

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 20 May 2003 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor A Marsden  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar (Part)  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton  
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton  
Councillor Mrs J Young (Part)

County Councillor D Rowlands

88 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be appointed Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

89 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received.

90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor R Shukla  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

91 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Moss declared an Interest in item No 13(c) – Parish Room Rates. He was the owner of the Parish Room and as such the Council's landlord (Minute No 98(c) refers).

Councillor Kerr declared in Interest in any item involving the Cheshire Community Council, and in particular item No 16 – Parish Plan. He was the Chairman of the Cheshire Community Council and it had been commissioned to carry out survey work, etc.

92 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Young be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

93 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to Councillors C and Mrs M Wynne-Eyton's names being removed from the list of those in attendance and included under Apologies, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 April 2003 be confirmed as a correct record.

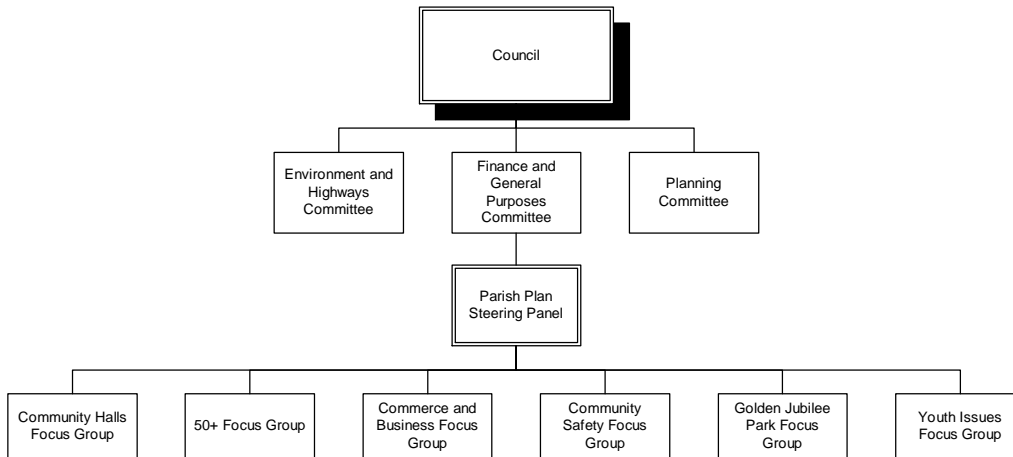
94 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

95 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Committee structure and membership be as follows:



Finance and General Purposes Committee

- Chairman of the Council
- Vice-Chairman of the Council
- Councillor R Shukla
- Councillor RA Storrar
- Councillor A Warrington
- Councillor C Wynne-Eyton
- Councillor Mrs A Wynne-Eyton

### Planning Committee

Vice-Chairman of the Council  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor JA Marsden  
Councillor C Moss

### Environment and Highways Committee

Chairman of the Council  
Vice-Chairman of the Council  
Councillor JA Marsden  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton

### Parish Plan Steering Panel

Each Focus Group to select two of its Members to serve on the Panel. (One must be a Parish Councillor and the other a member of the local community)

### Focus Groups

#### Community Safety

Chairman of the Council  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton  
PC Phil Topless  
Mr P Hughes  
Miss S Brooks  
Mr J Hallas  
Mr G Southey

### Golden Jubilee Park

Chairman of the Council  
Vice-Chairman of the Council  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor JA Marsden  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton  
Mr D Bird  
Mr B Huxley  
Mr K Evans

### Commerce and Business

Chairman of the Council  
Councillor JA Marsden  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor R Shukla  
Mr H Dobson  
Mr P Hughes  
Mr C Jones

### Youth Issues

Vice-Chairman of the Council  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Mr Harris  
Mr C Jones

### 50+

Chairman of the Council  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor A Warrington  
Mr G Southey

### Community Halls

Councillor A Warrington  
Revd M Banks  
Mr G Barnsley  
Mr H Dobson  
Mr J Hallas

Each Focus Group must be able to bring its ideas to the Parish Plan Steering Panel meeting scheduled for 15 September 2003.

## 96 AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

Mrs Alison Amesbury, Chester City Council's Chief Partnership Officer, had written to the Clerk to update her on the situation regarding the proposed affordable housing scheme at Lodge Lane.

The following issues now needed to be resolved before the scheme could proceed:

- ?? Abolition of Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) by the Government.
  - ?? The City Council was considering options for all schemes that it had intended to fund via LASHG. The Clerk would be informed of the outcome in due course.
  
- ?? Concerns about the affordability of the shared ownership units and also about retaining the affordable element on future sales.

?? Arena Housing was progressing different models to try to resolve the affordability concerns and inform on progress in due course.

?? Uncertainty about whether the County Council would sell the land to the north of Lodge Lane, Saughall to Arena Housing.

Mrs Amesbury had suggested trying to resolve the issues at Lodge Lane in a given timescale of 4-6 months. If it could not be resolved she suggested that the Council might like to consider alternative sites for low cost housing.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Mrs Amesbury that the Council is supportive of what she is trying to do but that it now wishes to consider alternative sites and in particular land behind Church Road (where the garages used to be) and does not wish to pursue the Lodge Lane option.

#### 97 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Meetings (attached Appendix A) be approved.

#### 98 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED:

That appointments be agreed as follows:

(a) School Governing Bodies

The Ridings Infant School – Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School – Councillor Mrs J Young

(b) Chester Area Meetings of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs JE Storrar and A Warrington

(c) Joint Panel with representatives of the Vernon Institute Management Committee to administer the Building Maintenance Programme

Councillors A Bailey, C Moss and A Warrington

(d) Rural Housing Working Group

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs J Young

(e) Vernon Institute Management Committee

Councillor RA Storrar

(f) Saughall Youth Club Management Committee

Councillor RA Storrar

(g) Chester Police Forum Meetings

Councillors Mrs M Wynne-Eyton, Mrs P Humphrey and Mrs J Johnson

(h) Responsible Financial Officer

Clerk

(i) Internal Auditor

Mr H Dobson

(j) Tree Warden

Councillor C Wynne-Eyton

(k) Parish Paths Warden

Mr T Leach

99 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 7 April 2003:

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	77.17	101597
Cheshire Playing Fields Association	12.00	101598
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (Playground Seminar – 8 April 2003)	15.00	101599
Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc	1,065.89	101600
Aquatic Management Services	500.00	101601
Cheshire Community Council	50.00	101602
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	43.48	101603
Saughall Guides (Newsletter delivery)	10.00	101604
Mr R Easby (Preparation of Contract Documents)	63.00	101605
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	537.00	101606
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	76.55	101607
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning)	1,185.35	101608
Standard Newspapers (Newsletter delivery)	32.29	101609
Public Works Loan Board	1,828.09	Direct Debit

(b) Receipts

Interest to 22 April 2003 (14 day Interest Account)	47.24
Interest to 23 April 2003 (Treasurer Account)	0.25
Rural Children's Playground Grant	196.26

(c) Parish Room Rates

The Council discussed the situation regarding its payment of business rates for the Parish Room and considered its options.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to obtain the address of the District Valuer so that an application can be made if necessary for a re-evaluation of the rates; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to ask the Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee to give consideration to a proposal whereby the Vernon Institute (a registered charity) becomes the tenant of the Parish Room and so is eligible for rate relief, the Parish Council reimburses the Vernon Institute for rent and rates paid and out of the savings on the rates, increases its funding to improve the fabric of the Vernon Institute.

(d) Anonymous Donation

RESOLVED:

That this issue be not considered until a donation is made.

(e) Insurance

The Council reviewed its insurance cover arranged through Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc.

RESOLVED:

That Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc be informed that the Council wishes to have £3,000 property damage cover in respect of the three bus shelters it is responsible for and not the £10,594.98 as detailed in the Schedule dated 5 April 2003.

100 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

The Chairman had received an e-mail from PC Gareth Cooper who informed that the Constabulary's manpower shortage prevented his attendance at the meeting.

Crime figures for the village for the month of April 2003 were as follows:

- 1 Burglary of a dwelling
- 2 Shed break-ins + 1 attempted shed break-in
- 1 Theft of a plant pot & plant
- 2 Assaults
- 3 Nuisance Youth calls

Crime figures for village for the month of May 2003 were as follows:

- 1 Burglary of a dwelling

- 3 Thefts (2 trailers, 1 chicks)
- 2 Shed break-in7s (horse riding equipment), (Mountain bike)
- 1 Assaults
- 3 Nuisance Youth calls

PC Cooper offered advice on crime prevention to avoid further occurrences of similar crimes to those committed.

PC Cooper also reported that five males from Liverpool were arrested on 15 May 2003 for attempted theft on Parkgate Road

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Homewatch

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported on the proceedings of the Homewatch AGM that had been held recently. It was agreed that Mr Bryan Jones was doing a good job in keeping the Homewatch ticking over.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour - Nuisance Youth Activity

The Council received a letter from a resident of Meadows Lane who had previously attended a Council meeting to report the intolerable behaviour of youngsters playing ball games and causing damage late into the evening. The letter informed that the youth nuisance had abated somewhat but that it was expected that this would not continue. Also, the resident reported that she had telephoned Chester Police Station on two separate occasions but had given up when her calls had not been answered after 20 minutes. Members reported similar experiences when ringing the Police Station at Mickle Trafford.

The Chairman reminded the Council that at the Parish Assembly held the previous evening a resident had reported that a Police Sergeant had informed residents of Darlington Crescent that the Police would not enforce the local byelaw – ‘No Ball Games’ – on the grassed amenity areas.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that she had supplied Inspector Geoff Williams with a copy of the byelaw at his own request. County Councillor David Rowlands informed that following similar discussions at the April Council meeting he had raised the issues with the Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Griffin. Mr Griffin had reported that other Cheshire villages did have similar problems.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be received;



- (2) villagers be encouraged to telephone the City Desk to report crime/anti-social behaviour and obtain an incident number (Tel No 01244 350222); and
- (3) the Chairman be requested to raise the Council's concerns over police telephones not being answered and Police Officers informing residents that the police will not enforce the byelaw with Inspector Geoff Williams.

(d) Neighbourhood Warden Schemes

Councillor Kerr reported that given the importance the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary placed on actions to combat anti-social behaviour perhaps it was a good time to ask NALC to organise a campaign for Government funding to be made available via Home Office grants so that local councils could access them to establish Neighbourhood Warden Schemes.

The Council debated this issue at length noting that as agreed at the April Council meeting, the Clerk had written to the County Secretary, Mrs Jackie Weaver, requesting that the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils give consideration to promoting such a scheme and asking NALC to launch a campaign to get the Government to make the necessary funding available.

However, Members raised concern that the Police may not be in favour of such an approach.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme be not pursued any further; and
- (2) an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee so that Members can explore alternatives to a Neighbourhood Warden Scheme.

(e) Property Marking Scheme

The Chairman suggested that the Homewatch evaluated and led on the Property Marking Scheme that had been the subject of a report to the last meeting of the Community Safety Committee by PC Phil Topliss (Minute No 11/2003 refers).

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that the Homewatch was already aware of the Scheme and that it was not a new idea.

101 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Committees and Panels be received and recommendations therein be agreed with the exception of the Committee Structure which has been further revised (Minute No 95/2003 refers):

Planning Committee held on 7 April 2003

Parish Plan Steering Group held on 23 April 2003

Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 24 April 2003

102 PARISH PLAN

The Council considered a draft agreement drawn up by the Cheshire Community Council to supply Business Services. It was noted that since the work had been commissioned the Council had increased the number of its Focus Groups from three to six.

RESOLVED:

That before the agreement is signed the Clerk be requested to ascertain from the Cheshire Community Council whether the additional three Focus Groups incur any additional costs.

103 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

It was noted that the following actions would be taken following the Annual Parish Assembly:

Councillor C Moss would be responsible for the purchase and fixation of new “Keep Out” signs on the gates of the Golden Jubilee Park development.

The Chairman would inform Inspector Geoff Williams, who was in charge of the Rural Section, that Police Officers were telling residents of the village that the Constabulary would not enforce the “No Ball Games” byelaw and forward a copy of the letter received from residents of Darlington Crescent.

Councillor C Wynne-Eyton, the Tree Warden, would ensure that the road signs at the top of Long Lane were clear of any greenery.

Councillor RA Storrar would investigate Chester City Council’s Housing Trust’s Housing Allocation Policy, the points system and what it was doing for people who lived in the village and wanted to remain there.

104 THE THREAT TO COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

Christine Russell MP had written to the Clerk enclosing a copy of a letter she had received from David Lammy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health, about the OFT report on the control of entry regulations and retail pharmacy services in the UK.

It was noted that the Government favoured a balanced package of measures designed to open up the market and improve quality and access without diminishing the crucial role that pharmacies played, especially in Rural Areas.

The Government would publish a progress report by the end of June 2003 and then present a balanced package of measures to achieve those objectives before the Summer recess. Any regulatory changes would then be the subject of full consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the letters be noted and the issue be further discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

105 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) County Councillor David Rowlands be requested to contact the District Engineer to find out when he intended to put road markings at the Lodge Lane/Long Lane junction; and
- (2) all other Highway issues detailed on the agenda be referred to the inaugural meeting of the new Environment and Highways Committee.

106 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the tender specification and contract documents in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park development be approved; and
- (2) all other Environment issues on the agenda be referred to the inaugural meeting of the new Environment and Highways Committee.

107 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the VIMC dated 8 April 2003 be received;
- (2) it be noted that the Play Group had yet to submit a bid for funding to assist its new premises; and
- (3) the Chairman of the VIMC, Mr Brian Huxley, be approached regarding the possibility of a partnership arrangement between the VIMC and the Council in respect of the Parish Room (Minute No 98(c)/2003 refers).

108 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
24 May 2003	Councillors C & Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
31 May 2003	Councillor C Moss
7 June 2003	Councillor RA Storrar

109 MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT OUTSIDE EVENTS

- (a) NALC Conference – 2-5 October 2003, Cardiff City Hall

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman or his nominee be requested to attend.

- (b) Playground Seminar – Tuesday, 8 April 2003, 10:30am-4pm, Northwich Memorial Hall

Councillor C Moss provided the Council with a report on the proceedings of the Playground Seminar. Discussion had included the following:

The increasing cost of public liability insurance and the need for the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils to launch a campaign, on its Members behalf, with a view to obtaining the necessary blanket cover insurance for Parish Councils at acceptable rates.

Chester City Council no longer inspected parish council's play equipment to ensure that it was up to ROSPA standards.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (c) Gowy North Area Committee – Wednesday, 16 April 2003, 7:00pm, Barrow Village Hall

Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar provided the Council with a report on the proceedings of the Area Committee meeting. It was noted that there would be serious competition for the limited funding available from the Committees dedicated budget. It could be spent on local services such as local community safety initiatives, Council owned play areas, etc.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (d) Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Quality Parish Council Seminar – Byley Village Hall, Thursday, 5 June 2003, 7-9pm

This seminar was free to Members of Member Councils.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman (or his nominee) and Councillor RA Storrar be requested to attend.

## 110 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following had been received:

- letter dated 17 April 2003 from Christine Russell MP offering congratulations on the Council's success in obtaining £3,800 grant from the Countryside Agency for the Bus Shelter Project.

## 111 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

The following circulars had been received anyone who wanted a copy would contact the Clerk:

Cheshire Community Council – The Cheshire Cauldron Newsletter Spring 2003  
Deposit Draft Chester District Local Plan - Consultation on proposed modifications – copy on deposit in the Parish Room  
Notice of adoption of the Alyn & Deeside Local Plan (incorporating Waste Polices)  
Chester City Council's News Plan – Spring 2003  
DEFRA – Good Councillors Guide – Essential Guide for Town & Parish Councillors  
Husson Public Spaces Winter 2002/2003  
Cheshire Police Authority Agenda – 7 April 2003  
Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters May 2003