

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK  
PARISH COUNCIL held on 21 January 2002 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

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

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Bailey  
Councillor GF Williams  
Councillor Mrs J Young

18 DETERMINATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2002/2003  
AND THE PARISH PRECEPT

The Council received details of payments made from 1 April 2001 up until 10 January 2002, estimated expenditure and income to the end of March 2002, the 2001/2002 Budget, its proposed budget for 2002/2003 as agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 17 January 2002, and the parish tax base – 2002/2003 – Council Tax.

At previous meetings of the Council it had been agreed that a decision on whether or not to provide funding in respect of the following would be considered at the budget meeting:

Member's and Clerk's Training  
The Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations  
Hosting the Parish Council website

Members considered each budget head in turn and debated the funding that would be required over the next year against each one in order to carry out the Council's activities and provide an appropriate level of service both effectively and efficiently. After substantial deliberation the 2002/2003 Parish Council budget was agreed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Parish Council budget for 2002/2003 be agreed as set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to inform Chester City Council's Director of Corporate Services that the Parish Council requires a precept of £32,601 for 2002/2003 (Appendix 2); and
- (3) a review of the costs and benefits of having a Parish Room be carried out in Autumn 2002.

## 19 QUALITY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS – A CONSULTATION PAPER

The Council was reminded that the Rural White Paper, Our Countryside the Future a Fair Deal for Rural England, the Government's policy framework for rural England outlined new thinking on the role of parish and town councils, to give rural communities a greater opportunity to shape their own future. A key element in that was the concept of QUALITY town or parish councils working closely with principal authorities and giving rural communities a better deal on local services and a stronger voice in decision making. The White Paper promised to consult on how a QUALITY town or parish council might work.

Members considered a copy of the consultation paper which was published on 7 November 2001 setting out detailed proposals for putting the "quality" concept into practice. The paper was issued jointly by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, the Local Government Association, the National Association of Local Councils and the Countryside Agency.

The consultation paper set out proposals for a model charter covering relations between all parish and town councils and their principal authorities, the additional benefits that a QUALITY council could expect, how the QUALITY concept would work and the tests councils should meet to achieve QUALITY status.

The closing date for response to the consultation paper was 31 January 2002. However, as Christmas had intervened it had been agreed to accept responses up until 14 February 2002.

In the light of responses received and further discussions with the Local Government Association, the National Association of Local Councils, the Countryside Agency and the Audit Commission, the Government would issue guidance to principal authorities and local councils on the operation of the QUALITY scheme. It was anticipated that the guidance would be issued in Spring 2002 and that the scheme would be initiated shortly thereafter.

The Council discussed the document in detail working its way through a list of questions devised to aid the consultation process and answering them as appropriate.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the detail set out in the consultation paper be noted; and
- (2) the Chairman be requested to draft the Council's response to the paper.

APPENDIX 1

SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET 2002/2003

Budget Head	Proposed 2002/2003	Priority
<b>Environment Matters</b>		
Best Kept Village Competition	430.00	1
Noticeboards	150.00	1
Street Cleaning	9,000.00	1
Trees	500.00	2
Litter Bins	250.00	2
Grass Cutting (Playing Fields) (Weekly cut)	2,400.00	1
Playing Field Maintenance/Repairs	1,500.00	1
Play Equipment (rolling replacement programme)	1,000.00	1
Playing Field Improvements	2,000.00	1
Millennium Park Land	2,000.00	1
Sub Total	19,230.00	
<b>Finance and General Purposes</b>		
(a) Administration		
Clerk's salary and NI	6,900.00	1
Administration Expenses	600.00	1
Parish Councillor's Expenses	100.00	1
Computer	500.00	1
Parish Plan	500.00	1
Newsletter publication costs	500.00	1
Training Fund	1,000.00	1
Sub Total	10,100.00	
(b) Annual Payments		
Parish Room rental and associated costs	3,500.00	1
Audit Fees	400.00	1
Youth Forum	100.00	2
Donations/Honorarium	250.00	2
Insurance	850.00	1
Subscriptions (APC £500, PFA £20, Com CI £30)	600.00	1
VI Clock Service	175.00	1
Website Hosting	100.00	1
Homewatch Support	150.00	1
Sub Total	6,125.00	
(c) Queen's Golden Jubilee	1,000.00	2
(d) Vernon Institute - Annual Grant	1,400.00	1
(e) Contingency		
(f) Crime and Disorder	500.00	1
<b>Highways Matters</b>		
Street Lighting		
Bus Shelter replacement	1,000.00	1
Bus Shelter maintenance	250.00	1
Traffic Calming		
Sub Total	1,250.00	
Grand Total	39,605.00	

**APPENDIX 2**

**SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL  
PRECEPT CALCULATION 2002/2003**

**2001/02**

Budget	£36,505.00
Precept	£28,094.00
Council Tax (Band D)	£24.03

	£	
Estimated Income	46,694	
Estimated Expenditure	<u>34,686</u>	
Surplus	12,008	12,008

Less money in Saving funds		
Vernon Institute	2,496	
Play Equipment	2,000	
Footpaths	508	-5,004

Balance Carried Forward		<u>7,004</u>
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**2002/2003**

Draft Budget	39,605
Less Balance C/Fwd	<u>7,004</u>
Required Precept	32,601

Tax Base (Band D)	1,166.3
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Tax	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">27.95</span>
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Increase	16%
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Saving Funds @ 31 March 2002

Millennium Fund	0
Vernon Institute	2,496
Play Equipment	2,000
Footpaths	508