

MINUTES OF A MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL, THE CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY, INTERESTED PARTIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF SAUGHALL held on 8 November 2001 in the Parish Room, 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 Mrs J Young

Mrs P Povey
PC Gareth Cooper
PC Vaughan Marks

4 Young People of Saughall

1 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting had been called as a first step to establish if those concerned could work together in partnership to enhance the lives of youngsters living in Saughall and bring to an end, as far as possible, anti-social activities and problems associated with youths causing a nuisance. This meeting was seen as the youngsters chance to help themselves.

2 PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SAUGHALL

The Chairman informed that this meeting was an opportunity for youngsters who lived in the village to outline their perspective on facilities available to them in Saughall and inform on what they considered should be made available to them in the village, if their quality of life was to be improved.

The Council would listen carefully to what the young people said but could not make any promises at this stage.

3 YOUTH VIEWS

The young people told the meeting that they would like to see the following:

- ?? the Youth Club re-opened
- ?? two sets of goalposts in the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field
- ?? a Youth Shelter

Youth Club

The Youth Club had recently closed as the funding provided by Cheshire County Council had come to an end. The two Youth Workers who had supported that Youth Club were now needed at the Delta Centre in Blacon.

The Young People supplied the names of adults who had made it known to them that they would be willing to help run the Youth Club.

The Youth Club had been open for two hours on a Monday evening until its closure at the end of October 2001 but had previously been open on two evenings per week.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was concerned by the Youth Club's closure and was exploring options in an attempt to get it re-opened. This involved forming a Management Committee, attracting adult volunteers to help run the club, ensuring appropriate training and facilitating/providing the funding required. Work on this initiative was ongoing and progress would be discussed at the next meeting of the Council on Monday, 12 November 2001.

Goalposts

The Youths informed that if the Council put back the second set of goalposts it would enable them to have proper games of football.

The Chairman informed why the remaining goalposts had been re-located and the discussion which ensued centred around the problems experienced by residents who lived near the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field when footballs were kicked into their gardens. It was agreed by all that other people's property should be respected at all times and polite dialogue was a must when seeking to retrieve balls.

It was noted that if nets were provided they would stop balls being kicked into the gardens and also if guard fencing could be erected it would serve to reduce this nuisance.

Youth Shelter

The young people told the meeting that they would like somewhere to meet their friends which was protected from the elements.

Members reminded the young people of the problems of noise and abuse late into the evening experienced by residents who lived near to the bus terminus before the bus shelter had been removed, as it had been rendered unsafe due to vandalism.

It was known that the provision of a Youth Shelter, in the light of the problems experienced with the Terminus bus shelter, would not be popular with residents of Fiddlers Lane and Church Road.

4 YOUTH TRANSPORT OPPORTUNITY

PC Cooper reported that the Constabulary had a number of vehicles that were available for community use. He would be able to book one and drive it on some of his days off to take young people from the village out on specifically arranged outings.

5 VANDALISM

The meeting considered the amount of vandalism experienced in and around Saughall in recent years. It was noted that the Council had to spend a substantial amount of its resources on keeping the village clean and tidy. If vandalism, graffiti and littering were alleviated it would be able to spend more on leisure activities for young people.

The young people agreed that “vandalism spoilt it for everyone else” and they would endeavour to get this message across to their peers.

6 YOUTH LIAISON

The Chairman requested that the young people keep in contact with the Parish Council and suggested that to keep the momentum going there should be regular liaison meetings between the two parties. This would provide an opportunity for them to get to know each other.

It was important to have regular dialogue as a means of solving problems and to make progress on youth provision.

7 THE NEXT STEPS

The following actions were agreed:

- (1) Mrs Povey would contact the ladies whose names had been submitted by the young people as willing to help run the Youth Club;
- (2) PC Cooper would explore funding opportunities available in respect of the initiatives considered at the meeting;
- (3) The Parish Council would discuss the proceedings of this meeting thoroughly at the meeting scheduled for 12 November 2001;
- (4) Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council would be requested to provide options with costs to try to contain footballs on the playing field;
- (5) The young people would discuss the issues raised at this meeting with their peers and each bring a friend to the next Liaison Meeting with the Parish Council and the Constabulary; and

(6) the Vice-Chairman would discuss the proposal to erect the second set of goalposts on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field with local residents and inform on the other measures proposed to ensure minimum disruption.

8 CONCLUSION

All agreed that the meeting had been informative and useful. The discussion had been constructive and helpful. A good start had been made and each party had a better understanding of the others frustrations and problems.

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of this forum would be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 12 December 2001 in the Parish Room, Saughall.