

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 9 June 2003 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton

112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young
PC G Cooper
Mr B Jones – Acting Chairman of Saughall Homewatch

113 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kerr declared an Interest in any item involving the Cheshire Community Council, and in particular item No 11 – Parish Plan. He was the Chairman of the Cheshire Community Council and it had been commissioned to carry out survey work, etc.

Councillor Kerr also declared an Interest in item No 10 – Golden Jubilee Park. He was a member of the Cheshire Rural Trust and funding options were being explored including the possibility of grant aid from the Trust.

Councillor Shukla declared an Interest in item No 13 – The Threat to Community Pharmacies as he was the village Pharmacist.

114 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2003 be confirmed as a correct record.

115 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 95 – Committee Structure – Focus Groups

(a) Golden Jubilee Park

Councillor Kerr informed the Council that because of a number of other commitments he did not have time to devote to the work of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group. Therefore, he no longer wished to be a member of the Group.

It was agreed that Mr David Bell be invited to become a member of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group.

(b) Parish Plan Steering Panel

It was agreed that Mrs Alison Amesbury would be invited to sit on the Parish Plan Steering Panel.

116 AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

The Clerk, in accordance with the Council's wishes, had written to Chester City Council's Partnership Officer, Mrs Alison Amesbury, on 23 May 2003 informing her that the Council remained supportive of the proposal to provide affordable housing units in Saughall but as the County Property Officer was unable to sell Cheshire County Council land for nothing less than the full market value the Lodge Lane scheme was very unlikely to go ahead.

Although Arena was keen for its scheme to come to fruition, as it had spent a considerable amount of time and money on it already, the Council wanted to explore alternative sites and particularly the garage site behind Church Road in the ownership of the Housing Trust.

RESOLVED:

That as Mrs Amesbury had not yet responded to the Clerk's e-mail this matter be further considered at the next meeting of the Council when other possible sites may be identified.

117 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 9 June 2003:

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Smith of Derby Ltd (VI Clock maintenance)	180.95	101610
K2 Network Services Ltd (Toner cartridges)	158.63	101611
Mr C Moss ('Keep Out' signs)	7.73	101612
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	66.82	101613
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	540.69	101614
Johnson's Oaktree Nursery	80.00	101615
NALC (10% Conference Accommodation)	11.95	101616

(b) Receipts

Interest to 22 May 2003 (14 day Interest Account)	68.04
Interest to 23 May 2003 (Treasurer Account)	0.32

(c) Insurance

There had not yet been any response to the Clerk's letter reducing the sum insured/indemnity limit from £10,594.98 to £3,000 in respect of the Council's four remaining bus shelters.

(d) Accounts 2002/2003

The Accounts were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr H Dobson, in accordance with current Accounting Regulations.

(e) Parish Room Rates

Councillor RA Storrar informed the Council that he had taken legal advice from Chester City Council's lawyers and the proposal whereby the Vernon Institute (a registered charity) became the tenant of the Parish Room and sought rate relief was illegal and classed as rate evasion.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to obtain the appropriate form to request a reassessment of business rates/valuation review from the Valuation Officer.

117 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

The Chairman reported that at least 6 trailers had been stolen in Saughall over the last few weeks. This was targeted crime as trailers seemed to have been stolen to order. Villagers were advised to lock away their trailers and the Chairman would enquire whether the Police were taking any action.

PC Cooper had informed that there had been several police patrols around Meadows Lane. Some youths had been causing a nuisance and had been taken home to their parents.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Homewatch

The Chairman reported that the Acting Chairman of the Homewatch had written to him about the lack of support to his organisation. He considered that both the Parish Council and the Cheshire Constabulary were not behind his organisation and as a result it was becoming ineffective.

Members were very concerned at the contents of the letter and paid tribute to Mr Jones for his efforts and all he had done to keep the Homewatch ticking over during a very difficult period. The Council remained wholeheartedly behind the Homewatch and reaffirmed its pledge to do all in its power to assist any community safety initiative.

Members agreed that the communication problem with the Police could not be allowed to continue and Councillors B Kerr and RA Storrar agreed to seek an early meeting with a senior police officer in an attempt to reconcile differences, agree an appropriate approach to partnership working and encourage more police collaboration in respect of future Homewatch initiatives, activities and events.

Full and detailed representations would be made at the proposed meeting in respect of the Homewatch, nuisance youth activities, vandalism, enforcement of the "No Ball Games" byelaw and targeted crime e.g. trailer thefts. The Superintendent, or his representative, would be asked to ensure that Saughall and Shotwick Park obtained the policing it needed and that the Homewatch received the active support it required and deserved and has enjoyed in the past.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) a report on the outcome of the meeting with a senior police officer be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour - Nuisance Youth Activity

It was noted that the new bus shelter on Church Road had been smashed up again.

Members were also informed of a drug related problem in the village.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the situation be continued to be monitored.

(d) Byelaw – "No Ball Games"

The Council received a report on the current situation in respect of the byelaw.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors B Kerr and RA Storrar be requested to discuss this matter at the meeting agreed at (b) above.

118 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of Planning Committee held on 20 May 2003 and 4 June 2003 be received.

119 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

The Chairman reported that he had submitted the planning application for the development to Chester City Council, the Planning Authority.

Five companies/organisations would be asked to tender for the development work.

Members considered funding opportunities available including:

?? Cheshire Rural Trust Grant in respect of hedge planting and environmental initiatives around the pond; and

?? Cheshire Rural Recovery Grant.

The Chairman agreed to consider the appropriateness of making a bid in respect of each of these funding opportunities.

Councillor C Wynne-Eyton informed that there were grants available for tree planting and he would apply as appropriate.

The Chester and District Football Association's Secretary, Mr Ian Speed, had written to the Clerk setting out the procedure for Football Foundation Grant applications. Organisations had to submit applications in conjunction with and with the support of County Football Associations. The County FA looked to the District Associations, through Development Forums, to help co-ordinate the bids and confirm which projects should be supported. Each District had a "list of five" priority projects.

The Chester and District Football Association was working closely with Chester City Council on a project for the re-drainage of Council pitches and, as the Golden Jubilee Park project was one it would look to support, Mr Speed had made the City Council aware of the proposal.

The Parish Council had been asked to keep Mr Speed informed of progress on the tendering and the planning application processes. When planning permission had been obtained Mr Speed would ask Parish Council representatives to attend a District Development Forum to discuss the scheme in more detail. The next Forum would be at the start of the next football season.

It was agreed to send copies of Mr Speed's letter to Councillor C Moss and Mr K Evans (Saughall Colts) to keep them abreast of developments.

It was hoped that the scheme in its entirety could be financed using grant aid. However, Members noted that it may be necessary to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board to bridge any gap. A Business Plan would need to be prepared. If the Council financed the development itself by borrowing it would then be disqualified from applying for grants.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the actions taken noted.

120 PARISH PLAN

The Council noted the content of the draft agreement drawn up between the Parish Council and the Cheshire Community Council to supply Business Services.

Members agreed that the Community Council should be involved with the following Focus Groups:

Community Halls
Commerce and Business
Youth Issues

The Chairman set out his ideas for including villagers who were 50+ in the consultation and the arrangements that could be put in place at the Church Garden Party on 5 July 2003.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the draft agreement be noted and following minor amendments in respect of Focus Groups it be signed; and
- (2) Councillors Mrs Humphrey and RA Storrar be requested to assist the Chairman with the arrangements at the Garden Party, including stall cover, etc.

121 QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

Councillor RA Storrar provided the Council with a report on proceedings of the Quality Parish Council Seminar that had been held on 5 June 2003 at Byley Village Hall.

It was noted that the Seminar had been well attended. Councillor Kerr, as Chairman of NALC, had been the main speaker. The role of the Clerk in the Quality Parish Council initiative was most interesting and the need for competency tests were discussed in detail along with the problems associated with becoming a Quality Parish Council. The Clerk made her position clear informing that she would not be completing a portfolio.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor RA Storrar be thanked for his report;
- (2) once the document provided in conjunction with ODPM, the Countryside Agency and DEFRA was available, the Quality Parish Council initiative be the subject of a Special Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee; and
- (3) Councillor Kerr's offer to provide Members with appropriate training be accepted.

122 THE THREAT TO COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

There had been no further developments in respect of the future of Community Pharmacies. The Government was still to make a decision.

RESOLVED:

That the issue in respect of Community Pharmacies be kept under review.

123 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee held on 13 May 2003 be noted.

124 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
14 June 2003	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
21 June 2003	Councillor A Bailey
28 June 2003	Councillors C & Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
5 July 2003	Councillor B Kerr

125 GOWY NORTH AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Area Committee would be held at 7:00pm on 19 June 2003 at Christleton High School.

126 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

The following circulars had been received:

DEFRA – Good Councillors Guide – Essential Guidance for Town and Parish Councillors – 12 more copies to be obtained for Councillors.