

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 11 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 C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs J Young (in the Chair)

PC R Fisher
Mr B Jones (Saughall Homewatch)
Mr C McIlwrick (Saughall Homewatch)

176 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor B Kerr
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton

177 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Shukla declared an Interest in item No 15 on the agenda – The Threat to Community Pharmacies as he was the village Pharmacist.

178 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

- Anti-social Behaviour/Nuisance Youth Activity/Underage Drinking

(a) Nuisance Youth Activity/Underage Drinking

The Chairman introduced the Council and members of the public to PC R Fisher, the new Rural Constable. PC Fisher provided a brief resume of his career with the Cheshire Constabulary to date. It was noted that he had been in his present post for 6 weeks.

PC Fisher informed that of the 30 incidents of crime reported in Saughall in the last month only 2 related to nuisance youth activity – in Fiddlers Lane and Meadows Lane. The Constabulary had put a Youth Strategy in place in an attempt to combat youth problems.

Members and members of the public provided PC Fisher with the detail of reports made to the Constabulary about youths being rowdy and drinking on Fiddlers Lane Playing Field. Problems were still being experienced in this area of the village and the ditch in the field was full of beer bottles. The car registration number of the

supplier of the beer was given to PC Fisher for further investigation and appropriate action.

It was expected that the problems would abate on Fiddlers Lane over the Autumn and Winter months as the weather became cooler.

The point was made that young people needed somewhere to congregate and it was hoped that the Golden Jubilee Park development would eventually have appropriate youth provision.

Mr Jones informed that he had made calls to the police about girls setting fires behind the Ridings. PC Fisher agreed to discuss this matter with the Homewatch officials after the meeting.

(b) Nuisance Neighbours

Ms Julia Lundy and Ms Gail Jordan of the Chester District Housing Trust had been invited to the meeting to discuss the problems experienced by people who had nuisance neighbours. They informed that all Trust tenants had signed a new tenancy agreement with a clause that stipulated they must not cause a nuisance in property or in the local area and must not let their friends or relatives cause a nuisance either.

If there was nuisance neighbour activity in the village it was essential that the Trust was informed. This would allow it to build up a file of evidence. Residents were encouraged to keep a log of incidents. If the Trust could quote them it would add weight and give it clout.

The ultimate sanction was removal of tenancy/eviction. This would involve attending court and thus evidence was needed. Chances would have to be given to amend behaviour. Mediation would be offered, warnings given. By working in partnership with other agencies the Trust would try to prevent nuisance. If it continued and was severe the ultimate sanction would be imposed.

The Chairman requested the Chester District Housing Trust Officials to pass their details to Mrs Argyle of Meadows Lane so that they could keep in touch and monitor the situation in Meadows Lane.

(c) Housing Allocations Policy

Councillor RA Storrar reported that sometimes anti-social behaviour was caused by those who were not long term residents of Saughall. The concern was that the Trust moved people into Saughall who had previously caused problems elsewhere. He asked for assurance that this would not happen again.

Housing Trust Officials reported that the application of Housing Allocations Policy was done in collaboration with Chester City Council. Allocations were made using the points system. Tenants did not always tell the Trust everything they had done previously.

Councillor Mrs Whitton was concerned that over the years the nature of the village had changed. Saughall families were now having to live in Blacon because they were unable to obtain houses in the village.

It was noted however that although extra points were awarded for local contact they may not necessarily outweigh greater housing need.

RESOLVED:

That the Council scrutinise the Housing Allocations Policy in detail with a view to making recommendations for change.

(d) Homewatch

Mr Charles McIlwrick informed that as Mr Bryan Jones had now moved out of the village he would now be resuming his role as Homewatch Co-ordinator. There was to be a Special Meeting of the Homewatch on 14 October 2003 to formulate Homewatch's Annual Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

179 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 September 2003 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute No 153 Accounts (a) – cheque No 101630 in respect of goal nets should read £50.00 not £747.14; and

(2) the meeting of the Council scheduled for 3 November 2003 be now held at 8:00pm on Thursday, 6 November 2003.

180 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No 170 – Councillor Brian Kerr

The Clerk was asked to write to Councillor Kerr on behalf of the Council to wish him a speedy recovery from his illness.

Minute No 174(c) - Golden Jubilee Park – Trees

It was agreed that Councillor RA Storrar would obtain quotations from local contractors to trim the hedges on the Fiddlers Lane side of the Golden Jubilee Park.

181 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 August 2003:

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance)	1,185.35	101631
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	44.36	101632
Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	540.69	101633
Mrs J Young (Bulbs)	50.00	101634
Vernon Institute Management Committee (Towards repairs and refurbishment)	4,043.00	101635

(b) Receipts

Interest to 22 August 2003 (14 day Interest Account)	56.99
Interest to 24 August 2003 (Treasurer Account)	0.13

(c) Parish Room

An application for re-evaluation had been made and a response was awaited.

182 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 4 August and 1 September 2003 be received.

183 PARISH CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred until the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 6 October 2003.

184 PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL

Since the meeting held with representatives of Arena, Chester City Council and the County Property Officer on 17 July 2003 no progress had been reported on the proposed Affordable Housing Scheme on Lodge Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the County Property Officer and obtain a progress report.

185 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk had been in touch with Mr Mark Dickens, Principal Planning Officer, Chester City Council, and offered a number of dates for a meeting with Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group Members and representatives of the City Council's Planning Department and County Highways Department. The meeting was being convened to discuss planning and highway issues with a view to moving the planning

application forward. A response was awaited from Mr Dickens so that arrangements could be put in hand to hold the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to ensure that the Clerk receives a prompt response from Mr Dickens.

186 PARISH PLAN

The Chairman signed the agreement for the supply of Business Services from Cheshire Community Services. The Clerk would now forward the agreement to Mr Peter Webb for signature.

The Council received a report on the Business and Commerce Focus Group meeting that had been held on 3 September 2003. Although the meeting had not been very well attended the discussions had been useful and the Chairman intended to hold a further meeting of the Group soon and would publicise the event.

It was noted that arrangements were being made by Councillor RA Storrar to hold the inaugural meeting of the Youth Focus Group. It would be held hopefully at the end of September/beginning of October 2003.

Councillor A Warrington informed that he was also in the process of arranging a meeting of the Community Halls Focus Group and had been in touch with Mr Peter Webb in this regard.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be received; and

(2) the next meeting of the Community Safety Focus Group be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 6 November in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

187 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Ms Joyce Moore, Customer Operations Assistant, PowerSystems, had written to the Clerk apologising for the obvious inconvenience and disruption caused to residents in Saughall due to the interruptions in the electricity supply.

The supply interruptions experienced were due to two unrelated underground cable faults occurring on their high voltage distribution network. Necessary repairs had been carried out. PowerSystems made every effort to restore electricity supplies as quickly as possible to minimise the obvious disruption caused.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

188 TRAFFIC CALMING

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 6 October 2003.

189 THE THREAT TO COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

Christine Russell MP had written to the Clerk detailing the Government's response to the report on Community Pharmacies of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

It was noted that it was considered that simple deregulation as proposed by the OFT was not the best way to achieve the Government's aims. Community Pharmacies played a vital role, particularly in rural and poorer areas, and the Government would do nothing to jeopardise their position.

Instead the Government proposed to:

- ?? Introduce a new obligation on Primary Care Trusts to consider the impact on consumer choice when considering applications for new pharmacies;
- ?? Boost patient choice through access to internet and mail-order services, which many patients prefer;
- ?? Make it easier for pharmacists to locate in large shopping developments – over 15,000 square metres gross floor space – but with measures in place to prevent adverse effects on local community provision, with a duty to provide a full range of services appropriate to local needs;
- ?? Make similar arrangements and conditions for pharmacies that open for more than 100 hours a week and thus taking part in the new one-stop shop primary care centres; and
- ?? Introduce a new contractual framework for community pharmacies. The current contract is based on an agreement put in place in 1987 and needs updating. The proposed framework will provide a better basis to promote and reward high quality services for consumers. The aim is to introduce the new framework from 1 April 2004.

A consultation document would be issued in the Summer that explained these proposals in more detail.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) Councillor R Shukla be urged to make his own personal representations to The Right Honourable Patricia Hewitt MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

190 THE CHESHIRE CHARTER FOR LOCAL COUNCILS
A NEW WAY OF WORKING

RESOLVED:

That the content of the second draft of the Cheshire Charter for Local Councils be noted.

191 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS' ANNUAL
CONFERENCE – NANTWICH CIVIC HALL, THURSDAY, 9 OCTOBER, 2003,
5:00-9:00PM

RESOLVED:

That Councillors A Bailey and Mrs J Young be nominated to attend the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Annual Conference.

192 CHESHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 17
SEPTEMBER 2003, 7:30PM, NORTHWICH MEMORIAL HALL.

RESOLVED:

That this Council send no representative to the Cheshire Community Council's Annual General Meeting.

193 CHESHIRE COUNTY PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING, 17 SEPTEMBER 2003, 7:30PM, HARTFORD HOUSE, HARTFORD
MOSS RECREATION CENTRE, WINNINGTON, NORTHWICH

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be requested to represent the Council at the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association's Annual General Meeting.

194 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Council considered invoices totalling £9,085 in respect of repairs and refurbishment works carried out to the Village Hall. The Council had set up a savings fund and was committed to contributing to improvement works in respect of this community facility.

RESOLVED:

That a contribution of £4,043.00 be made towards the cost of repairs/refurbishment of the Village Hall.

195 CHESTER IN PARTNERSHIP INVITATION, GROSVENOR PULFORD HOTEL, PULFORD – TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2003, 9:30AM-1:30PM

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be requested to represent the Council at the meeting to review progress with Chester's Way Ahead, the Community Plan for the Chester District.

196 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
13 September 2003	Councillor A Bailey
20 September 2003	Councillor RA Storrar
27 September 2003	Councillor Mrs D Whitton
4 October 2003	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey

197 GOWY NORTH AREA COMMITTEE – GRANTS

Councillors RA Storrar and C Wynne-Eyton had made a bid to the Area Committee for £20,000 worth of funding to assist the Golden Jubilee Park development.

The next meeting of the Gowy North Area Committee would be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 30 September 2003 at Mickle Trafford Primary School.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the detail of the funding bid made be noted; and
- (2) Councillors RA Storrar and Mrs D Whitton be requested to represent the Council at the next meeting of the Area Committee.

198 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

The following circulars had been received:

Farms Estate – Details of dairy farm to let – H15 West View Farm, Shotwick Park Estate
Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee's Annual Report 2002/2003
New Look Wybone Municipal Catalogue
New Guidance Booklet – Standards Committee
Determinations provided by the Standards Board for England