

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 12 November 2001 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson
Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs BW Bell
Councillor H Dobson
Councillor SS Evans
Councillor D Morgan
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs J Young

Mr B Jones – Homewatch Representative

184 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor A Warrington
County Councillor D Rowlands
PC G Cooper
Mr C McIlwrick – Homewatch Co-ordinator

185 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2001 be confirmed as a correct record.

186 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

187 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 1 October 2001:

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils	16.50	101445
Standard Newspapers (Distribution of Newsletter)	18.10	101446
United Utilities	14.76	101447
Cancelled		101448
K2 Network Services Ltd – Toner cartridge	81.42	101449
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,147.30	101450
Cheshire Playing Fields Association	12.00	101451
Chester City Council (Printing Newsletter)	79.55	101452
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	52.76	101453

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	400.52	101454
Chester City Council (Rates)	103.00	DD

(b) Receipts

Mr P Bond – Footpath Booklets sold at Woodvale Stores	30.00
Councillor A Warrington – Footpath Booklet sold at Garage	1.00
Interest to 21 October 2001 (14 day interest account)	46.78
Interest to 23 October 2001 (Treasurer account)	0.14

188 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Cooper had informed the Clerk that there had been a couple of garage break-ins. People needed to be reminded to improve their garage locks and security lighting.

A small bonfire had been relit on Council land to the rear of Church Road. One resident nearby had had one conifer uprooted and a quantity of logs used for fuel!

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick had written to the Clerk to request that the following information be relayed to the meeting:

At 11:45am on Monday, 29 October 2001 there had been two men in the village. They had gone around asking for water for their cars. One was carrying a water can. Having visited houses in Hermitage Road and Church Road, they then broke into a garage opposite the shop and tried to enter the house. The alarm had sent them away.

These men had parked an old white Astra car in the car park at the Greyhound Public House. They had been seen getting into the car and leaving in the direction of Sealand Road. The vehicle registration was thought to be B686 PNC or very similar.

A garage in Hermitage Road had been broken into at 6:45pm on the same evening. Tools and a cycle had been stolen. The occupants had been in the house but had not heard anything.

A Post Office delivery van had been broken into at Crofters Way during the morning of 6 November 2001 and a quantity of mail had been stolen.

Saughall was still receiving ‘visits’ during the early hours of the morning from the old Ford car with the damage over the front and nearside wheel arch.

The Homewatch Newsletter was almost ready for printing and would be delivered soon.

Homewatch meetings for 2002 would be held in the Parish Room as follows:

Tuesday 19 February
Tuesday 23 April
Tuesday 25 June
Tuesday 20 August
Tuesday 22 October
Tuesday 17 December

A Homewatch Open Meeting would be held at the Vernon Institute at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 19 March 2002.

Mr Jones reported that the garage at the Surgery had been broken into and that two cars had been sprayed on Church Road. Also, on Halloween at least thirty youths had run riot on the Ridings Estate.

There had been a fire in the doorway of the Ridings Infant School on Friday, 9 November 2001. Mr Jones had reported it to the Police at 6:15pm but no-one had attended.

Members were reminded that when reporting crimes to the Constabulary they should always ask for an incident number.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and PC Cooper be asked for a report on the fire incident at the Ridings Infant School.

(c) Crime and Disorder Audit and Consultation 2001/2002

The Council received a copy of the Chester Community Safety Partnership Audit Summary and information about a consultation exercise which would run through to February 2002.

RESOLVED:

That the Chester Community Safety Partnership Audit Summary be considered at the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee.

(d) Meeting with Chester City Council and Cheshire Constabulary to discuss anti-social behaviour

Members noted the little progress made in arranging a joint meeting to discuss anti-social behaviour in Saughall.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to speak to Chester City Council's Community Safety Partnership Officer, Mr Robert Callow, with a view to obtaining a date for the meeting.

189 MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

A public meeting would be held at the Vernon Institute at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 20 November 2001 so that interested people could discuss what may take place in the village during 2002. This was under the auspices of the Millennium Committee.

190 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That

(1) the following Minutes be received:

Planning Committee held on 6 September 2001
Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1 November 2001
Meeting with Youth Representatives held on 8 November 2001

(2) the recommendation contained in the Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes:

“To adopt a policy which would ensure that any future development in the village could only go ahead if a sum of money was commuted to the Parish Council by the developer for the benefit of the village as a whole”

be noted at this stage and the Chairman be requested to lobby for such provision at national level;

(3) a proposal be included in the Five Year Plan of Action to progress the recommendation as a possible policy for the future; and

(4) the Clerk be requested to contact Mrs Alison Dutton, the Secretary of the Saughall Colts Football Team, to request that her organisation sends a representative to the next meeting with the Cheshire Constabulary and Young People of Saughall scheduled for 7:30pm on Wednesday, 12 December 2001 in the Parish Room.

191 YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL/YOUTH FORUM

Members were in agreement that the Youth Parish Council initiative should not be pursued but that the proposal to establish a Youth Forum should be taken forward and the whole spectrum of young people in the village should be included.

RESOLVED:

That the Youth Forum be further discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

192 VITAL VILLAGES – PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED:

That Vital Villages – Parish Plan be discussed at the next ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for 10 December 2001.

193 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN OF ACTION

Members reviewed their Five Year Plan of Action and revised it accordingly (Appendix 1).

194 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School – Crossing Attendant
C203 – Church Road

Cheshire County Council's Senior Engineering Assistant, Mr Graham Lowe, had responded to the Clerk's letter requesting a pedestrian crossing on Church Road.

Members were informed that crossings were assessed using criteria based on the degree of conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. This was determined by multiplying the number of vehicles per hour squared by the number of pedestrians crossing per hour over a 100 metre length of road.

Traffic counts undertaken in 1997 indicated that an average of approximately 350 pedestrians would need to cross the road for each of the busiest four hours to meet the criteria. Mr Lowe also informed that demand for pedestrian crossings, refuges and other traffic calming measures far outweighed the resources at the disposal of the County Council. At the present time it had a list of over 80 sites in Chester awaiting funding to enable traffic calming schemes to be implemented. It was unlikely that, even if a crossing was justified, the County Council would be in a position to fund a scheme on Church Road for the foreseeable future.

Mr Lowe considered that a school crossing patrol was the only realistic option at the current time. It was noted that the crossing attendant's post had now been filled.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to write to Mr Lowe for further information on the survey and informing him that this Council wants a pelican crossing on Church Road; and

(2) County Councillor David Rowlands be requested to support the Council's proposal to introduce a crossing on Church Road.

(b) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road

It was noted that Cheshire County Council's Engineering Service had agreed to patch Lodge Lane as it was in a worse condition than at the junction.

RESOLVED:

That the state of the road surface at the junction continue to be monitored.

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

RESOLVED:

That this matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

- (d) Street Lighting

Cheshire County Council's Street Lighting Technician, Mr Carl Gent, reported that the Council's request for extra street lighting had been noted, but unfortunately no funds had been made available in the current year's budget for the Capital Lighting Schemes. The request would be kept on file and would be reassessed along with many others if capital became available .

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and further consideration be given to street lighting priorities when the Council determines its budget.

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

There was no progress to report.

- (f) Telegraph Pole near the Vernon Institute

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write again to BT seeking clarification on the state of the pole.

- (g) School Bus

RESOLVED: That

(1) the County Transport Co-ordinator be informed of the various problems being experienced with School Transport in the village and be requested to consider re-routing the single decker bus into the Ridings Estate; and

(2) Councillor D Whitton be sent a copy of the Clerk's letter for information.

- (h) Flooding – 18 & 20 Lodge Lane

Councillor Bailey informed of the flooding on Lodge Lane.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to take necessary action to ensure that the problem is rectified.

- (i) Hermitage Road – Hedge from the Blacon Boundary up to Garston House

Councillor Bailey reported on the state of the hedge.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the land agent to request that remedial action is taken to allow safe passage.

- (j) Drainage – opposite 86 Church Road

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to alert Cheshire County Council's Area Engineer to the problem.

- (k) Highway and Transportation Local Joint Committee for Chester

The Clerk reported that the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 8 November 2001 had been posted on that day and she had received it on 9 November 2001, the day after the meeting!

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to ascertain why the agenda had been delayed.

- (l) Pathway – A540

It was reported that the path opposite the Wheatsheaf Public House was in a dangerous condition as it was overgrown with greenery.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to alert Cheshire County Council's Area Engineer to the problem.

195 PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) 2 Hermitage Road, Saughall

Chester City Council was consulting the Parish Council on the developers proposed name "Whaley Court".

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Chester City Council that this Council fully supports the proposed name as it is considered very appropriate as there have been Whaleys in Saughall for hundreds of years.

(b) Planning Proposal

- (i) Primelight Advertising Limited – Illuminated double sided free standing sign
Save Service Station, Padgate Road, Saughall

Councillor Bailey had informed Chester City Council, the Planning Authority, that this Council had no objections to the planning proposal.

- (ii) letter from Ms V Simpson re: the insertion of a new window at Chestnut House
Day Nursery, Church Road, Saughall

It was noted that Chester City Council had granted planning permission.

(c) Wynstead, Parkgate Road, Saughall

Proposal to remove condition No 1 on 2/3/03100 relating to agricultural occupancy.

It was noted that Chester City Council's Planning Officers had recommended that the Planning Board give permission at its meeting scheduled for 7 November 2001.

(d) Rescheduling of next Planning Committee meeting

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Planning Committee be held on a date determined by the Chairman in consultation with Members of the Committee.

196 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(b) Millennium Park Land

It was reported that the two pieces of land that the Council considered might accommodate a Millennium Park were not for sale.

It was noted that County Councillor David Rowlands had not contacted the Clerk regarding the fax she had sent him reminding him that he had agreed to arrange a meeting with WREN.

(c) Water Quality

United Utilities had written to the Clerk informing her that they had previously supplied her with inaccurate information.

They had checked on improvement work being carried out in the Neston area (her home address) rather than the Saughall area. Whilst mains rehabilitation work was currently being carried out in Neston, such work would not be carried out in Saughall until 2006-7.

RESOLVED:

That the revised information provided be noted.

(d) Street Cleaning and Litter Bins

Following problems identified by Members, Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council's Amenities Manager had offered to attend a quarterly meeting with the Parish Council to discuss problem areas.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Ron Dunn be invited to the Special Council Meeting scheduled for 3 December 2001.

(e) Grassed Amenity Areas

No response had been received regarding planting on the grassed amenity areas from Mr Duncan Henderson of Chester City Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to issue a reminder and Councillor RA Storrar be requested to chase the matter up.

(f) Spring Bulbs

Councillor Mrs Young reported that she, with the help from her uniformed group, had planted the Spring bulbs.

(g) Recycling of Newspapers

It was noted that the recycling provision at the Ridings Infant School provided funding for the School.

RESOLVED:

That this community facility be advertised in the next Parish Newsletter.

197 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members received the Minutes of the Vernon Institute Management Committee and noted their content.

Councillor RA Storrar had spoken to Chester City Council's Conservation Officer and reported that a Programme of Works had to be submitted by the Management Committee before any grant could be paid. It was important that the Management Committee liaised with the Conservation Officer.

It was noted that the original contractor was not now undertaking the work.

It was reported that Councillor SS Evans was unable to attend meetings of the Management Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the current situation regarding the Vernon Institute refurbishing work be noted; and
- (2) Councillor H Dobson be nominated to attend future meetings of the Committee including the AGM the following evening.

198 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That the rota for the forthcoming Surgeries be as follows:

Date	Member
17 November 2001	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
1 December 2001	Councillor Mrs J Young
8 December 2001	Councillor H Dobson
15 December 2001	Councillor RA Storrar

199 DECEMBER MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be noted that the meeting scheduled for 3 December 2001 will be a Special Meeting of the Council held in the Parish Room to receive a presentation on Chester City Council's Rural Housing Survey 2000;
- (2) the next ordinary meeting of the Council be held at 7:30pm on Monday, 10 December 2001; and
- (3) there be no meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in November 2001.

200 MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Council received reports of proceeding from Members who had attended meetings in October 2001 in order to represent the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the reports of external meetings from members be received.

201 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- letter dated 19 October 2001 from Cheshire County Council's Waste Strategy Manager regarding Cheshire Local Government Association Public Consultation on Draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Views were requested by 17 December 2001.

Noted

- letter dated 24 October 2001 from Chester City Council's John Healey regarding Friends of War Memorials who are asking if their Experience Corps might assist in various maintenance tasks at local War Memorials.

Keep on file and review in September 2002.

- letter dated October 2001 from the Lord Mayor of Chester regarding his Christmas Parcel Appeal 2001. Nomination cards must be returned by 19 November 2001.

The vicar would take any necessary action.

- letter dated as postmark from the Chief Executive of NALC and the Director of the Countryside Agency providing an update on the National Training Strategy for Parish and Town Councils.

To next meeting of the Council.

- letter dated 1 October 2001 from South Cheshire Health Authority's Project Director Mental Health and Learning Disabilities regarding the proposal to establish a new Partnership NHS Trust for mental health & learning disability in Cheshire and Wirral from April 2002.

Period of consultation runs from 1 October to 24 December 2001.

Noted.

- letter dated 10 October 2001 from a resident who does not want their name published raising various concerns and problems encountered living in Saughall. To be considered as part of the consultation process.

- letter dated October 2001 from Cheshire County Council's Director of Education, Mr David Cracknell, on consultation on three important strategies/plans.

Noted.

- letter dated 7 November 2001 from DEFRA and Consultation Paper – responses by 14 February 2002.

To Budget Council meeting.

202 CIRCULARS

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

Chester's First Community Plan
Chester City Council's Council Meeting – 17 October 2001
Chester City Council's The Past Uncovered October 2001
Cheshire Community Council's Members' News September 2001
Cheshire County Council's A to Z Guide
Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters October 2001
Cheshire County Council's CQC October 2001
Minutes of Chester Police Forum Meeting on 17 September 2001
Cheshire County Council's Statement of Accounts 2000-01
Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Environment October 2001
CPRE News – Autumn 2001
Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters November 2001
Cheshire Community Council's The Cheshire Cauldron Newsletter – October 2001
Chester & District Housing Trust Annual Report 2001
Chester in Partnership
Chester's Way Ahead – Chester's first Community Plan. On deposit in Parish Room.

203 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

Members received a progress report and considered what action they should take.

RESOLVED:

That advise be sought from a solicitor.

Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council5 Year Plan 2002/2007Vision

To improve the quality of life for the people of Saughall and Shotwick Park.

Mission

To establish community pride, to provide quality services and continuous improvement.

Key Aims

- ?? To be open, accessible and responsive.
- ?? To seek continuous improvement and best value in all services.
- ?? To work in partnership for the benefit of all.
- ?? To protect the environment.

This plan has been prepared as part of the Council's commitment to provide 'Best Value'. This means continuously reviewing the needs of the parish and improving the services provided and the way they are delivered. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually.

Sports and Recreation

2002/2003 To pursue the acquisition of land, for use as recreational land to be called the 'Millennium Park'.

2001/2002 To sort out the drainage on Fiddlers Lane Playing Field; and
To consider a weekly cut in the grass growing season.

2003/2004 To commence preparation of acquired land for use as a cricket pitch and other field sports.

Annually To monitor the land behind Parkway for affordable housing.

Annually To review the children's playground in Fiddlers Lane and replace damaged and worn out equipment.

To arrange a briefing with residents of Church Road, Parkway and Shotwick House on progress being made in respect of the Millennium Park.

Street and Amenity Cleaning

Annually To review the street cleaning provision.

To annually hold dialogue with both the County and City Councils to ask them to review the frequency of drain inspection and drain clearance

Traffic Calming

Annually To review the effectiveness of traffic calming measures already provided and to update as required.

2002/2003 To continue to press the County Council to implement traffic safety improvements at the junction of Long Lane with Parkgate Road.

2002/2003 To monitor the progress with respect to the Deeside Park Junctions study and continue to urge the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions to install traffic lights on the A5117/A540 intersection.

Crime Prevention

Annually To continuously keep under review any measures which need to be taken in respect of crime prevention.

The Crime and Disorder Committee to liaise with the Homewatch Committee over crime prevention schemes.

Financial support be provided to the Homewatch Committee.

To review the effectiveness of the Community Policing Plan.

Voluntary Organisations

2002/2003 To establish a Youth Forum.

Annually To review what practical help is required by the voluntary sector within the community and to assist in the launch of new organisations.

Amenity Provision

Annually To monitor the provision of retail services within the village and offer whatever assistance is available to any businesses with problems.

Public Transport

Annually To monitor the provision of bus services.

To consider the provision/replacement of bus shelters.

Street Lighting

Annually To review street lighting and provide new and improved lighting at black spots.

Parish Council Structure

Annually To review the frequency of meetings and the Committee structure.

Public Consultation

Annually To issue half-yearly newsletters.

To make adequate public speaking time available to discuss the implementation of the 5 year plan and any changes required at the December Council meetings.

To hold Council Surgeries and review them.

To promote the new Parish Council website.

Planning

To progress the following recommendation as a possible policy for the future:

“To adopt a policy which would ensure that any future development in the village could only go ahead if a sum of money was commuted to the Parish Council by the developer for the benefit of the village as a whole”