

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 1 October 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
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs J Young

Mr C McIlwrick – Homewatch Co-ordinator

163 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor SS Evans
Councillor GF Williams
County Councillor D Rowlands
PC G Cooper

164 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr Colin Moss along with other villagers who lived in close proximity to the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field attended the meeting to make representations against the Council's proposal to erect a Youth Shelter on the field. He urged the Council to consider their feelings before making a firm decision on this matter.

Miss Dodd, a resident of Church Road, was also in attendance at the meeting and informed Members of vandalism inflicted on her car and the need to park close to her house in the hope that such action would deter further damage.

The Chairman informed that the Council had asked the Cheshire Constabulary to enforce 'No Parking' on the grass verge on Church Road because they were being churned up. However, in view of the representations made Members would discuss the matter with the rural police officer PC Gareth Cooper.

RESOLVED:

That the points raised be noted.

165 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to Councillor Mrs Whitton's apologies being included the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2001 be confirmed as a correct record.

166 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

167 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 3 September 2001:

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	976.43	101439
Mr C Moss	437.50	101440
Inland Revenue	485.88	101441
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	400.30	101442
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	138.27	101443
Mr RB Ebbrell – Notice Board	290.00	101444
Chester City Council (Rates)	103.00	DD

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 September 2001 (14 day interest account)	68.60
Interest to 23 September 2001 (Treasurer account)	0.24

168 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Cooper was not able to attend the Council meeting but he had written to the Chairman to inform him that the village had remained quiet. Information was provided on the following actions he had taken:

Spoken to numerous local youths and drawn up a list of people who have expressed an interest in becoming involved. The list would be supplied.

Undertaken static observations at the location on Church Road where Members would like to see a pelican crossing. A number of motorists were warned about their speed and manner of driving. He was convinced that there was a clear danger to both children and parents and he strongly supported any application for crossing facilities.

Issued several advisory notices to vehicles that had been parked on grass verges in the village which he considered to be causing a problem. Notices had been complied with.

PC Cooper had also informed that minor damage was caused to two small windows at the Ridings Infant School at about 3:30am on 29 September 2001. The alarm had been activated but no entry had been gained and nothing stolen.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(b) Model Byelaw – No Ball Games

The Council received the detail of a Model Byelaw from Chester City Council. The intention was to apply for a Byelaw – No Ball Games for the grassed amenity areas of Saughall Hey, Greenway, rear of Wain House and Marplewood Grove. It was noted that the next step would be to consult the residents.

RESOLVED:

That the consultation exercise in respect of the proposed Byelaw be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(c) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick reported on an incident involving youngsters between 8 and 10 years old riding bicycles and using bad language in school grounds. He also informed that a till had been stolen from Kays Nurseries and that keys had been taken through a letter box and the culprit had tried to drive a vehicle away. He had been caught and spoken to before moving off towards Blacon.

Mr McIlwrick also informed that Mr Hughes of Chester Security had given a firm undertaking to sponsor the Homewatch Newsletter. He was now actively encouraging people to come forward with ideas for the publication.

Mr McIlwrick provided Members with details of a proposed private initiative involving CCTV in the village.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Council give full support to the CCTV initiative as described by the Homewatch Co-ordinator.

169 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The Chairman informed that in view of the strength of feeling conveyed over the proposal to site a Youth Shelter on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field and mindful of problems experienced in the vicinity in the past, the Council may wish to decide if there should be a shelter in principle before consulting the youth of the village.

However, it was considered that if young people were willing to talk to Members, then they should listen.

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Mr Stuart Harris, a Chester City Council Officer, informing that the Parish Council's request for a meeting with City Council officers and the Cheshire Constabulary to discuss anti-social behaviour and appropriate remedies had been discussed at the Strategy Working Group of the Community Safety Partnership along with several other requests to deal with anti-social behaviour. The Group had agreed to set up an operational group to deal with them.

In the meantime, the City Council would like to meet with representatives from the Parish Council to discuss approaches to the problems together with the Constabulary and the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. The newly appointed Community Safety Partnership Manager, Mr Robert Callow, would contact the Clerk shortly to arrange this meeting.

It was suggested that the meeting be initially with the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Clerk plus one other Member to discuss options available.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be received:

Planning held on 19 September 2001

Crime and Disorder held on 19 September 2001

(2) a consultation meeting between representatives of the Council and youth of the village be arranged; and

(3) further details on the proposed meeting between representatives of the Parish and City Councils and the Cheshire Constabulary be awaited.

170 YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL/YOUTH FORUM

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the Blacon Youth Association at the Delta Centre. Saughall Youth Club had been on the agenda. It had been reported that the two Project Workers were being withdrawn from Saughall at the end of the month because they were needed in Blacon. Also Mrs Elaine Pattison had decided to retire and she had notified the Youth Services accordingly. The Vernon Institute Management Committee would be formally notified.

It was also reported that a pre-condition of the Youth Club continuing was that there was a Management Committee of at least five people. The project would also need

adult volunteers to help run it. The Youth Service would assist by providing volunteers with appropriate training.

Members agreed that they would take the necessary action to form a Management Committee if volunteers came forward.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) Mrs Pauline Povey be approached and asked if she would like to help;
- (3) names of any volunteers be fed through to the Chairman; and
- (4) a further report be brought to the next meeting of the Council on 12 November 2001.

171 VITAL VILLAGES – PARISH PLAN

The Clerk reported that she had consulted all those individuals and businesses on the list compiled by Councillor Mrs Humphrey and that the Parish Newsletter had been distributed that day containing information on the Council's proposals.

Unfortunately, the list of Groups which used the Vernon Institute had not yet been supplied.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) progress made to date in respect of the compilation of the Parish Plan be noted; and
- (2) arrangements be made to provide the Clerk with the outstanding list of consultees as a matter of urgency.

172 HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

The Clerk reported that the County Transport Co-ordinator had informed that two people had come forward and were being trained to be School Crossing Attendants.

Members agreed that they would press ahead with their campaign to get a pelican crossing on Church Road outside of the school.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to write again to the County Highway Engineer requesting that he undertakes the necessary assessments as a first step in the process to achieve the desired crossing; and

(2) Members enlist the support of the two Headteachers and the Cheshire Constabulary and request them to write in support of the crossing.

(b) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road

The Clerk reported that Cheshire County Council's Section Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, had informed that he had looked at the junction of Fiddlers lane and Church Road and considered that the surface was not as bad as elsewhere in the District. However, the surface of Lodge Lane, at the junction, was in a much worse condition and he would ask the Highways Inspector to arrange for it to be patched.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) Members continue to monitor the state of the road surface at the junction.

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

The Clerk reported that no progress had been made on this matter.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to write to Cheshire County Council's Principal Transport Officer, Mr Steve Williams, requesting that he provide the Parish Council with a progress report; and

(2) as there was various funding accessible for such a project the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(d) Street Lighting

Following the site visit with Cheshire County Council's Street Lighting Technician, Mr Carl Gent, the following information had been received:

The cost to light Fiddlers Lane from the junction of Parkgate Road to Kingswood Lane would be approximately £9,250 + VAT.

For Chapel Close the approximate cost to light the front area footpaths would be £4,800 + VAT and for the rear carriageway leading to the existing development the cost will be £4,450 + VAT.

Lodge Lane from the junction of Parkway to the entrance of the Cheshire County Council Property Management Grounds was not adoptable highway and therefore if any lighting is to be installed in this area it would become Parish Council lighting and maintainable at the Parish Council's expense.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Chapel Close be classed as priority 1 and Fiddlers Lane be classed as priority 2; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to inform Cheshire County Council of the Parish Council's priorities and its hope to see both of those listed at (1) in the Capital Programme.

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

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Humphrey had met with Cheshire County Council's Senior Project Officer on 21 September 2001 and undertaken site visits in respect of the bus stops in Saughall.

It had been agreed that the first priority was to remove the current bus shelter on Church Road and provide another shelter offering protection on both sides. There was a drop kerb at this bus stop which made it difficult for some bus users to alight. The bus stop would be moved slightly and there would be new hardstanding.

The second priority was the Egerton Arms bus shelter. It would be removed and located further up where there was enough grassed area to set it back a little. There would also be a bus shelter on the inward journey.

Priority 3 was the Peg bus stop. This would involve a major scheme as it was accepted that a proper bus lay-by was required if it was to stay in the current position. This would involve the consent of the landowner to move the inward bus stop. A Highway Engineer would look at the proposal and if it was feasible the Parish Council would request that the landowner give up a part of his curtilidge.

Members raised concerns over the school bus stopping at the junction with Hermitage Road and the Ridings. Councillor Mrs Whitton reported that she was currently in negotiations over the problems experienced and she would pursue the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

It was noted that damage had been caused to the bus shelter by the Vernon Institute and the Clerk had asked Mr Ebbrell to repair it.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report be brought to the next meeting by Councillor Mrs Whitton on the outcome of her discussions over the school bus.

(f) Telegraph Pole near the Vernon Institute

BT had not yet responded to the Clerk's letter about wires trailing on the path by the telegraph pole near to the Vernon Institute.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be considered further at the next meeting of the Council.

173 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) 2 Hermitage Road, Saughall

It was noted that demolition and site clearance was taking place at 2 Hermitage Road. Members were asked to keep a watchful eye on the property and if they were able to make contact with the owner of the site, ask him to secure the building.

(b) Planning Meeting on 6 September 2001

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 September 2001 be received at the next meeting of the Council.

174 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

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

It was reported that Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council had relocated the goalposts. They would be monitored closely in their new position as there had already been complaints from residents.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(b) Millennium Park Land

The Council considered the information provided by Mr Steve Wright, Cheshire County Council's External Funding Officer. He had informed that the Parish Council must put together a clear business case for the use and development of the land. However, production of such a plan was still no guarantee of success, either with County Councillors or external funders, but was a necessary step if the Parish Council and local community were to move forward with their application.

Mr Wright reported that if Members would like him to attend a further meeting to expand on the issues he had raised he would be happy to oblige. It might also be appropriate to invite Richard Smith, the Cheshire Project Officer for WREN, to plan a way forward.

The Chairman reported that County Councillor David Rowlands was to hold a meeting with Richard Smith and that Cheshire County Council might be prepared to pay for any survey work required.

RESOLVED:

That these matters be considered further at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(c) Notice Board – The Ridings Infant School

It was reported that the new notice board was now in position on the chimney breast of the School.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(d) Best Kept Village/Civic Pride Competition

It was reported that Councillor Mrs JE Storrar had attended the event and that Saughall had come last in its class. The Judge's comments were awaited.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(e) Water Quality

The Clerk reported that United Utilities had requested details of instances when discoloured water was supplied.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to liaise with Councillor RA Storrar.

(f) Litter Bins

It was reported that Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council had replaced the wrong bin on Church Road. The bin that had been burnt out remained at the bus stop by the Vernon Institute.

Concern was raised over the build up of litter in Little Saughall. It was considered that Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council was not delittering past the Egerton Arms Public House.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to convey the points raised to Mr Ron Dunn, Amenities Manager, Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council.

175 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There were no Minutes of the Management Committee available.

Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar were to hold discussions with Chester City Council's Historic Buildings Officer following the letter received by the Clerk.

A detailed Maintenance Plan for the Vernon Institute was awaited.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

176 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That the rota for the forthcoming Surgeries be as follows:

Date	Member
6 October 2001	Councillor Mrs M Anderson
13 October 2001	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
20 October 2001	Councillor Mrs J Young
27 October 2001	Councillor B Kerr
3 November 2001	Councillor Mrs BW Bell
10 November 2001	Councillor Mrs D Whitton

177 APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL GOVERNOR - THOMAS WEDGE CE
(CONTROLLED) JUNIOR SCHOOL

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Councillor Mrs J Young as the Parish Council's representative on the above school governing board be reaffirmed and the Clerk be requested to notify Cheshire County Council's Area Education Manager.

178 CHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S RURAL HOUSING SURVEY 2000

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Mr David Tonks of Chester City Council to arrange a presentation for Members at a scheduled Council meeting, along the same lines as the one made to the recent Local Panel 7 meeting.

179 MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Council received reports from those Members who attended the following meetings:

Chester City Council's Local Panel 7 meeting held on Thursday 20 September 2001

Police Forum Meeting held on 17 September 2001

Cheshire County Council's Annual Town and Parish Council's Conference held on Tuesday 18 September 2001

North West Federation of Parish Councils Association Regional Conference – Making a Difference – The Way Forward.

Cheshire Community Council's AGM held on Thursday 27 September 2001

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

180 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- letter dated 17 September 2001 from Cheshire Community Council's Principal Officer re. Parish Transport Grants Workshop – 6:30pm - 9:00pm Wednesday, 31 October 2001 in the Weaver Room, Winsford Civic Hall. Light buffet refreshments will be available.

Councillor Mrs J Young to attend.

- letter dated 13 September 2001 from Chester City Council's Corporate Resource Group Officer including invitations for the Parish Partnership reception at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 28 November 2001 at the Town Hall.

6 Members to attend.

- letter dated 19 September 2001 from Cheshire County Council's Chief Executive re "Have Your Say – On How We Make Decisions".

No comments.

- letter dated 5 September 2001 from Chester City Council's Heritage Officer re. Marketing the Millennium in Chester's Countryside correcting details of Saughall's Millennium activities.
- letter dated September 2001 from HSBC Head of Business Banking informing of amended Terms and Conditions in Business Banking.

Referred to Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- letter dated 13 September 2001 from the Chair of the Dee Estuary Forum – meeting 1:30pm on 5 December 2001 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chester.

Councillor RA Storrar to attend.

- letter dated 30 August 2001 from Cheshire County Playing Fields Association's Honorary Secretary re AGM at Reaseheath College, Nantwich on 8 October 2001.

Councillor A Bailey to attend.

- letter dated 3 September 2001 from the Chairman of Cheshire Landscape Trust requesting financial assistance to help run the Tree Warden Scheme.

No action.

- letter undated from CPRE – Subscription renewal - £17.50.

Not to be renewed.

- letter dated 7 September from the Local Heritage Initiative Advisor re. the Local Heritage Initiative run by the Countryside Agency informing of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Nationwide Building Society Grant scheme designed to help local groups and communities to get actively involved in investigating, explaining and caring for their local landscape, landmarks, tradition and culture.

Referred to Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- letter dated 25 September 2001 from Chester City Council's Public Relations Officer re: Radio Licence for Chester – An informal presentation evening.

No-one to attend.

- letter dated 24 September 2001 & consultative document on improving Quality of Life in Cheshire from the Director for Alliances and Service Development, South Cheshire Health Authority, Chair of the Chester Partnership.

Referred to Finance and General Purposes Committee.

181 CIRCULARS

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

- Chester Culture Try Something Events and Exhibitions Winter 2002
- The Crimebeat Reporter – Summer 2001
- Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters September 2001
- Cheshire County Council – A Great Night Out for audiences in rural Cheshire – Cheshire's Rural Touring Network – Autumn 2001 and Spring 2002 Programme.

182 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**

183 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Clerk informed of the detail of a conversation she had had with the Parish Council's representative and Members considered what other actions could be taken.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to take further action as instructed and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council.