

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 4 February 2002 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson
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 J Young

PC G Cooper
Mr R Callow – Community Safety Manager - Chester City
Council
Mr C McIlwrick – Homewatch Co-ordinator

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor GF Williams

21 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 7 and 21 January 2002 be confirmed as a correct record.

22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 11 – Highways Matters

(f) 76 Church Road

There was no drop-kerbs at 76 Church Road but the owner continued to drive over the verge into the garden. The Clerk had asked the District Engineer for advice but none had been received.

PC Cooper informed that no offences were being committed at this location. The driver had made alterations to his premises to allow the vehicle to be brought in off the road but was doing nothing the police could take action on.

(h) 2 Lodge Lane

No problems were reported.

RESOLVED:

That PC G Cooper be requested to keep the situation under review.

(i) 8 Meadows Lane

No problems were reported.

RESOLVED:

That PC G Cooper be requested to keep the situation under review.

23 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 7 January 2002:

Financial Year 2001/2002	£	Cheque No
Mr R Ebbrell (repairs to bus shelter)	80.00	101469
United Utilities	10.24	101470
All Saints Parochial Church Council (Burial Grant)	400.00	101471
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning)	763.75	101472
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	36.43	101473
Cheshire Community Council (Best Kept Village Competition)	22.00	101474
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	400.52	101475
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	90.04	101476

(b) Receipts

Interest to 23 January 2002 (Treasurer Account)	0.11
Interest to 21 January 2002 (14 day Interest Account)	24.47
Chester City Council - All Saints Parochial Church Council Burial Grant	400.00
Chester City Council – Street Cleaning Grant	1,996.80

24 PROPOSED BYELAW – NO BALL GAMES

A meeting had been held between representatives of the Parish Council and Chester City Councillor Paul Roberts, the portfolio holder. Site visits had been undertaken and the City Councillor had expressed sympathy over the situation and agreed some action was required.

The Chairman had provided Councillor Roberts with a written history and PC Cooper agreed to seek advice on enforcement. He was in favour of the proposal and agreed to send a letter of support to Chester City Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) PC Cooper be requested to seek advice on enforcement and send a letter of support for the introduction of the byelaw.

25 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Cooper presented his monthly report to the Council. He informed that premises in the village were giving the police cause for concern but they hoped that the problem would be resolved soon.

There was currently a trend of distraction burglaries in the Chester Police Division. Although the police did not want to frighten older people, it was timely to issue reminders about their security. Stickers were being produced to go on doors and windows for this purpose and PC Cooper had some information leaflets for distribution.

Members reported that heavy lorries were leading turf through the village even though there was a weight restriction of 7½ tonnes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) PC Cooper be requested to check the weight of the trucks and if they exceeded the limit ask the Traffic Sergeant at Ellesmere Port to contact the firm responsible for leading the turf.

(b) Homewatch

Mr McIlwrick reported that children had been firing airguns in Parkway.

A car had recently been stolen and had crashed in Fiddlers Lane.

The Homewatch's Open Forum was being held on 9 February 2002

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Community Safety Initiative – Project Rural Matters

The launch of the Initiative had taken place on 15 January 2002 at Eaton Hall. There had been a good turn out. The initiative had been presented very positively by the Divisional Commander Superintendent Nick Ingram, Steve Anderson, and the Duke of Westminster.

The police were to be more proactive in the rural areas.

A Sophia bus had been acquired for community use. It was based at Mickle Trafford Police Station and Sergeant Ian Ankers (Tel No 01244 300345) was the first point of contact. The police were insured to drive it but there were problems with the insurance for community volunteers when police were unavailable to drive. This bus was available in respect of community projects and ideas and initiatives would develop over time.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) a further report be made to the Council in four months time so that it can see if the Project was having the desired effect.

(d) Chester Police Forum – Monday, 21 January 2002

Councillor Warrington reported on the proceedings of the Police Forum. Of particular interest to Members were the concerns raised over speeding vehicles in rural communities.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

26 COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Robert Callow, Chester City Council's Community Safety Manager, had attended the meeting at the Council's request and made a presentation on his role, the work undertaken in respect of the Chester Community Safety Partnership's Crime Audit, how it would be monitored, and provided a general overview on crime and disorder in the Chester District.

It was noted that it was proposed to base the Audit on the following themes:

- Crime
- Improving quality of life
- Equalities
- Communications

Mr Callow informed that domestic burglaries and the fear of crime were key issues. Each ward was being looked at individually and it was noted that total

crime in Saughall was less than the Chester average whilst nuisance youth activity was above the Chester average.

The Partnership was looking to set up multi-agency problem solving teams based on Police Sectors. Members considered the youth nuisance strategy in place along with Project Rural Matters. Mr Callow also informed that the Partnership wanted to develop an interactive Homewatch website providing fast access to information.

Following the presentation Members asked Mr Callow a number of questions which had been formulated at the Crime and Disorder Committee and he answered them as appropriate.

It was agreed that it would be useful if crime statistics for Saughall and some of its comparators could be provided.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Callow be thanked for his attendance at the meeting and for his presentation.

27 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES ETC

(a) Youth Liaison Group

Members were informed of the proceedings of the youth Liaison Group meeting held on 17 January 2002. Twelve people were in attendance but disappointment was expressed over the young people's lack of attendance at this meeting.

It was agreed that Councillor A Warrington would arrange and Chair a meeting between the Youth Club Management Committee and Mrs Povey to discuss what to include in the presentation to the Vernon Institute Management Committee the following week.

It was agreed that Mr Brian Huxley, the Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee, would be invited to an informal meeting facilitated by the Parish Council to provide an opportunity for him to see who was involved with the Youth Club and what assistance was being provided.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to represent the Council on the Youth Club Management Committee; and
- (2) the outcome of the bid by the Youth Club for the lease on the Annexe be reported to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 21 February 2002.

(b) Committees

RESOLVED: That

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

Planning Committee held on 16 January 2002

Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 January 2002

and

(2) Parish Room rating arrangements be the subject of report at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

28 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council noted the content of a letter sent by Mr Charles Kerry, Solicitor – Head of Democratic Services at Chester City Council, on arrangements being made in respect of the DLTR's Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order which was laid in Parliament on 6 November 2001 and came into force on 27 November 2001.

It was noted that the Council would have to adopt its own Code of Conduct by 5 May 2002 – 6 months after the Model Code of Conduct was made. Each elected or co-opted Member of the Council would have a further two months to individually sign up to the code. This was particularly important – failure of a Councillor to do so would result in him/her ceasing to be a Member of the Council and a casual vacancy would arise.

It was recommended that the Council earmark a meeting at which the Code would be adopted, before 5 May 2002.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officers for each of the Districts had agreed to publish the Notice of Adoption for all the parishes in that District in a local newspaper. New Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms would be available and circulated as soon as possible. Also, Members would be expected to complete their entry in the Register of Members Interests.

The Chairman reported that each of the District's Monitoring Officers, with the assistance of the County Secretary, was holding a training event for Chairmen and Clerks.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Chairman be requested to attend the training event at Chester Town Hall on Thursday, 21 February 2002;

(2) the Clerk be requested to attend the training event at Warrington Town Hall on Monday, 25 February 2002; and

- (3) the adoption of the Code of Conduct be placed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council on Monday, 4 March 2002 and the further information expected be circulated with the Agenda.

29 VITAL VILLAGES – PARISH PLAN

(a) Quotation for Survey Work

The Chairman, Councillor Kerr, declared an interest as he was also the Chairman of the Cheshire Community Council.

It was reported that only one quote had been received for survey work involved prior to the compilation of a Parish Plan. This quote had been received from the Cheshire Community Council.

Members noted the total quotation and considered whether all of the work included was necessary and explored possible options in the light of information it already had at its disposal. It was agreed that it was essential to engage other partners in respect of this initiative.

It was noted that 75% of the work required could be met by the Countryside Commission if the bid was successful, with the remaining 25% being met from the precept.

It was suggested that it might be appropriate to hold the Public Meeting on the same evening as the Annual Parish Assembly.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the quotation from the Cheshire Community Council be considered in detail at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and all Members of the Council be invited to attend; and
- (2) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to agree a date for the public meeting.

(b) All Saints Graveyard

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Vicar, Revd David Hay, who had informed that the graveyard was expected to be full by 2005.

The Willows was not at an appropriate standard for burials. It was subject to flooding and there was hardcore and asphalt in the ground.

It was noted that Chester City Council had a statutory responsibility to provide land in the District for burials but it did not necessarily have to be in the village. It was the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain closed burial grounds.

RESOLVED:

That the Public's view be sought on the burial grounds at the appropriate time.

30 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Fiddlers Lane/Church Road Junction

The Council monitored the state of the road surface at the junction.

Councillor Mrs J Young enquired whether or not the Uniformed Groups could put down a strip of tarmac in the field to aid car parking.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the state of the road surface at the junction be continued to be monitored; and

(2) the Uniformed Groups be requested to submit a formal request for consideration in respect of additional car parking to the Clerk.

(b) School Transport in Saughall

The Clerk had received a letter from the County Transport Co-ordinator which informed that the points in her original letter in the main had all been dealt with.

Members were still concerned that school buses were stopping opposite the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School and not at the designated bus stops.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write again to the County Transport Co-ordinator requesting him to instruct the bus contractor to ensure buses stop at designated stops.

(c) Junction of Long Lane and A540 – Proposed Ghost Island

RESOLVED:

That this matter be removed from future Council agendas.

(d) 18-20 Lodge Lane – Flooding

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had spoken to the resident concerned. There was no preservation order on the tree and it could be cut down. The roots were in the drain. Gully covers had been replaced.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be removed from future Council agendas.

(e) Replacement Bus Shelter Scheme

The Chairman reported that he had submitted an application for funding of £3,800 to the Countryside Agency.

An acknowledgement had been received that the application for Transport Grant was being processed and an outcome was expected in due course.

It was noted that representations had been received in respect of the re-siting of the bus stop on Hermitage Road. Cheshire County Council would make a final decision in the light of representations received.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(f) Blocked Gullies – Greenway

The District Engineer had reported that he had rectified the problem with the gullies, The grid outlet had been blocked outside No 63.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(g) Highway and Transportation Joint Committee for Chester
- Meeting Thursday, 17 January 2002

The Clerk had again received the agenda the day after the meeting and again it had been posted the day of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to make representations to Chester City Council Officers over this highly unsatisfactory way of working.

(h) Fiddlers Lane

The District Engineer had informed that the County Engineer had taken a careful look at the chevron boards on the bend on Fiddlers Lane and was completely satisfied with them.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to follow the matter up.

(i) Boulder on Verge – The Peg

It was noted that the boulder was still there and that there was another one at the entrance to the playing field.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

(j) Church Road Driveways – Copperfield and Tara

Mr McIlwrick had written to the Council to complain that two occupiers of houses on Church Road had had their driveways covered in stones. There was nothing to prevent the stones falling onto the pavement and roadway. This was perceived as being very dangerous.

RESOLVED:

That the District Engineer be alerted to the situation.

(k) No 28 Bus Service

It was reported that as the No 28 Bus Service had been re-routed elderly residents could no longer access the Kwik Save Store on Sealand Road by bus. Consequently, Members had received a number of representations.

It had been reported in the local newspaper that Chester City Transport had taken the decision following consultation with One Voice for Blacon. Unfortunately, the Bus Company had not consulted with the Council even though its decision effected Saughall people as well as Blacon people.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to make representations over the lack of consultation with the Council over the re-routed bus service.

31 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

(a) Play Area Inspection - Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

(i) It was noted that all play equipment in the playing field was in good order.

(ii) It was noted that no quote had yet been received in respect of goal nets, fencing etc. from Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council.

(iii) The Chairman reported that a site visit had taken place between representatives of the Council and Mr Barry Davies of Chester City Council. Mr Davies had agreed to carry out further work on the field at no charge to the Parish Council, in an attempt to rectify the situation.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

(b) Millennium Park Land

The County Property Manager, Mr Ian Gould, had written to the Clerk thanking her for the Chairman's background note.

Mr Gould confirmed that as previously agreed at the meeting held on Monday, 14 January 2002 he had put arrangements in hand to obtain two quotations for a full topographical survey of the main area of land identified on the plan which he had tabled at the meeting. As soon as he received the quotations he would begin work on preparing the necessary report and promised to keep the Clerk advised of progress on this matter.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made with regard to the Millennium Park Land initiative be noted.

(c) Water Quality

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor the water quality.

(d) Street Cleaning and Litter Bins

RESOLVED:

That the Council continue to monitor the street cleaning arrangements and litter bins.

(e) Grassed Amenity Areas

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that Mr Duncan Henderson of Chester City Council had agreed to provide five mature trees with mesh tree guards for planting on one of the grassed amenity areas.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the five trees be planted at the top end of the Saughall Hey grassed amenity area; and

(2) the Clerk prepare a letter informing of the initiative for distribution to Saughall Hey residents.

(f) Notice Boards

It was noted that currently there were no problems with the notice boards.

(g) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Councillor Warrington reported that he had spent some time looking at the map and had made some comments. He requested that another Member give a second opinion as he considered a permissive footpath may be missing.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be further considered at the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(h) Supporting Local Shops

On 28 September 2001 the Countryside Agency had written to all Parish Clerks drawing their attention to grants available to help village shops.

Consequently, the Chairman had been in contact with the village Pharmacist and had submitted appropriate details on his behalf. A response was awaited.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(i) No Dog Fouling Signs – Aspen Grove

The Dog Warden, Mr David Wood, had reported that he had some signs and was looking for appropriate mountings.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

32 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) 02/00017/FUL/RV

RE: Extensions

AT: 14 Meadow Croft, Saughall

An amended plan had been received but as the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Alan Bailey, was not in attendance at the meeting it was not possible to compare the two.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Alan Bailey be given delegated authority to make an appropriate submission in respect of the planning application to Chester City Council, the Planning Authority.

(b) Coalpit Lane Caravans

It was reported that the caravans had moved on. It was noted however that the landowner had a Caravan Club licence to use the site for 28 days.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(c) Public Inquiry Closure – Chester District Local Plan

RESOLVED:

That the Public Inquiry Closure be noted.

33 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That Councillor H Dobson be requested to make arrangements for representative Members to meet with representatives of the Vernon Institute Management Committee to discuss refurbishment plans and associated Grant Aid for the Vernon Institute.

34 YOUTH FORUM

RESOLVED:

That consideration and agreement of appropriate arrangements for the establishment of a Youth Forum be deferred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

35 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council's Surgeries rota for the next three weeks be as follows:

Date	Member
16 February 2002	Councillor Mrs M Anderson
23 February 2002	Councillor RA Storrar
2 March 2002	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey

36 RURAL HOUSING WORKING PARTY

The Council noted the contents of letters received from Mr David Tonks, Chester City Council's SRB Project Officer, and from Mr Brian Holmes, Cheshire Community Council's Rural Enabler, regarding the invitation extended to them to join the Working Party.

Mr Holmes had accepted the invitation and agreed to work as an independent facilitator. He had suggested the broad steps and believed the Group should use the information available and local knowledge to develop and understanding of the need that was to be addressed.

Mr Tonks had informed that he was taking up a six month secondment to the SRB Programme for West Chester. However, he still wanted to be involved (in some capacity) either through regular up-dates or through attendance at meetings time permitting. He recommended that the Clerk liaise with Mr Holmes over dates for the inaugural meeting and he would either fit in around it or ask a colleague within Community Services to attend in his absence.

Mr Steve Lewis, Planning Officer, Chester City Council, had requested more information before making a decision on whether or not to accept the invitation to join the Working Party. The Clerk had reminded him that the decision to form a Working Party had been made at a meeting at which he was in attendance but if he wanted to talk around the issues she suggested he speak to the Chairman.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) the date and time for the inaugural meeting be agreed at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

37 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received:

Letter undated from Chester City Council's Tourism Manager, Ecosert Co Project Manager, with invitation to Ecosert Project meeting and buffet at 6:45-9:30pm on Thursday, 17 February 2002 in the Council Chamber, Chester Town Hall.

Noted.

Letter dated 15 January 2002 from Cheshire County Council's Principal Arts Officer re. consultation on the Cultural Strategy for Cheshire, Halton and Warrington.

To Finance and General Purposes Committee

38 CIRCULARS

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

Cheshire County Council, Community Development Services' Public Paths – an A to Z of problems and protocols.

Chester City Council's The Key Winter 2002

Chester City Council's Council Meeting – 23 January 2002

Agenda for Cheshire Rural Forum – 6:45pm on Wednesday, 30 January 2002, Assembly Rooms, Old Town Hall, Macclesfield.

Chester City Council's Try Something – Events and Exhibitions