

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 10 December 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 RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs J Young

County Councillor D Rowlands  
Mr C McIlwrick – Homewatch Co-ordinator  
Mr C Wynne-Eaton – Tree Warden

211 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor SS Evans  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
PC G Cooper

212 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 November 2001 be confirmed as a correct record.

213 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 190 – Minutes of Committees

The Council had resolved that the Chairman be requested to lobby nationally for commuted sums from developers in respect of successful planning applications to be used to the advantage of the local community as a whole.

The Chairman informed that the appropriate way forward was to ask the Clerk to write to the County Secretary, Mrs Jackie Weaver, asking that the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils consider the proposed policy and if it was supportive to refer it nationally.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman's suggested approach be adopted.

Minute No 193 – Annual Review of the Five Year Plan of Action

Under the side heading - Sport and Recreation, it was agreed to amend the timescale to sort out the drainage on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field to 2002/2003.

Minute No 194 – Highway Matters

(f) Telegraph Pole near the Vernon Institute

The problem had been rectified.

(h) Flooding – 18 & 20 Lodge Lane

Councillor RA Storrar reported that Mr Steve Marks of Cheshire County Council's Highways Maintenance Department had visited the properties earlier in the day with a view to remedying the situation.

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

There was no progress to report, the hedge was overgrown and the Clerk would continue to pursue the matter.

(j) Drainage – Opposite 86 Church Road

It was noted that the drains had been rodded and work was in-hand to replace the damaged manhole.

(k) Highway and Transportation Local Joint Committee for Chester

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had made representations to Chester City Council's Democratic Services Officers in respect of the unacceptable lateness of the agenda. Agenda would be sent out in time in future.

(l) Pathway – A540

Greenery had been removed from the path opposite the Wheatsheaf Public House.

Special Council Meeting – 3 December 2001

It was noted that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 3 December 2001 to consider the results of the Rural Housing Needs Survey would be brought to the next meeting because of the tight timescale involved.

At the Special Council meeting it had been agreed that a Working Party would be established to identify sites that may be suitable for housing development in Saughall. The Clerk would write to the Cheshire Community Council and Chester City Council requesting nominations to sit on this forum.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors A Bailey, Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs J Young be requested to sit on the Working Party.

## 214 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 12 November 2001:

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	19.98	101456
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,147.30	101457
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	42.05	101458
Mr RB Ebbrell (Repairs to Notice Board)	35.00	101459
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	400.52	101460
Mr W Abram (Honorarium – Clock Winding)	25.00	101461
Mrs M Abram (Honorarium – ladies in library)	70.00	101462
Chester City Council (Rates)	103.00	DD

(b) Receipts

Interest to 23 November 2001 (Treasurer account)	1.02
Interest to 21 November 2001 (14 day interest account)	37.21

## 215 PROPOSED BYELAW – NO BALL GAMES

The Clerk reported that the consultation period ended on 10 December 2001. The majority of responses were supportive and only two consultees had objected.

RESOLVED:

That Chester City Council's Legal Services be informed of the results of the public consultation process and be asked to pursue the Byelaw with the Home Office.

## 216 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

RESOLVED:

That as PC Cooper was not in attendance at the meeting the police report be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick reported on a series of incidents including cars, vans, sheds and garage break-ins in the village along with the detail of a distraction burglary.

Mr McIlwrick had written to Superintendent Ingram requesting that a high ranking police officer be in attendance with some frequency at both meetings of the Homewatch and the Parish Council.

Members were also informed of a new community safety initiative – Project Rural Matters, which was underway in an attempt to put more bobbys on the beat in Cheshire, particularly in the rural areas.

The Homewatch Newsletter had been distributed. It had been well received and had made villagers think.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Community Safety

Councillor RA Storrar reported that Mr Robert Callow, Chester City Council's Community Safety Manager, had agreed to attend the meeting of the Council scheduled for 4 February 2002 and make a presentation on his role, nuisance youth activity and deterrents used in respect of anti-social behaviour specifically in the Chester District.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Homewatch Newslines

The contents of the Homewatch Newslines were noted.

(e) Crime and Disorder Committee

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 23 January 2002 in the Parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

217 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 November 2001 be received.

218 YOUTH FORUM

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Youth Liaison Group was scheduled for Wednesday, 12 December 2001 in the Parish Room, Saughall.

The Council was keen to approach the youth of the village over the establishment of a Youth Forum. Rather than using the schools route it was considered appropriate this time to directly approach the Youth Groups in the village.

RESOLVED:

That the questionnaire to be used in the forthcoming Parish Survey as preparation for the Parish Plan, be tailored so that the young people of the village can be consulted on the proposal to establish a Youth Forum.

## 219 VITAL VILLAGES – PARISH PLAN

Members considered the results of the initial consultation on what should be included in the Parish Plan.

The next step was to appoint an agency to compile an appropriate user-friendly questionnaire for distribution around the village, to evaluate the findings and provide a report.

RESOLVED:

That the Cheshire Community Council and Mr Rob Moor be invited to submit quotations to undertake the Parish Survey.

## 220 HIGHWAY MATTERS

### (a) C203 Church Road, Saughall – Proposed Pelican Crossing

Mr Graham Lowe of Cheshire County Council's Engineering Service had reported that the highest vehicle flows on Church Road were recorded between 8:00-9:00, 15:00-16:00, 16:00-17:00 and 17:00-18:00 with average Monday-Friday two way flows of 445, 354, 386 and 434 respectively. These flows had been used to calculate that approximately 350 pedestrians would need to cross within 50 metres of the proposed pelican crossing point for each of these hours to meet the PV2 criteria.

It would appear that the actual number of pedestrians crossing Church Road in the vicinity of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School fell far short of this figure. Therefore, Mr Lowe had informed that there seemed little point in undertaking a further survey at this time. The pedestrian crossing criteria was however currently being reviewed and arrangements would be made to reassess Church Road when it had been completed.

The Council was disappointed with the County Council's response and was aware that the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 enabled parish councils to contribute to traffic calming works and wanted to know how much a crossing would cost.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Lowe how much it would cost to install a pelican crossing on Church Road.

### (b) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road Junction

Members noted that the road surface at the junction was acceptable at the current time.

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor the road surface at the junction.

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

The Council reviewed the accessibility of the Countess of Chester Hospital by bus. It was noted that on Saturdays and Sundays the No 40 service did not run. However, there was a frequent service which dropped off on Liverpool Road. Disabled people could telephone dial-a-ride and there was also a hospital visiting car scheme in operation.

RESOLVED:

That this item be removed from future Council agenda.

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

Cheshire County Council's Passenger Transport Section had informed that the Parish Council could bid for part-funding (£1,000) towards the proposed bus shelter scheme on Church Road through the Countryside Agency's Vital Villages Bus Shelter Scheme 2001/2002.

It was noted that the detail of the scheme was held by Ms Christine Garner of Cheshire County Council's Transport Co-ordination Service and not by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to obtain the details of the proposed bus shelter scheme on Church Road from Ms Garner.

(e) School Transport in Saughall

It was noted that the County Transport Co-ordinator had not yet responded to the letter from the Clerk on the problems associated with school buses in Saughall.

RESOLVED:

That the problems associated with school buses be further considered at the next meeting of the Council.

(f) M53, A55/A483/A550 Route Management Strategy (Birkenhead to the Welsh Border)

The Chairman reported that he had attended an exhibition at Capenhurst Village Hall as part of the Highways Agency's consultation on improving the route. The proposals did not affect the A5117.

Whilst at the exhibition the chairman had taken the opportunity to discuss the Deeside Junction Study, particularly the A5117 upgrade from the M56 to the Welsh border.

It would be approximately 7 years before the scheme was implemented. The Chairman had discussed the possibility of installing traffic lights at the roundabout and it was noted that this would take place in 2003/04 at the earliest.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(g) Street Signs

Members reported broken and missing street signage.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Chester City Council to get the street signs replaced.

(h) Boulder at the Peg

It was reported that there was a concrete boulder with metal spikes through it on the grass verge at the Peg near to the public footpath.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask the District Engineer to remove the boulder.

(i) Parking on Pavements

It was noted that residents of Long Lane continued to park on the pavement.

RESOLVED:

That PC Cooper be requested to deter motorists from parking on pavements in the village.

221 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARISH COUNCILS

Members noted the content of the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Region's Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils.

It was also noted that all authorities had to adopt their own code of conduct by 5 May 2002, 6 months after the model code of conduct was made. It was the responsibility of District Council Monitoring Officers to ensure Parish Councils complied.

RESOLVED:

That a Special Meeting of the Council be called to adopt the model code of conduct once the relevant information had been received from Chester City Council.

222 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) 2 Hermitage Road, Saughall

It was noted that development was in progress.

RESOLVED:

That this item be not included on future Council meeting agenda.

(b) Chester District Local Plan Public Inquiry 1999-2001

The Council noted progress and the City Council's written rebuttal statements to all of those who made written objections.

(c) Planning Appeal – Application Ref 01/00370/OUT

Appellant: Mr A Proctor

RE: Erection of dormer bungalow and garage

AT: Land between Ivy House Farm and Parkside, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

The Planning Committee had referred detail of the planning appeal to the Council for consideration. Previously, when consulted the Council had had no objections to this application.

RESOLVED:

That the Council make no objections in respect of this application now the subject of an appeal.

223 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) Drainage - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(c) Millennium Park Land

The Clerk had written to the Director of Community Development, Mr Jeremy Taylor, asking that Cheshire County Council pay for the survey work required on the Shotwick Park land which was currently part of the County Farms Estate. Previously, Mr Stephen Wright, the County Council's External Funding Officer, had indicated that his Council might pay for this work.

However, Mr Taylor was adamant that the first step was for the Parish Council to put forward a clear and detailed business case for how the land would be used, the facilities built and maintained. He informed that once this had been produced the County Council would then be in a position to approach its Members to request

further support for the Parish Council's proposal. The funding of the land survey fell within this County Council approval process.

Mr Taylor had also reiterated that the production of such a business case was still no guarantee of success, either with County Councillors or external funders, but was necessary if the Parish Council and local community were to move forward with their aspirations.

On receipt of the letter the Clerk had consulted with the Chairman and had responded to Mr Taylor telling him of the frustration his response had caused Parish Councillors. They found themselves in a hopeless situation. It was not possible for the Parish Council to produce a detailed business case in respect of the land's usage etc. until it had an idea of how much the infill costs would be and this could not be established without a survey being carried out. They also wondered why it fell to the Parish Council alone to prepare the business case and why the County Council was not taking joint ownership of an initiative which would aid community development and would benefit youth, community, recreational and leisure activities, areas for which the Principal Authority had specific responsibilities of its own.

Mr Taylor had been reminded that the Millennium Park initiative had been ongoing for well over a decade and the Parish Council had made very little progress in all of that time. Saughall remained a rural village lacking in recreational land, a problem which had been identified time and time again by various appraisals, including the County Council's own Quality of Life Survey and by the local community itself.

The Parish Council wanted to facilitate the acquisition of the land for use as a park. Members wished to move forward in partnership with the County Council on this project and that meant working together. It recognised that it could not make it happen by itself.

The County Council was asked to review its approach and commitment to this initiative because if it did not also have aspirations to see a park on the land identified, the Millennium Park Project had no future.

Mr Taylor's response was awaited but the County Council's External Funding Officer had been in touch with the Clerk and it had been agreed that he would speak to the Chairman after 3 December 2001 with a view to attending a further meeting with Parish Councillors. Unfortunately, the Chairman had not yet been approached by Mr Wright.

County Councillor David Rowlands informed the Council that the way forward was now a direct approach to the appropriate County Council Chairman, Councillor Mrs Nora Stopford. He agreed to discuss the situation with relevant County Officers.

County Councillor Rowlands also told the Council that he had not forgotten his promise to facilitate a meeting with WREN and that he would put arrangements in hand as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported that the two landowners approached in the village, in an attempt to explore alternative options, were not willing to sell or lease their land.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

(d) Water Quality - Hermitage Court

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor the water quality at Hermitage Court.

(e) Street Cleaning and Litter Bins

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Council continue to monitor the state of the village and its litter bins; and

(2) Mr Ron Dunn, Amenities Manager, Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council, be informed that there was still litter on the grassed amenity area in Greenway and request its removal.

(f) Grassed Amenity Areas

RESOLVED:

That this matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(g) Notice Boards

It was reported that the new notice board recently sited at the Ridings Infant School had been vandalised. The beading had been pulled off and the locks super-glued. It had cost the Council £35 to get it fixed.

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor the state of the Parish Council's notice boards.

(h) Tree Warden's Report

Mr Wynne-Eaton, the Tree Warden, informed the Council of his observations in respect of some of the trees in the village.

It was noted that the Horse Chestnut tree on the Lodge Lane/Church Road corner had outgrown its guard and a new one could be provided at a cost of £65.

Members asked the Tree Warden to look at a particular tree in the village that was causing concern and obtain an appropriate quotation for any work required.

The Tree Warden requested that his ideas for a community orchard be fed into the Parish Plan process.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Tree Warden be thanked for his report; and

(2) the Tree Warden be given delegated authority to take any appropriate remedial action in respect of community trees in the village.

(i) Dee Estuary Forum Meeting – 5 December 2001

It was noted that a meeting had been held at the County Hall, Chester.

(j) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The Council received draft map information formulated specifically for Parish Councils.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Warrington be requested to look in detail at the map and report observations to the next meeting of the Council.

#### 224 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Vernon Institute Management Committee had a meeting scheduled for the next day.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Minutes of the meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee held on 13 November 2001 along with the Management Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2001 be received; and

(2) a report on the proceedings of the Vernon Institute Management Committee be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

#### 225 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED: That

(1) there be no Parish Council Surgeries for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period; and

(2) Parish Council Surgeries recommence on Saturday, 5 January 2002 with Councillors Mrs P Humphrey and Mrs M Anderson in attendance.

226 NATIONAL TRAINING STRATEGY FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

RESOLVED:

That this Strategy be considered in detail at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

227 CHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S PARISH PARTNERSHIP RECEPTION

The Council received a report from Councillor A Bailey on proceedings of the Annual City Council event. It was noted that it had been a very useful and had allowed Members to meet various City Council Officers and obtain knowledge of the Principal Authority's working practices and ongoing initiatives.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

228 CHESTER RURAL NORTH LOCAL PANEL PUBLIC MEETING

The Council received a report on proceedings of the Chester Rural North Local Panel meeting held on 29 November 2001 from those Members who had been in attendance.

It was noted that a successful bid for funding meant that there was finance available for a first aid project. Twelve places were available. Two parish councillors from each Parish Council were to be identified in respect of the course run by Merseyside Health Authority. One to attend and a reserve.

It was reported that the next meeting would be held at 6 pm on 31 January 2002 in Elton and Inspector Cleworth had agreed to make a presentation on the Community Safety initiative – Project Rural Matters.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) Councillor Mrs M Anderson be nominated to attend the first aid course with Councillor Mrs P Humphrey as reserve.

229 THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Mr McIlwrick informed that he had called a meeting in November 2001 to discuss ideas to celebrate and commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Only seven people had attended the meeting and six of them had been members of the Homewatch.

Due to lack of interest nothing was being arranged in Saughall for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. However, if people wished to come forward to make arrangements within the local community, Mr McIlwrick would help all he could.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

230 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

- NALC – Working for Local Communities – National Conference and Exhibition, 14-16 June 2002, Preston Guildhall

AGREED – provision to be included in the Parish Council's budget for appropriate attendance.

- letter dated 22 November 2001 from Cheshire Community Council regarding Parish Transport Grants Workshop enclosing overheads and promising answers to outstanding questions in due course.

Noted.

- letter dated 21 November 2001 from Chester Radio requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Members.

Noted.

- letter dated 21 November 2001 from Chester City Council's Chief Partnership Officer regarding Community Liaison at Chester City Council.

Noted.

231 CIRCULARS

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

Chester City Council's Council Meeting 5 December 2001

The Deeliverer October 2001

North West Development Agency – NWDA News Winter 2001

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association – Annual Report 2000/01

Chester Volunteers Bureau – Volunteer Voice – Autumn 2001

Chester Volunteers Bureau – Voluntary Voice – Autumn 2001

Chester City Council's The Past Year – Annual Review of Archaeology