

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES  
COMMITTEE held on 24 May 2001 in the Parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs M Anderson  
Councillor H Dobson  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington (in the Chair)

Mrs V Ellis, Principal Officer, Cheshire Community Council  
Mr C McIlwrick, Homewatch Co-ordinator

38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Bailey and B Kerr.

39 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 April 2001 be confirmed as a correct record.

40 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

41 PARISH PROFILE/COMMUNITY PLAN

Mrs Ellis informed that Central Government was encouraging local communities to consider their localities, consult key stakeholders and draw up Community Plans. The Countryside Agency intended to produce a "toolkit" which would be a broad base and include a model plan to aid this process. Unfortunately, the information required as a first step and to offer guidance in the compilation of Community Plans was not yet available.

It was the view of the Cheshire Community Council however that a village appraisal followed by an action plan would be equivalent to a Community Plan.

The key to providing an appropriate Community Plan was adequate consultation. It would be necessary to consult various groups and individuals about specific areas of village life.

The Council had commissioned the Community Council to carry out a parish appraisal some three years ago. However, it had been essentially to ascertain views on crime and disorder and had not covered the aspects that were required by this consultation exercise.

Following appropriate consultation, it would be necessary to analyse the results to obtain a picture of what the community would like to see and what it

would like to achieve in the village. There would be areas that the Parish Council could action itself, areas where the Parish Council would need to work in partnership with other organisations and areas where only other agencies could take action. The County Council's Area Committees and the City Council's Local Panels had a role to play here.

Mrs Ellis provided Members with a range of information including briefing notes on Community Appraisals and Village Action Plans, guidance on Community Appraisals, a suggestion on how to set out an Action Plan and outline detail on grants available to aid the consultation process.

Members noted that the Community Planning process looked to the Parish Council as the leader but this did not mean that the Council had to do everything. It could establish a Sub-Committee and co-opt people from within the community to serve on it and carry the initiative forward.

Mrs Ellis agreed to keep the Council up to date with developments and information flowing from the Countryside Agency.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to give serious consideration to putting arrangements and work in hand with a view to producing a local Community Plan.

#### 42 CRIME AND DISORDER AUDIT

Members were reminded that the Parish Appraisal undertaken some three years ago by the Community Council had been centred mostly on crime and disorder in the village, policing and on perceptions and the fear of crime, although some other issues including leisure had also been covered.

Issues that were causing concern at the time the survey was undertaken were still current today.

Mr McIlwrick, following advice from Mrs Ellis, agreed that it would be unnecessary to undertake a short parish survey on crime and disorder elements as issues identified previously were still pertinent and that it would be appropriate to revisit the results of the previous survey and then move forwards as appropriate.

#### 43 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2001

Mrs A Stuart had written to the Council to ask if it would support her organisation in its quest to dress a float which would take part in the Lord Mayor's Parade in June 2001. She hoped for some manpower and/or an appropriate donation.

It was noted that another group in the village had offered to assist in the float preparation.

RESOLVED:

That a donation of £50 be provided to assist the preparation of a float in the Lord Mayor's Parade.

44 FIDDLERS LANE PLAYING FIELD

It was reported that Mr Barry Davies, Chester City Council's Engineering Foreman, had written to the Clerk and recommended his Scheme 2 at a cost of approximately £2,000.

As this scheme included a UPVC land drain Members raised concerns over how long it would be before it needed replacement in the clay soil.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk inform Mr Davies that Scheme 2 is acceptable to the Council but that an alternative be provided, if possible, to the UPVC land drain.