

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 1 September 2003 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

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

County Councillor D Rowlands

PC R Fisher
PC M Powell

167 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(a) Apologies were received from:

Councillor B Kerr
Councillor C Moss

(b) Apologies were not received from:

Councillor A Marsden

168 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

169 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

(a) Darlington Crescent

At the last meeting of the Council held on 4 August 2003 Mr & Mrs Colley of Darlington Crescent made representations over ball games being played on the green area to the front of Nos 40-64. The Council was asked to erect a “No Ball Games” sign on the green.

However, Mr & Mrs Collier also of Darlington Crescent had a contra view and had indicated that they wished to address the Council at its next meeting before it made any decision.

Mr & Mrs Collier informed that infant and junior school children were playing on the grassed area but were not causing any damage. There was no anti-social behaviour and a petition submitted signed by 8 residents of Darlington Crescent requested that no action be taken and the young children concerned and their

friends should be allowed to continue to play on the grassed area without harassment.

Mr Robson also of Darlington Crescent also spoke out on the issue informing that he would like to see a byelaw introduced prohibiting the playing of ball games.

The Chairman told the meeting that Members had listened carefully to all that had been said about ball games in Darlington crescent and that they would take no action at the present time but the matter would be kept under review.

170 COUNCILLOR BRIAN KERR

The Chairman reported that Councillor Kerr was in hospital, he had visited him there and it was hoped that he would be discharged on 3 September 2003.

171 POLICE PRESENCE

The Chairman introduced PC Robin Fisher, the new Rural Police Officer, and his colleague PC Mike Powell and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Each police officer reported on their employment background to date and informed that they would both attend the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 11 September 2003 to discuss nuisance youth/neighbour activity and under-aged drinking.

172 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 August 2003 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No 153/2003 – Accounts (a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 7 July 2003

Rachel Lowe (Goal nets) £747.14 be replaced with £50.00

173 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

174 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Tender Evaluation

The Chairman reported that he had opened four tenders (one was not complete). Before any decision could be made a tender evaluation process would need to be undertaken and the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group would consider the results.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Derek Bird be asked to evaluate the tenders in consultation with Mr Ray Easby of the Cheshire Playing Fields Association.

(b) Planning Application

Chester City Council's Principal Planning Officer, Mr Mark Dickens, had informed that he was in the process of assessing the planning application and as part of the statutory consultation process he had received comments from the County Highway Engineer and the Cheshire Constabulary.

The Cheshire Constabulary had raised concerns over the available/proposed off-street parking provision. They had highlighted their concerns regarding the potential for on-street car parking and the likely impact upon highway safety. To address their concerns they had requested provision for at least 30 off-street car parking spaces.

The County Highway Engineer had recommended that planning permission be refused because the existing means of access was adequate or readily available, it was of inadequate size to allow for two-way flow and the visibility to the left was obstructed (upon exiting the site).

To assist, Mr Dickens was happy to arrange a meeting with the County Highway Engineer, Mr Charles Lloyd, representatives of the Parish Council and himself to try to address these concerns. He required a fully detailed car-parking layout for the basketball court/car parking area – setting out how many spaces, including adequate manoeuvring space, to address the access/egress issue.

The Chairman reported that as the residents of Long Lane and Fiddlers Lane had not been happy with the original proposals an amended site layout had been drawn up and would be submitted in due course. The football pitches had been reduced from three to two.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Mr Dickens to inform him that the Council would like him to arrange the suggested meeting and offering the following dates and a 7pm start time:

Monday, 22 September 2003 (preferred date)

Monday, 29 September 2003

Wednesday, 8 October 2003

(c) Trees

Chester City Council's Trees and Woodlands Officer had written to the Clerk enclosing correspondence relating to the removal of the hedge and trees to allow development of the Golden Jubilee Park. Concerns were raised over the possibility that the large oak tree to the north of the site would be removed.

However, the Tree Warden reported that the oak tree would stay and three ash trees were being removed.

(d) Next Meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group be held on the rise of the meeting being arranged by Mr Dickens.

175 ELECTED REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEWS

The Government was holding a referendum on elected regional assemblies in the three northern regions. If regional assemblies were established, local government within these regions must be changed to a wholly unitary pattern.

The Boundary Committee would be submitting at least two options for unitary structure in Cheshire to be decided in the referendum. Timescales were tight and preferred options had to be submitted for consideration by 8 September 2003.

Members were requested to debate the issues involved and agree the Council's preferred options for submission to the Boundary Committee within the timescales laid down. To assist the discussion Councillor RA Storrar, a Member of Chester City Council, set out his Authority's preferred options and County Councillor D Rowlands listed the options being put forward by the County.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's preferred options be as follows:

Option 1 – Unitary Chester

Option 2 – Chester and Ellesmere Port and Neston together or using the boundaries based on the existing Primary Care Trust

Option 3 – Unitary Cheshire