

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 7 July 2003 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)  
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor R Shukla  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)  
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs J Young

127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(a) Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
PC G Cooper  
Mr B Jones – Acting Chairman of Saughall Homewatch

(b) Apologies were not received from:

Councillor A Marsden

(c) Recording Apologies

In future apologies would only be recorded in the Minutes as being received if the Councillor who was absent had personally offered them to the Clerk or the Chairman.

128 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Shukla declared an Interest in item No 14 on the agenda – The Threat to Community Pharmacies - as he was the village Pharmacist.

129 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Residents of Darlington Crescent attended the meeting to inform the Council about the dangerous ball games being played on the green area in front of 40-64. One lady had been hit in the face with a tennis ball. The perimeter of the green was being used as a cycle track. The children concerned were rude and cheeky and the trees were being destroyed. This constant nuisance had not been reported to the Police.

It was thought that the green area was in the ownership of the Housing Trust but no request had been made that it erect a “No Ball Games” sign.

The Chairman told the deputation that it was important that they rang the Police and obtained an incident number each time there was a disturbance (01244 350222). It

was also suggested that a log be kept of these nuisance incidents and that the residents keep Councillor Mrs P Humphrey informed. The Council would request that the Police monitor the situation.

130 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the inclusion of the following sentence to the end of Minute No 121 – Quality Parish Council Scheme - the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 June 2003 be confirmed as a correct record:

“The Chairman undertook to discuss this matter with the Clerk.”

131 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

132 AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

The Chairman reported that in an attempt to clear this matter up once and for all the County Property Officer, Mrs Alison Amesbury of Chester City Council and representatives from Arena had been invited to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting scheduled for 7:30pm on 17 July 2003.

If it was not possible to build affordable housing on Lodge Lane because of the cost of the land, the Council would need to identify possible alternative sites to move the affordable housing initiative forward.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

133 ACCOUNTS

(a) Cancelled Cheque

The Chairman reported that cheque No 101616 for £11.95 made out to NALC (10% of Conference Accommodation) had been cancelled as they had used his credit card instead. He would claim back his out of pocket expenses.

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

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Mr C Moss (Parish Room rent)	312.50	101617
United Utilities (Water Rates)	19.43	101618
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning)	1,185.35	101619
Pest Control Services (Moles)	210.00	101620
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	111.41	101621
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	540.69	101622
Inland Revenue	747.14	101623

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Mr A Bailey	25.00	101624

(c) Receipts

Interest to 21 June 2003 (14 day Interest Account)	63.93
Interest to 23 June 2003 (Treasurer Account)	0.21
Duty/VAT repayment 1 April 2002 – 31 March 2003	3,506.27
Allainz Cornhill – returned premium in respect of bus shelter reduction	136.34

(d) Parish Room Rates

The Clerk had obtained a copy of the application form for a rate re-evaluation. She would complete it in respect of the Parish Room and in consultation with the landlord, Colin Moss, and return it.

134 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

The Chairman reported that PC G Cooper had supplied the following crime figures in respect of incidents in Saughall since the last meeting of the Council:

- ?? 1 theft (internal, family related)
- ?? 3 thefts of motor vehicles (2 cars, 1 moped)
- ?? 2 shed/garage break-ins (alloy wheels, garden tools, golf clubs, mowers)
- ?? 1 burglary (other than a dwelling)
- ?? 1 damage
- ?? 1 nuisance youth call

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Homewatch

The Chairman reported that Bryan Jones had informed that he would carry on as the Acting Chairman of the Homewatch and had thanked the Council for its support.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour - Nuisance Youth Activity

Members reported that local residents had been complaining about nuisance youth activity on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field and behind the Uniformed Group's Headquarters. A syringe had been found and bottles were being broken on the field. They were also concerned for the welfare of a baby and this was being monitored.

It was noted that the crime figures provided by PC Gareth Cooper did not include reports about unruly behaviour from residents living close to the playing field.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and in order to provide the police with a clear picture of nuisance youth/anti social behaviour in Saughall residents be encouraged to report all incidents to the police and obtain an incident number.

(d) Byelaw – “No Ball Games”

A meeting had taken place with a senior police officer about enforcement of the byelaw on the four grassed amenity areas. Those Members who had attended reported back on the proceedings.

RESOLVED:

That situation regarding the byelaw be noted.

135 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee held on 26 June 2003 be received.

136 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Tenders

The Council had now gone out to tender. Sealed tenders would be received by 5pm on 25 July 2003 and the Chairman had agreed to open them immediately prior to the Environment and Highways Committee meeting.

(b) Progress

The Chairman reported that the City Council Planner who was dealing with the Council's application, Mr Mark Dickens, had written setting out concerns and comments from Mr M O'Kell, Nature Conservation Officer. The Chairman was addressing these and was in contact with the Ecologist Dr J Hodgson. An amended application would be submitted once the information requested had been gathered together. The timescale set was very tight so it was possible that there would be slippage.

(c) Grant Aid Applications

(i) “Funding for Communities” Conference

It was reported that a “Funding for Communities” Conference organised by the Cheshire Community Council would be held at 9:30-4:00 on Wednesday, 23 July 2003 at the Victoria Jubilee Hall, Malpas.

(ii) Tree Council Grants

Councillor C Wynne-Eyton reported on progress made in applying for funding for a replacement tree planting scheme. Three trees on the Council's land were dangerous and needed to be removed. It was also noted that a tree on Long Lane had a dead branch which would need to be removed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton be requested to attend the "Funding for Communities" Conference and bring a report on proceedings to the next meeting of the Council;
- (2) Councillor C Wynne-Eyton be thanked for submitting the funding bid to the Tree Council in respect of the proposed tree planting scheme; and
- (3) Councillor C Wynne-Eyton be requested to take the necessary action to ensure the removal of the dangerous trees.

137 PARISH PLAN

(a) Additional Support from the Cheshire Community Council

Mr Peter Webb of the Cheshire Community Council had written to the Clerk offering some additional free help, in the form of a new colleague who had a specific role in rural commercial affairs, with the Business and Commerce Focus Group.

Mr Webb also informed that the Community Council had a temporary additional resource from one of the Chester Colleges and asked if the Council would like to produce a directory of Parish Services in Saughall.

The Clerk had accepted all of the help offered.

(b) Focus Groups

Members considered arrangements required before the following three Focus Groups could meet:

- ?? Commerce and Business – 7:30pm on Wednesday, 3 September 2003 at the Vernon Institute (Small Hall) – Lead Member - Councillor A Bailey.
- ?? Community Halls – 7:30pm on Thursday, 4 September 2003 (Venue to be decided) – Lead Member - Councillor A Warrington.
- ?? Youth – (Date, time and venue to be agreed with Samantha Brooks) – Lead Member - Councillor RA Storrar

RESOLVED:

That each Lead Member be requested to firm up arrangements for the inaugural meeting of their Focus Group and bring a report on proceedings to the Parish Plan Steering Group now scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 15 September 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

(c) Revised Agreement to Supply Business Services

RESOLVED:

That the Revised Agreement be signed at the appropriate time.

(d) Saughall Rose Queen and Annual Fete – 5 July 2003

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs P Humphrey provided a report on the consultation/survey work they had undertaken at the Fete. There had been 75 responses from a broad cross section of residents. The information was being collated and would be available for consideration at the next meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be thanked for his hard work and innovative approach to research.

138 QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

The Council received copies of the Guidance sent to the Clerk by the ODPM and DEFRA. It had been agreed that once this information was available there would be a Special Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to consider the initiative in detail and agree how the Council would proceed.

RESOLVED:

That the Special Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to discuss the Quality Parish Council initiative and what it means for the Council be held, provisionally, at 7:30pm on Thursday, 25 September 2003.

139 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF TWO-TIER AREAS IN THE NORTH WEST

The Council noted the content of a letter sent on 20 June 2003 by Mr Archie Gall, Director of the Boundary Committee for England, regarding Local Government Review in the two-tier areas of the North West. Representations on the First Stage of the Review should be submitted by 8 September 2003.

140 THE THREAT TO COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

A decision by the Government was still awaited.

RESOLVED:

That the position in respect of Community Pharmacies continue to be monitored.

141 REVEREND DAVID HAY

It was reported that the last service the Vicar would conduct in Saughall All Saints Church would be at the end of September 2003. When he retired it was thought that Saughall would no longer have a full time Vicar.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

142 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
12 July 2003	Councillor Mrs J Young
19 July 2003	Councillor RA Storrar
26 July 2003	Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
2 August 2003	Councillor A Warrington

143 GOWY NORTH AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

The Council received a report on the proceedings of the last meeting of the Area Committee held on 19 June 2003 from those Members who had attended. Issues discussed included the following:

- ?? Voluntary local link officer - nominations
- ?? Information provided by Police and Homewatch Manager, David Owen
- ?? Rural Police Forum to be held at 7:30pm on Monday, 14 July 2003 at Waverton Village Hall – To answer questions from the public.
- ?? Major Planning Applications e.g. Lower Ridge Farm, Saughall.
- ?? Budget, Grants, Criteria and Applications Forms.

The next meeting of the Area Committee would be at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 30 September 2003 at Mickle Trafford and a presentation would be made by the Waste Recycling and Minimisation Officer.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

144 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS  
CHESTER AREA MEETING – 25 JUNE 2003 AT 7:30PM

Councillor RA Storrar reported on the proceedings of the Chester Area Meeting. Subjects discussed included:

- ?? Quality Parish Council status.
- ?? Problems with out of transport zone school buses.
- ?? Play equipment inspections.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

145 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received. Anyone requiring sight of them would contact the Clerk:

- letter dated 21 June 2003 from County Councillor Mrs E Moore Dulton re. funding opportunities to refurbish village halls.
- undated letter and leaflet from Cheshire Local Authority Support Programme's Co-ordinator, Eric Whitworth, about free advice on sustainable energy.

126 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

The following circulars had been received:

Cheshire Local Authority Support Programme – Newsletter Issue 2  
Wickstead Leisure – the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and provisions coming into force on 1 October 2004 relating to outdoor public play areas.  
The Standards Board for England – The Code of Practice video.  
Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee Agenda – Friday, 20 June 2003  
Cheshire Constabulary – Chester Watch Briefing Sheet  
Climb on Board – SMP Playgrounds  
The Standards Board for England – The IDeA Guide for New Members.  
Chester City Council's Agenda for meeting on 18 June 2003.  
Voluntary Voice – Summer 2003.  
Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters June 2003.