June 2001 (14 day interest account)	117.34
Interest to 21 June 2001 (Treasurer account)	0.15
Duty/VAT repayment	1,738.74

(c) Street and Amenity Cleansing
Payments to Parish Councils

Following the recent manual workers pay award, the hourly rate of pay for payment purposes was now £4.80, effective from 1 April 2001.

(d) Grant Aid

The Council had been successful in its bid to Chester City Council for funding in respect of the following two projects. Payment would be made on receipt of invoices and copies of cheques:

	£
Play Equipment Painting	520.00
Refurbishing the Vernon Institute Clock	400.00

The Clerk would make the necessary claims at the appropriate time.

115 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

The Chairman had received a letter dated 11 June 2001 from PC Gareth Cooper.

PC Cooper informed that he intended to forward notices to the Clerk for posting on Parish Council notice boards in respect of 'Domestic Security Surveys'.

PC Cooper was currently on leave but on his return he indicated that he would like to meet with Members to discuss the possibility of applying for an award from the Community Safety Partnership Fund.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of PC Cooper's letter be noted.

(b) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick reported on 4 incidents where 4 flower pots had been stolen and Members agreed that this could be a case of 'theft to order'. Similar thefts were also occurring in Hoole and Upton.

There had been two incidents where windows had been broken in the village and two youths had been apprehended on one occasion. (One was from Blacon, one from Saughall.) There had also been an incident involving youths drinking alcohol and they had been taken home by the Constabulary.

At the last meeting of the Homewatch members had agreed to bring out their own newsletter.

The Headteacher at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School had reported that there had been a reduction in vandalism at the school.

Mr McIlwrick also reported on incidents where ladies had been forced into having their drives tarmaced. The contractors were J&M Tarmac and the registration of their vehicle was E500 MHU. Mr McIlwrick requested that Members be extra vigilant and watch out for this vehicle.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Chester Homewatch Briefing Sheet

The Clerk reported that she was receiving regular Briefing Sheets from the Cheshire Constabulary. Any Members wishing to see a copy would contact the Clerk.

116 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Hermitage Road – Slurry

Councillor Bailey informed that the cattle were out, the farm was not in use and therefore the problem had abated.

RESOLVED:

That Hermitage Road slurry no longer be monitored.

(b) Kingswood Lane

RESOLVED:

That this issue be deferred to the next meeting of the Council as Councillor RA Storrar was not present.

(c) Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School

It was noted that no appointment of crossing patrol assistant had been made and the District Education Officer Chester/Ellesmere Port, Mr Tony Moss, had not responded to the Clerk's enquiry.

It was suggested that the proposed change to the school's entrance may help the situation when the new classroom was built.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write again to Mr Moss requesting a response to her original letter.

(d) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road Junction

The Council continued to monitor the state of the road as the surface had been damaged by plant accessing the new housing development. Concerns were also being raised by villagers and one in particular had written to the Chairman in this regard.

It was noted that the District Engineer had undertaken temporary repairs to the surface but permanent reinstatement work would be necessary once building work was complete.

RESOLVED:

That the state of the road surface in Fiddlers Lane continue to be monitored.

- (e) Possible Weekend Bus Service – Saughall to Countess of Chester Hospital

Mr Steve Williams, Cheshire County Council's Principal Transport Officer, had agreed to write a report for consideration at the Chester Area Public Transport Committee meeting held in June 2001. However, no further communications had been received.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to chase up a further response from Mr Williams.

- (f) Street Lighting

Mr Carl Gent, Cheshire County Council's Street Lighting Technician, had indicated that he could undertake a site visit in the week beginning 9 July 2001.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Kerr and Bailey meet with Mr Carl Gent on Friday 13 July 2001 at 10.30am and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council.

- (g) Bus Shelter Provision in Saughall

The Clerk had written to Ms Christine Garner, Cheshire County Council's Senior Projects Officer, requesting a site visit following a number of concerns raised over bus shelter provision in Saughall.

Ms Garner had responded informing that the County Council was soon to launch a new scheme aimed at improving bus shelters and bus stop infrastructure. A letter setting out the detail of the scheme would be sent shortly. If after receiving the information promised the Council wished to go ahead with the site visit, one would be arranged.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the information on the new scheme awaited.

(h) Deeside Park Junctions Study

The Council received a report on proceedings at an Elected Members Briefing. It was noted that it had simply been a scoping exercise. No decisions had yet been made and it was up to the public to make recommendations. It would be ten years at least before the junctions were constructed.

The Council wanted an urgent solution to the problem at the junction and would take every opportunity to press for the installation of traffic lights.

Members were also informed that it was possible that traffic calming may be provided along Long Lane, Church Lane and Sea Hill Road.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(i) Any Other Highway Matters

(a) Trees on Long Lane

The Clerk reported that trees on Long Lane were obstructing the view from an access.

The Tree Warden reported that the problem was receiving attention.

(b) Overgrown Hedges

It was reported that a number of hedges in the village were overgrown and obstructing the views of motorists.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to alert the District Engineer to this problem; and

(2) if names and addresses are supplied of those responsible for cutting back the vegetation, the Clerk be requested to write to them asking that they take appropriate action.

(c) Long Lane – Repeater Sign

It was noted that the 40 miles per hour repeater sign on Long Lane had been missing for some time.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to bring the missing repeater sign to the attention of the District Engineer.

117 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) 2 Hermitage Road, Saughall

Mr Leslie Smith, Chester City Council's Planning and Enforcement Team Leader, had responded to the Clerk following concerns raised over the dilapidated state of the property.

Members were informed that the owner was on the verge of exchanging contracts to sell the property and it was considered that development would commence soon. The owner had been asked to write to Mr Smith with details of the new owners once the purchase had been finalised.

118 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection

It was noted that all play equipment in the field is in good order.

Members reported that the field had not been reinstated to an appropriate standard following the drainage work undertaken by Chester City Council.

A letter had been received from Mrs Judith Owens requesting that the goalposts be relocated as she was currently experiencing problems with youths causing a nuisance.

Work on the play equipment was complete. However, Councillor Dobson was concerned over the painting of the Cheshire fencing.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be noted that the play equipment was in good order;
- (2) Mr Barry Davies of Chester City Council be requested to ensure that the field is brought up to an appropriate standard following the drainage work undertaken;
- (3) Mr Ron Dunn of Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council be requested to relocate the goalposts following discussion with Councillor Kerr; and
- (4) Members be requested to inspect the paint on the fence and bring a report to the next meeting.

(b) Millennium Park Land

RESOLVED:

That a meeting be arranged between Councillors Bailey and Kerr and County Councillor D Rowlands as soon as possible to determine next

steps following the change in the political administration of Cheshire County Council and in the light of the County Council's own Quality of Life survey which supports what the Parish Council is trying to do.

(c) Notice Board – The Ridings Infant School

Councillor Warrington reported that Mrs Davies, the Headteacher at the Ridings Infant School, supported the proposal to locate a notice board in the school's grounds and if possible would like to share the facility with the Council. However, she would need to get permission from the Local Education Authority.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Warrington be requested to establish whether or not the Local Education Authority had given its permission for a Parish Council notice board to be sited in the school's grounds; and
- (2) if consent is given Mr Bob Ebrell be requested to provide the Council with a quote for making and positioning the notice board following discussion with the Headteacher.

(d) Hermitage Road – Damaged Fence

The District Engineer had informed the Clerk that the damaged fencing from 206 Hermitage Road to the Egerton Arms was the responsibility of the landowner.

Members were of the opinion that Cheshire County Council was responsible for the upkeep of the fence as it had replaced the hedge on this site with the offending fence.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's opinion on the ownership of the damaged fencing be conveyed to the District Engineer.

(e) Long Lane – Wild Flowers

Cheshire County Council's District Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, had informed that complaints had been received over the state of the verge which was being maintained as a 'rural' verge, rather than as an 'urban' verge. The wild flowers planted had died and the verge was a mess.

RESOLVED:

That the District Engineer be informed that the Council has no objection to the verge being maintained as an 'urban' verge in the future.

119 YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL/YOUTH FORUM

RESOLVED:

That consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

120 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Vernon Institute Management Committee meetings held on 10 April and 8 May 2001 were received and noted.

Councillor Mrs Young had attended the June meeting of the Management Committee but informed that there had been no discussion on the fabric and restoration of the Vernon Institute.

The next meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee would be held at 7pm on Tuesday 10 July 2001.

It was noted that work commissioned on the clock by the Council had begun that morning.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

121 LOCAL PANEL 7 – TUESDAY, 26 JUNE 2001, 7PM AT MICKLE TRAFFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Members received a brief report on proceedings of the Local Panel 7 meeting and on grants available from Councillor RA Storrar.

RESOLVED:

That the agenda for the Local Panel 7 meeting be provided for and discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 7.30pm on Thursday, 19 July 2001.

121 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That the rota for the forthcoming Surgeries be as follows:

Date	Members
7 July 2001	Councillor B Kerr
14 July 2001	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
21 July 2001	Councillor A Bailey
28 July 2001	Councillor Mrs J Young
4 August 2001	Councillor RA Storrar Councillor A Warrington

122 COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- letter dated 11 June 2001 from Mr Eddie Kinsella, Chief Executive, South Cheshire Health Authority re Proposal to create Primary Core Trusts within South Cheshire. Consultation begins on 12 June 2001 and runs until 31 August 2001.

To Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- letter dated May 2001 from Chief Executive of the Society of Local Council Clerks requesting that membership is taken up.

Clerk's decision.

- letter dated 5 June 2001 from Mrs V Cronin, Regional Data Collector, DETR asking if the new address of the former occupant of the Parish Room, Mr John Foster, is known.

To Colin Moss.

- letter dated 14 June 2001 from Chester City Council's Project Support Officer, Linda Jewsbury, asking for names and addresses of Parish Councillors.

Clerk to provide the necessary information.

- letter from Mrs A Stuart thanking the Council for its donation of £50 towards decorating the Friday Club's float in the Lord Mayor's Parade.

Noted.

123 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received. Anyone wishing to see a copy would contact the Clerk.

- Chester Homewatch Briefing Sheet – 4 June 2001.
- Cheshire County Council’s CQC – June 2001.
- Cheshire County Council’s Chester Matters – 27 June 2001.
- Cheshire County Council’s Community Focus
- Peter Nyssen Ltd – Bulbs Catalogue.
- Chester City Council’s Parish Bulletin – June 2001.

124 PARISH PLAN

the Council considered a draft letter to be sent to consultees and a draft Parish Plan Action List prepared by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That these documents be considered further at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 7.30pm on Thursday 19 July 2001.

125 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Item	Paragraph
Industrial Relations	(1) particular employee (11) Industrial Relations

**PART 2: ITEMS OF BUSINESS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE
PRESS AND PUBLIC**

126 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Council received a report from the Chairman on a sequence of events which had resulted in a complaint being made.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the Council be kept up to date as the matter progressed.