

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 4 August 2003 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor R Shukla  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)  
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton  
Councillor Mrs J Young (in the Chair)

County Councillor D Rowlands

147 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(a) Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Bailey

(b) Apologies were not received from:

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor A Marsden  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

148 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kerr declared an Interest in any matter that involved the Cheshire Community Council. He was its Chairman.

149 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

(a) Darlington Crescent

Mr Colley of Darlington Crescent attended the meeting to make representations over ball games being played on the green area to the front of Nos 40-64. He asked that the Council secure and erect a “No Ball Games” sign on the green.

Mr Colley also complained about children cycling around the green using the footpath. He was worried that there may be an accident as a result.

Another resident of Darlington Crescent, Mr Collier, informed that he had written to the Chairman as he had a contra view on children playing ball games. Unfortunately, the chairman was not at the meeting and so Members were unable to consider the detail of the letter.

Members advised that riding bicycles on footpaths was a police matter and that they should be contacted each time there was an incident.

RESOLVED:

That no decision be made on the proposal to erect a “No Ball Games” sign on the green in front of Nos 40-64 Darlington Crescent until the next meeting of the Council on 1 September 2003 when Mr Collier would be allowed to speak and express his views.

(b) Meadows Lane

Mrs Argyle brought the Council up to date with incidents of anti-social behaviour that had been ongoing in that area of the village for some time. The Clerk had previously written to each householder asking them not to let their children engage in “over zealous games of football” as it was dangerous, causing damage and affecting residents quality of life.

The Council urged residents to call the police and ask for an incident number each time there was a nuisance youth incident.

RESOLVED:

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for Thursday, 11 September 2003 be replaced with a meeting of the Council and representatives from the Cheshire Constabulary and the Chester Housing Trust be invited to attend.

150 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 July 2003 be confirmed as a correct record.

151 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

152 PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

A productive meeting had taken place on 17 July 2003 between Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Mr Ian Gould, the County Property Officer, Mrs Alison Amesbury of Chester City Council and representatives of Arena (Minute No 41/2003 refers).

It seemed that there had been a misunderstanding over the offer Arena was prepared to make Cheshire County Council for approximately 0.8 of an acre of land, in its ownership, designated for affordable housing to meet local needs an “exceptions site”. Discussion would continue, Arena would make a formal offer for the land in question and Mr Gould would report to the County Farms Panel and inform all parties of its decision in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

153 ACCOUNTS

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

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
National Association of Local Councils Conference Fee (Councillor A Bailey)	119.260	101625
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	34.08	101626
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance)	1,185.35	101627
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	58.67	101628
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	540.69	101629
Rachel Lowe (Goal nets)	747.14	101630

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 July 2003 (14 day Interest Account)	63.53
Interest to 24 July 2003 (Treasurer Account)	0.14

(c) Parish Room

The Clerk reported that she had applied for a re-evaluation in respect of the rates on the Parish Room. An acknowledgement had been received and a decision would be communicated in due course.

154 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

Councillor C Moss informed that he had spoken to PC G Cooper about the problems being experienced on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field. PC Cooper had promised to inform his colleagues so that they could give this matter some attention. Sergeant Ian Ankers had advised that it was the Council's responsibility to make the playing field secure at night.

Broken glass had been found on the slide and swings and the police had been informed. Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council officials had told Councillor Moss that the facility on Fiddlers Lane had been one of the best parks his Council maintained and now it was one of the worst. Councillor Moss was constantly picking up empty cans and bottles.

It was known that underage drinking was going on behind the Uniformed Group's Headquarters. The imminent removal of the dangerous tree would open up the area and get rid of the "Den".

The police had launched a campaign to tackle underage drinking in public houses. It was now necessary to get them to acknowledge that there was a serious problem in Saughall and that some action was required.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the police be invited to the Council meeting scheduled for 11 September 2003 to discuss anti-social behaviour and underage drinking; and
- (2) local residents be requested to write to the Divisional Commander, Superintendent Nick Ingram, informing of the problems being experienced on the field and asking for his comments.

(b) Homewatch

As Bryan Jones was not at the meeting the Homewatch report be deferred until the Council meeting scheduled for 11 September 2003.

(c) Lost/Found Property Survey

Members had received details of a lost/found property survey being carried out by the Clerk to the Police Authority. They were encouraged to take part.

155 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) That the Minutes of the following Committee meetings be received:

Planning held on 7 July 2003

Finance and General Purposes held on 17 July 2003

Environment and Highways held on 25 July 2003

- (2) the recommendation to erect the spare bus shelter on the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field (Finance and General Purposes Committee Minute No 43(c) refers) be not agreed in the light of anti-social behaviour currently being experienced in the field; and
- (3) the Environment and Highways Committee be requested to give consideration to providing a litter bin at the bus stop on Church Road as the area is becoming very untidy.

156 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

Members noted the content of the Minutes of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group meeting held on 22 July 2003.

The tendering process in respect of the park development had been extended to 5:00pm on Monday, 1 September 2003 because of inconsistencies in the documentation and advice provided for tenderers. These problems had now been remedied. The Chairman would open the tenders at 7:00pm on Monday, 1 September 2003, before the next meeting of the Council and Members were invited to attend.

The planning application was being amended to take account of concerns expressed by the Planning Department. It was to be resubmitted in early September 2003 when it would be the subject of consideration at Chester City Council's Planning Board.

The grant application had been submitted to the Tree Council for funding for a tree planting scheme and the outcome was awaited.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group meeting on 22 July 2003 be received and the progress report be noted.

157 PARISH PLAN

It was noted that the Business & Commerce and Community Hall Focus Groups were scheduled to meet on 3 and 4 September 2003 respectively. Councillor RA Storrar was finalising arrangements for a meeting of the Youth Focus Group that was expected to take place in mid-September 2003.

Members referred the Action List and timescales for the completion and publication of the Plan. It was considered that it could be presented in a more user-friendly and diagrammatic way and Councillor A Warrington agreed to explore this further.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) the Clerk and Mr P Webb of the Cheshire Community Council agree sensible timescales for the actions to be taken to provide a Parish Plan at the next meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group scheduled for 15 September 2003.

158 ELECTED REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEWS

The Council noted the content of a letter from Mr Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive, Cheshire County Council, and proposals for local government reorganisation put forward by Chester City Council detailed by Mr Paul Durham, its Chief Executive.

Cheshire County Council was still working on its proposals and further information would be available soon.

The Boundary Committee had requested that proposals be submitted to it by 8 September 2003 and the Parish Council had the opportunity to make its views known.

Although Members gave some initial consideration to the issues they were unable to form a view in the absence of Cheshire County Council's proposals which were currently being developed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) That Elected Regional Assemblies and Local Government Review be discussed fully at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 1 September 2003; and
- (2) County Councillor D Rowland be requested to liaise with Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton on the distribution of the County Council's proposals for Local Government Reorganisation.

159 THE THREAT TO COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

The Trade Secretary, Patricia Hewitt MP, had announced a plan that would allow the big supermarkets to open hundreds of NHS linked pharmacies.

Supermarkets must trade for more than 100 hours a week; or the supermarket or shopping centre must be over 15,000 square metres in size. The licensing system would be retained. Primary Health Care Trusts had the power to award contracts to pharmacies depending on local need.

Community Groups and Pharmacists would still be able to contest plans during the three month consultation process beginning in August 2003.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

160 RURAL SERVICES STANDARDS 2003

The Council considered the detail of a letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life, the Right Honourable Alun Michael MP, on Rural Services Standards provided to give people living in the countryside a better understanding of the services they could expect. The Standards would be revised annually as the modernisation of public services proceeded.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the letter from Alun Michael MP be noted.

161 CHANGES TO NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING AND LICENSING

Members noted the changes to National Lottery funding and licensing following Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell MP's plans for a shake-up of the National Lottery detailed in a White Paper published in July 2003. Several new initiatives had been outlined and the more important proposals were listed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

162 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar reported on proceedings at the last meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee. It was noted that a Dance Company had leased the two attic rooms and refurbishment works had commenced.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported on the proceedings of the "Funding for Communities" Conference that she had attended on 23 July 2003. The event had been very useful and literature obtained from it had been passed to the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

163 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
9 August 2003	Councillor C Moss
16 August 2003	Councillor B Kerr
23 August 2003	Councillor RA Storrar
30 August 2003	Councillor A Warrington
6 September 2003	Councillor Mrs J Young

164 GOWY NORTH AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

The Area Committee Manager, Ms Anne Lancaster, had written to the Clerk setting out the payment criteria and enclosing an application form for grants/payments from the Local Area Committee for local schemes and projects. The closing date for applications was 1 September 2003.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors RA Storrar and C Wynne-Eyton be authorised to submit to Chester City Council an imaginative bid for funding to assist the Golden Jubilee Park development by the closing date for applications.

165 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- letter from Chester City Council's Project Support Officer Linda Jewsbury re. Parish Partnership Reception on Wednesday, 19 November 2003, Assembly Room, Town Hall, 7:30pm.

166 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

The following circulars had been received:

Cheshire Open Studios Exhibition and Weekends – September 2003  
Cheshire County Council's The Environmental Planning Service  
Cheshire County Playing Fields Association's The Playing Field – Summer 2003  
Chester City Council's The Key Summer 2003 (Unlocking sources of funding, training and information for Chester's Voluntary Sector)  
Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Signpost – Summer 2003

Chester City Council's Getting it Together – a new Cultural Strategy for Chester District  
Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee's Agenda for meeting on 7 August 2003  
Chester City Council's Chester Matters July/August 2003