

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 6 August 2001 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson
Councillor Mrs BW Bell
Councillor H Dobson
Councillor B Kerr (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

County Councillor D Rowlands
PC G Cooper (part)
Mr C McIlwrick – Homewatch Co-ordinator

126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor GF Williams
Councillor Mrs J Young

127 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 July 2001 be confirmed as correct record.

128 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

129 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 2 July 2001:

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (for the Parish Councillor)	11.50	101427
JB Joyce and Co (Vire £1,207.69 from Millennium Park Land to Millennium Fund)	5,546.00	101428
Merseyside Systems	82.25	101429
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal) (includes increment from 1 June 2001 and Local Government pay rise from 1 April 2001)	473.56	101430
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	43.42	101431

(b) Receipts

Interest to 19 July 2001 (14 day interest account)	99.38
Interest to 23 July 2001 (Treasurer account)	0.13

(c) The Vernon Institute Clock – Additional Work

The Clockmaker at JB Joyce and Co had discovered that the dial fixings on two of the dials were in poor condition and were in need of re-fixing to ensure that they were in a safe condition. The other dial had already been re-fixed several years ago. This work was obviously not within the original quotation and consequently there was an additional cost.

To attend on site with the ongoing restoration work, to re-fix the two dials and leave all in good order, would cost an additional £445.00 plus VAT.

The Clerk had consulted with the Chairman because an urgent decision had been required as restoration work had begun. The Chairman agreed that the Council would pay the additional sum for the additional work needed.

130 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Cooper presented the Clerk with a number of notices for posting on Parish Council notice boards to advertise his Home Security initiative. PC Cooper offered residents of Saughall a Domestic Security Survey Service.

This entailed a visit to the home to access personal security arrangements. A written report would then be provided which would contain suggestions on how to improve the security of the home, outbuildings and gardens using recommended methods and approved British Standard security devices.

PC Cooper was pleased to report that incidents of crime, and in particular nuisance youth activity, were down in Saughall.

It was noted that the Cheshire Constabulary was involved in an ongoing operation in respect of youths causing a nuisance in the rural area. A semi-official approach was being taken to incidents involving underage drinkers and the confiscation of alcohol and young people found on school premises. Both the child involved and his/her parents had to sign a notice. It was more than a “ticking off” and served to show the seriousness of the activities in which the young person had been involved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) PC Cooper's encouraging report be noted; and
- (2) PC Cooper be invited to attend a meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 19 September 2001 in the Parish Room to discuss crime and disorder in Saughall and all Members of the Council be invited to attend.

(b) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick reported that a car on Fiddlers Lane had had its windscreen broken. Also, a young person had been arrested in the village following a drugs related incident.

A commitment had been made by the Homewatch to bring out a Newsletter for everyone in the village and sponsorship to assist this initiative was currently being sought. Frequency of publication would depend on sponsorship. PC Cooper would be requested to contribute news items.

131 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Committee meetings be received:

Planning held on 2 July 2001.

Finance and General Purposes held on 18 July 2001.

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

Councillor Mrs D Whitton declared an interest in this matter and did not take part in the debate or vote.

Following his attendance at the last meeting of the Council Mr Steven Maskrey, founder and Non-Executive Director of Deva FM, had written to confirm his responses to Members' comments and questions about the new local radio licence being advertised by the Radio Authority. Deva FM was making an application and hoped to win the local radio licence.

RESOLVED:

That this Council's support be given in respect of a local radio licence franchise for Chester rather than for South Flintshire.

133 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Kingswood Lane

RESOLVED:

That this item be not included on future Council agenda.

(b) Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School – Crossing Attendant

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he was to meet with County Highway Officers at Backford Hall and would request that consideration be given to a pedestrian crossing and/or flashing lights at the school.

(c) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road Junction

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform the District Engineer that work had now been completed on the new housing development and ask as a matter of urgency if he can assess the extent of remedial work required on the road surface.

(d) Possible Weekend Bus Service – Saughall to the Countess of Chester Hospital

Mr Steve Williams of Cheshire County Council's Transport Co-ordination Service had informed that the Chester Area Public Transport Committee meeting had not taken place in June 2001 due to local elections. As yet, he had not been advised of any revised dates for the next meeting. This was mainly due to the new Councillors' induction programme and Committee selection not being completed. Mr Williams would ensure that the request was considered when the meeting did take place.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

(e) Street Lighting

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman along with Mr Carl Gent, Cheshire County Council's Street Lighting Technician, had undertaken site visits to the four areas of the village that have been identified as needing enhanced lighting.

It had been confirmed that lighting was inadequate in each of the areas visited. Mr Gent had agreed to work up four lighting schemes and provide detailed costings.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Gent's proposals be awaited.

(f) Parish/Town Council Bus Shelter Scheme 2001/02

The Council noted that contents of a letter addressed to all Parish and Town Clerks from the County Transport Co-ordinator which detailed information on a new scheme being introduced to help provide new, improved bus shelters and bus stop infrastructure in Parish and Town Council areas. The funding for this scheme was being provided by the County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2001-2006. A funding allocation had been made to introduce the scheme in 2001/02. It was expected that the scheme would continue for the next four years of the LTP period. In each year after 2001/02, funding would be allocated dependant on the number of applicants received from Parish and Town Councils and the programme of works proposed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to register the Parish Council's interest in the scheme; and
- (2) a site visit be requested as a matter of urgency with County Transport Co-ordination officers in order to view bus stops perceived to be dangerous.

(g) Highways & Transportation Local Joint Committee for Chester meeting 26 July 2001

The agenda for the meeting had been received but there were no issues for consideration that specifically effected Saughall.

(h) Chester District: Temporary Traffic Regulation Order:
UV1640 Woodbank Lane, Woodbank

It was reported that the Highway Authority, Cheshire County Council, wished to carry out roadworks on Woodbank Lane. There would be a temporary road closure from Monday, 6 August 2001 for approximately five days until the work was complete.

(i) A540 Mudhouse Lane Junction Improvement

It was reported that the County Council proposed to carry out an improvement to the A540 at Mudhouse Lane junction in the interest of road safety.

In order to reduce the number of un-controlled turning manoeuvres on the Chester High Road, the gap in the central reservation at Gordales would be closed. Facilities for U-turns would be provided at Mudhouse Lane by the

installation of traffic signals, so that Chester-bound traffic could still access the businesses and properties.

(j) Long Lane 40 MPH repeater sign

It was noted that despite the Clerk informing the District Engineer the sign had still not been replaced.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to remind the District Engineer that the 40 MPH repeater sign on Long Lane needs replacing.

(k) Telegraph Pole near Vernon Institute

It was reported that a telegraph pole close to the Vernon Institute had wires hanging loose onto the footpath.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform BT and request that they investigate with a view to taking appropriate remedial action.

134 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) 2 Hermitage Road, Saughall

It was reported that the agent had informed that exchange of contracts was imminent.

(b) Planning Application

Two Storey Extension to form lift shaft
Wain House, Rakeway, Saughall

RESOLVED:

That Chester City Council, the Planning Authority, be informed that this Council welcomes and supports this improvement.

135 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

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

Mr Barry Davies of Chester City Council had indicated that he would reinstate the field to an appropriate standard following the drainage work.

Mr Ron Dunn of Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council had agreed to re-position the goalposts to the opposite side of the field.

The painting of the play equipment and fencing had been completed to a very high standard.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

(b) Millennium Park Land

The Council noted the resolution of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19 July 2001 along with the letter the Clerk had drafted to the Director of Community Development at Cheshire County Council, setting out the Parish Council's position regarding the Shotwick Park land.

Members also considered the possibility of accessing external funding to purchase the land along with the problems of securing grant aid to bring the land up to recreational standard if it was leased from the County Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the letter drafted by the Clerk be sent to Mr CJB Taylor, Director of Community Development; and
- (2) County Councillor Rowlands be requested to arrange a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council, himself and Cheshire County Council's External Funding Officer to consider funding options for the purchase of the land.

(c) Notice Board – The Ridings Infant School

Councillor Warrington reported that the Local Education Authority had given its consent to the erection of a notice board at the Ridings Infant School. Mrs Davies, the Headteacher, had requested that it be located at the front of the school on the chimney breast wall. It had already been agreed that the notice board would be shared with the school.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Ebrell to make a notice board (double the size of the one at the post office) and liaise with Councillor Warrington before siting it at the school.

(d) Hermitage Road - Damaged Fence

It was noted that the fence had been repaired.

(e) Grassed Amenity Areas

RESOLVED:

That Mr Duncan Henderson, Chester City Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer, be requested to provide details of landscaping schemes for the four grassed amenity areas in Saughall.

(f) Water Quality

Councillor RA Storrar reported on the problems recently experienced with water quality in the village. He had raised concerns with United Utilities and Chester City Council's Environmental Services who intended to consult OFWAT.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to United Utilities and OFWAT registering the Council's concerns over the recent quality of the village's drinking water.

136 YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL/YOUTH FORUM

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred until the next meeting of the Council on 3 September 2001.

137 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That the rota for the forthcoming Surgeries be as follows:

Date	Members
11 August 2001	Councillor Mrs D Whitton
18 August 2001	Councillor H Dobson
25 August 2001	Councillor Mrs M Anderson
1 September 2001	Councillor A Warrington
8 September 2001	Councillor RA Storrar

138 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- letter dated 25 July 2001 from Mrs Judith Owen thanking the Parish Council for considering the problems she has experienced and agreeing to relocate the goalpost in the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field.

Noted.

- letter dated 24 July 2001 from Mr Colin Cheesman, Chief Executive, Cheshire County Council, informing of a further consultation in the Autumn on how the County Council is run.

Noted.

- letter dated 23 July 2001 from Mr JR Healey, Historic Buildings Officer, Chester City Council, responding to the Clerk's enquiry sometime ago on possible grant aid.

Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar to discuss with Mr Healey.

139 CIRCULARS

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

- CPRE Cheshire Branch
- Sprawl Patrol Seminar, The Wyche Centre, Middlewich – Saturday, 6 October 2001
- Chester Council for Voluntary Service – Chester Volunteers Bureau
- Voluntary Voice Summer 2001
- Local Agenda 21 in Cheshire June 2001
- Cheshire County Council's Elections 2001 – Local Results
- Cheshire Environment, July 2001

140 PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be requested to ensure that the Clerk receives a list of contact names and addresses for the groups that use the Vernon Institute facilities so that the consultation process can begin.

141 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

It was noted that the Annual Meeting of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils would be held at 10.00am on Saturday, 13 October 2001 at Wincham Community Centre, near Northwich, Cheshire.

Notices of Motion had to be submitted to the County Office by no later than 20 August 2001.

Following the Annual Meeting buffet lunch there would be a seminar on the Rural White Paper beginning at 2.00pm.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Representations be decided; and

(2) no motions of debate be submitted at the 2001 Annual Meeting.

142 CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL'S CONFERENCE

It was noted that the Annual Town and Parish Councils' Conference would take place at Tatton Park on Tuesday, 18 September 2001. The meeting itself would start at 7.00pm with light refreshments being available from 6.15pm.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors A Bailey, RA Storrar and Warrington be requested to attend to represent the Council.

143 NORTH WEST FEDERATION OF PARISH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION
REGIONAL CONFERENCE – MAKING A DIFFERENCE – THE WAY
FORWARD

The Regional Conference was the first event of the North West Federation of Parish Councils Association. It had been designed to create an exciting and informative day for everyone who attended. The cost of a day ticket was £30. The event would be held at the Novotel, Preston.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be nominated to attend the North West Federation of Parish Councils Association's Conference at a cost of £30.

144 AGM & BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION, 27 SEPTEMBER 2001
CHESHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 2001 AGM of Cheshire Community Council would be held at 6.30pm on Thursday, 27 September 2001 at Tatton Park, prior to the presentation evening for the Best Kept Village/Civic Pride Awards.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be nominated to attend the two Cheshire Community Council events.

145 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
Vernon Institute Management Committee	(7) Financial/Business affairs of a third party.

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

146 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members received a report on the proceedings of the last meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that this Council will release no monies to the Vernon Institute Management Committee until it is satisfied that there is programme for repair/refurbishment of the Institute building in place.