

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 1 December 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 A Marsden
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

County Councillor D Rowlands

237 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor C Moss
Councillor R Shukla
PC R Fisher
Mr C McIlwrick

238 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

239 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 November 2003 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that the meeting was held in the Parish Room and not the Vernon Institute.

240 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not already listed on the agenda.

241 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

(a) Consumer Credit Counselling Service (A Registered Charity)

The Council received a presentation on the background, aims, objectives and work of the Consumer Credit Counselling Service from Ms Jayne Bellis, the Manager.

Ms Bellis answered Members questions and requested the Council to consider allowing her organisation to use the Parish Room on a Saturday morning after the Parish Council Surgeries.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Consumer Credit Counselling Service be invited to use the Parish Room, free of charge, on identified Saturday mornings; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to get Ms Bellis a key cut and liaise with her over the Parish Room's usage.

(b) Golden Jubilee Park Development – Planning Application

Mrs Sowdon of Long Lane made representations over the planning application lodged with Chester City Council, the Planning Authority, to develop Council owned land on Fiddlers Lane for sports and recreational purposes.

Mrs Sowdon informed that the proposals would impact on her and her neighbours personally and raised concerns over car parking arrangements. She was also opposed to the existing hedge and oak tree in the field being removed.

The Chairman informed Mrs Sowdon that the Planning Authority was consulting on the planning application and she should submit her views within the timescales laid down.

242 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 November 2003:

Financial Year 2003/2004	£	Cheque No
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	111.63	101654
Warrington Borough Council (Photocopying)	28.85	101655
Mr C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Planting Scheme)	171.42	101656
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,185.35	101658
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	163.85	101659
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	540.69	101660
Saughall Guides (Newsletter distribution)	10.00	101661
Chester City Council (Newsletter printing)	261.76	101662
Cheshire Community Council	331.25	101663

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 November 2003 (14 Day Account)	37.23
Interest to 23 November 2003 (Treasurer Account)	0.13
Street Cleaning Grant 1 April 2003 – 31 March 2004	4,434.56

243 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

It was reported that the police had been requested to keep the bus shelters under surveillance. They had been subjected to vandalism and graffiti by youths causing a nuisance.

(b) Homewatch

It was reported that the village was quiet at the moment.

(c) Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places

RESOLVED:

That this item be referred to the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 15 January 2004.

244 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That

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

Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20 November 2003
Environment and Highways Committee held on 27 November 2003

and

(2) the oak tree in the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field be removed subject to planning permission.

245 CHESHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PRIDE COMPETITION

The Council was requested to consider the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (Minute No 60/2003 refers) not to enter the competition in future but instead to consider alternative initiatives, including a Council run competition, to tidy up the village and encourage pride in the local community.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee be agreed.

246 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Golden Jubilee Park Funding Working Party

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting be rearranged from 18 December 2003 and instead be held at 6:30pm on Thursday, 8 January 2004 in the Parish Room, immediately before the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group meeting.

(b) Planning Application

It was possible that the application would be considered at the January 2004 meeting of the Planning Board. Negotiations were ongoing over car parking. It was accepted that provision for overspill parking would be needed. Removal of the oak tree would be subject to planning consent.

(c) Awareness Raising Event – Saturday, 10 January 2004

Members finalised arrangements and agreed actions to ensure the event was a success.

(d) Community Seats

The Chairmen was obtaining a quote from Mr Brian Ebbrell to site one of the newly acquired seats opposite the Woodvale Stores.

RESOLVED:

That a report on progress be brought to the next meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee.

247 PARISH PLAN

(a) Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the following Forums be received:

Parish Plan Steering Panel held on 10 November 2003; and
Community Safety Focus Group held on 6 November 2003

(b) Business and Commerce

The Chairman informed that he would send a letter to every business in the local area asking for views.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(c) Computer Training

The Chairman reported on the recent training event for volunteers who had agreed to help input data from the questionnaires once they were returned. The Headteacher at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School, Mr Philip Choi, had agreed to the School's computers being used for this task in mid-January 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

248 FIVE YEAR PLAN OF ACTION

The compilation of a Parish Plan would remove the need for the Five Year Plan of Action that the Council had drawn up some years ago.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Review of the Five Year Plan of Action be not carried out as it would soon be replaced with the Parish Plan.

249 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) The Council received reports from Members who had attended outside events as follows:

?? Parish Partnership Reception – 19 November 2003

An interesting and clear presentation had been received.

?? Chester City Council's Parish Plans Seminar/Workshop – 4-6pm on Tuesday, 11 November 2003

This event had been a great success. The Chairman had made a presentation on Saughall's need for a Plan and ongoing work. Members had come away with some good ideas that would be used to draw up the Parish Plan.

?? Methodist Church's Open Day

The Methodist Church was applying for planning permission and engaging in fund raising for the project.

?? Chester and District Football Association Meeting – 13 November 2003

The Chairman reported on the bidding process via the County Association.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

(b) The Cheshire County Council's Annual Town and Parish Council's Conference meeting was scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday, 21 January 2004 at Northwich Memorial Hall.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors A Bailey, B Kerr and Mrs J Young be requested to represent the Council at the meeting.

250 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW: YOUR CHANCE TO CHOOSE

Mr Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, had written to the Clerk to explain the Local Government Review taking place in Cheshire. He briefly set out the background to the referendum for Regional Government that would take place in Autumn 2004 and summarised the County Council's submission to the Boundary Committee.

Councillor B Kerr informed that the Boundary Committee had, that day, published its first set of proposals for a Unitary Government structure in the North West if voters opted for a Regional Government.

Option 1: a Unitary Cheshire based on the County Council's current boundaries.

Option 2: 2 Unitary Authorities based on East and West Cheshire.

Option 3: 3 Unitary Authorities based on groupings of District Councils.

There would now be a period of consultation running until 24 February 2004 and Parish Councils would be invited to submit their views. Every household in Cheshire would also be invited to submit views. The Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils would be distributing the relevant documentation to Parish Councils in the next few weeks.

Councillor Kerr also reported that there was a strong body of opinion building up that a Unitary Structure would be a better form of Local Government whether there was Regional Government or not.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the content of Mr Taylor's letter be noted;

(2) Councillor Kerr's report be received; and

(3) this matter be revisited at the next meeting of the Parish Council when the relevant correspondence has been received from the County Office.

251 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Vernon Institute Management Committee was appointing a new caretaker as Mr Bob Mainwaring was retiring. Repairs to the front entrance of the Vernon Institute were required but would be expensive. Therefore, the Parish Council may be approached for financial assistance.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

215 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

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

Date	Member
6 December 2003	Councillor C Wynne-Eyton
13 December 2003	Councillor RA Storrar
20 December 2003	No Surgery
27 December 2003	No Surgery
3 January 2004	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
10 January 2004	All Members to attend the Awareness Raising event in the Scout Headquarters

253 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The following communications had been received, anyone requiring a copy would contact the Clerk.

Letter dated 14 November 2003 from the Regional Director, Mr Colin Maddison, of the Countryside Agency about the Rural Delivery Review.

Noted

Letter dated 17 November 2003 from Cheshire County Council's Planning Officer re. Consultation on draft Planning Charter.

Noted

Letter from Mrs LM Russell complaining about the way the Council's proposal to develop its land on Fiddlers Lane and a subsequent written response from Councillor R Shukla.

The Chairman provided an oral response to the points raised in Mrs Russell's letter.

Councillor RA Storrar informed the Council that he had already recognised that he had a conflict of Interests, (he was a City Councillor as well as a Parish Councillor) accordingly he had already let it be known that he would not be sitting on the Planning Board when Chester City Council determined the Parish Council's planning application in respect of the Fiddlers Lane land.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to respond formally to Mrs Russell and circulate copies her letter to all recipients of Mrs Russell's letter; and

(2) Councillor RA Storrar's intension not to sit as a Member of the Planning Board when the Parish Council's application comes before it be noted.

254 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received. Any one wishing to see a copy would contact the Clerk.

- Sovereign Play Equipment – Stock Clearance
- Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters Oct/Nov 2003
- CPRE's Quiet Lanes Pack
- Cheshire Training Partnership – Training Update
- Chester City Council's – The Key – Autumn/Winter 2003/04