

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 28 March 2002 in the Parish Room, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

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

Invited Members: Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A Bailey.

23 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 February 2002 be confirmed as a correct record.

24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 14 – Model Code of Conduct

Members considered arrangements for signing up to the Code at the next Council meeting on 8 April 2002. It was noted that the Council itself was expected to attend at 7:00pm in order to ensure that all the necessary forms were completed properly.

25 BEST KEPT VILLAGE/CIVIC PRIDE COMPETITION 2002

(a) Hanging Baskets/Maintenance Contract

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Mrs Johnson at Oak Tree Nurseries who had agreed to maintain the hanging baskets that the Council would purchase from her. She would provide a quote shortly. She proposed to water the baskets daily and feed them once a fortnight.

(b) Sponsorship

Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar agreed to contact local businesses and seek sponsorship in respect of the Best Kept Village initiatives.

(c) Any Other Matters

It was agreed that the Gardening Club had provided an excellent display of daffodils on Long Lane and the Clerk was requested to write to its Secretary, Miss D Carlisle, in recognition of this.

It was noted that although the Clerk had asked various officers of Cheshire County Council to remove the spoil and rubbish which had accumulated at the top of Long

Lane, it still had not been done. The Clerk agreed to contact the District Engineer again with a view to getting it removed.

## 26 STREET CLEANING/GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

The Committee considered two quotes received in respect of Street Cleaning and the Grounds Maintenance of the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field for the term of the new Council (4 years).

Chester City Council's District Services had quoted as follows:

Item	Cost per annum (£)	Cost per annum (£)
De-littering	19,905	
Play Area Inspection	1,684	
Sub Total		21,589
Grass Cutting	1,137	
Hedge Cutting	547	
Sub Total		1,684
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,273</b>

Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council's Direct Services Department had quoted as follows:

Item	Cost per annum (£)
Street Cleansing - £155.00 + VAT/week	8,060 + VAT
Grounds Maintenance – April to 31 October on a weekly basis leaving cuttings on the field	2,360 + VAT
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,420 + VAT</b>

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance contracts be awarded to Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council in the sums set out above.

## 27 UNIFORMED GROUPS

The Committee considered a request for additional car parking provision in the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field submitted by the Uniformed Groups.

Members were aware that the Group's Headquarters had only been granted temporary planning permission for a five year period. Also, the Council was still negotiating to purchase additional recreational land for the village. The understanding was that when land was purchased the Group's Headquarters would be relocated on it.

RECOMMENDED:

That in view of the temporary nature of the planning permission in respect of the Headquarters and in the light of ongoing negotiations for Millennium Park Land, the Uniformed Group's request for additional car parking area be declined.

28 PARISH PLAN

In an attempt to ensure that as many attendees as possible, Members agreed that the Annual Assembly scheduled for Monday, 15 April 2002 be postponed.

The Committee considered how the Parish Plan initiative would be presented and what it wished to get out of the meeting. It also discussed domestic arrangements and provision of refreshments.

It was noted that as the Cheshire Community Council had been commissioned and agreed to carry out survey work identified by the Parish Council it was now appropriate to make a bid to the Countryside Agency for 75% of the funding for this work. The Council would provide the other 25% itself.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Annual Assembly be now held at 7:30pm on Monday, 22 April 2002;
- (2) the Clerk and Chairman be requested to work together on the presentation and report in respect of the parish Plan initiative;
- (3) Consultees who have responded be invited to attend the Annual Assembly; and
- (4) Councillors Mrs Anderson and Mrs JE Storrar be requested to look after the domestic arrangements on the evening and provide tea, coffee and biscuits etc.

29 MILLENNIUM PARK LAND

It was reported that although the County Property Manager had reported that the survey work he had commissioned on land to the North of Lodge Lane, Saughall was imminent some time ago, he had not informed that it had been undertaken. The findings report was awaited.

Members also considered and explored a further option to acquire recreational land for the village's use.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the current situation be noted;
- (2) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to carry out further investigations on behalf of the Council and bring a confidential report to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 8 April 2002; and
- (3) the Clerk be requested out carry out specific preparatory work in respect of a possible new initiative.

30 CHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON THE OPTIONS FOR MOVING FROM THE SYSTEM OF LOCAL PANELS TO A SYSTEM OF AREA COMMITTEES

The Committee noted the response of the Chief Executive of Chester City Council, Mr Paul Durham, to the Clerk's letter regarding the haste in which the City Council wished to introduce Area Committees. It also received a copy of the draft response of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils to the consultation. The consultation period had now been extended until the end of April 2002.

The various issues surrounding the proposed Area Committees were to be aired at the Chester Area Meeting scheduled for 3 April 2002 at the County Hall, Chester and the Chairman urged as many Members as possible to attend.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports and letters in respect of Chester City Council's proposed Area Committees be noted; and
- (2) as many Members as possible be requested to attend the Chester Area Committee to voice their opinions on the City Council's proposals.

31 RURAL HOUSING WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED:

That dates for the inaugural meeting be supplied by the Council at its meeting on Monday, 8 April 2002.

32 PARISH ROOM RATING ARRANGEMENTS

It was noted that no decision had yet been made by Chester City Council following the Parish Council's request to be allowed to pay domestic rates instead of business rates.

33 YOUTH CLUB

The Committee considered a whole host of related issues following the decision of the Vernon Institute Management Committee to not provide premises for the Saughall Youth Club.

The Clerk agreed to a suggested course of action.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the present situation and proposals to reopen the Youth Club be noted; and
- (2) further reports on progress be brought to this Committee and the Council.