

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK
PARISH COUNCIL held on 19 January 2004 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs J Young

County Councillor D Rowlands

19 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kerr declared an interest as he was the Chairman of the Cheshire Community Council, an organisation that was contracted to undertake paid work for the Parish Council.

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor C Moss
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

21 DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Council considered its budget in respect of the current year 2003/2004 and agreed to establish a further designated fund.

RESOLVED:

That a designated fund be established for ICT and the £500 currently under the ICT budget head be transferred to the fund.

22 DETERMINATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2004/2005
AND THE PARISH PRECEPT

The Council received details of payments made from 1 April 2003 up until 5 January 2004, estimated expenditure and income to the end of March 2004, the 2003/2004 Budget, its proposed budget for 2004/2005 as agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee along with recommendations at its meeting on 11 December 2003, and the parish tax base – 2004/2005 – Council Tax.

Members considered each budget head in turn and debated the funding that would be required over the next year against each one in order to carry out the Council's activities and provide an appropriate level of service both effectively and efficiently. After substantial deliberation the 2004/2005 Parish Council budget was agreed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Parish Council budget for 2004/2005 be agreed as set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to inform Chester City Council's Director of Corporate Services that the Parish Council requires a precept of £35,019 for 2004/2005 (Appendix 2);
- (3) only the Cheshire Railings around the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field be maintained by the Parish Council; and
- (4) £25 per year be paid to Mr Dobson, retrospectively, in recognition of the work he does as the Council's Internal Auditor.

23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF TWO TIER AREAS ON THE NORTH WEST – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Having considered the representations received during the initial stage of the Review of two-tier areas in the North West, the Boundary Committee had published its draft recommendations in respect of Chester.

The Boundary Committee was consulting on its draft recommendations and submissions were required by Monday, 23 February 2004. The Committee would publish its final recommendations to the Deputy Prime Minister by no later than 25 May 2004.

It was noted that if there was a 'Yes' vote for Regional Government when the Referendum was held in the Autumn of 2004 a new local government structure would be required in the County. However, Members were against the proposals for Regional Government and hoped that the Referendum would result in a 'No' vote.

A unitary authority, or authorities, would replace the current pattern of County and District Councils. Local people would have an opportunity to vote for their preferred option of unitary authority in the referendum later in the year.

The Boundary Committee's preferred options were as follows:

Option 1 Cost £10.5m	A County-wide unitary authority based on Cheshire County Council's area.
Option 2 Cost £14.7m	Two unitary authorities: East Cheshire - Macclesfield, Congleton, eastern areas of Crewe & Nantwich, and parts of Vale Royal West Cheshire - Ellesmere Port and Neston, Chester City, western areas of Crewe & Nantwich and parts of Vale Royal
Option 3 Cost £16.8m	Three unitary authorities: East Cheshire - Macclesfield & Congleton Mid Cheshire - Vale Royal, Crewe & Nantwich Chester & West Cheshire - Ellesmere Port and Neston & Chester City

In light of the responses received, the Boundary Committee would refine and vary its draft recommendations. Final recommendations would then be submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister.

County Councillor D Rowlands and City Councillors RA & Mrs JE Storrar set out their views and opinions on the options put forward by the Boundary Committee and then Members debated the issues raised.

The Council considered which of the options would provide the most efficient and effective local government and value for money. Members considered the advantages and disadvantages of each option, along with their costs and benefits. They were keen to represent the best interests of Saughall people in any submission made to the Boundary Committee on Local Government Reorganisation.

To aid the regional debate the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils had invited Parish Councils to attend a meeting that was being held at Brookfield Hall, Shrewsbury Road, Nantwich between 7 and 9pm on Thursday, 5 February 2004. Representatives from the Boundary Committee's Cheshire Team would be making a presentation on the position to date and would be available to answer any questions Parish Councillors may have.

Following a vote, it was the majority view of the Council that Option 1 – one unitary authority based on existing County boundaries, was the preferred option and Option 2 – two unitary authorities of East and West Cheshire, was its second preference.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillors A Bailey and B Kerr be requested to attend the meeting with representatives of the Boundary Committee; and
- (2) a letter be sent to the Boundary Committee after the meeting at (1) setting out the views of this Council.

24 PROPOSED EVENING AND SUNDAY BUS CUTS BY CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

At a time when the electorate was being asked to consider the future local government structure in Cheshire, local newspapers were informing of a blanket proposal to cut all evening and Sunday bus services.

It was thought that bus services No 2 and 2E were effected by this proposal. Members were concerned that Cheshire County Council had not consulted properly over its proposal to make budgetary savings.

County Councillor Rowlands informed that there had been consultations through the County Council's Transport Liaison Committee.

The Council agreed to make representations to the County Council in the strongest terms as it was opposed to the proposal to withdraw the village bus service.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be requested to contact Chester City Transport and ascertain usage figures in respect of the services under threat; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to County Councillors GA Cousins, JP Findlow and A Needham and Mr P Cocker, Director of the Environment, informing them of this Council's total opposition to the proposal to withdraw evening and Sunday bus services in Saughall and quoting the usage figures at (1).

APPENDIX 1

SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET 2004/2005

Budget Head	Proposed 2004/2005
Environment Matters	
Saughall Village Pride Competition	250.00
Noticeboards	150.00
Street Cleaning	9,000.00
Trees	500.00
Litter Bins	500.00
Grass Cutting (Playing Fields) (Weekly cut)	2,400.00
Play Field Maintenance	500.00
Play Equipment (rolling replacement programme)	2,000.00
Sub Total	15,300.00
Golden Jubilee Park	
Grass & Hedge Cutting	1,000.00
Weed Control	500.00
Environmental Projects	500.00
Contingency	1,500.00
Sub Total	3,500.00
Finance and General Purposes	
(a) Administration	
Principal Officer to the Parish Council	8,755.00
Assistant to the Principal Officer	1,000.00
Stationary/Postage	700.00
Parish Councillor's Expenses	250.00
Computer	800.00
Newsletter publication costs	1,000.00
Training/Seminars	750.00
IT Fund	500.00
Sub Total	13,755.00
(b) Annual Payments	
Parish Room rental and associated costs	2,500.00
Audit Fees	400.00
Donations/Honorarium	250.00
Insurance	1,500.00
Subscriptions (APC £500, PFA £20, Com CI £30)	700.00
VI Clock Service	200.00
Website Hosting	150.00
Homewatch Support	250.00
Golden Jubilee Park Loan Repayment	3,656.00
Sub Total	9,606.00
(c) Vernon Institute - Annual Grant	2,000.00
(d) Contingency	
Highways Matters	
Bus Shelter replacement	2,000.00
Bus Shelter maintenance	1,500.00
Safety Initiatives	500.00
Sub Total	4,000.00
Grand Total	48,161.00

APPENDIX 2

**SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL
PRECEPT CALCULATION 2004/2005**

2003/04

Budget	£46,806.00
Precept	£32,592.00
Council Tax (Band D)	£27.75

	£	
Estimated Income	61,346	
Estimated Expenditure	<u>40,191</u>	
Surplus	21,155	21,155

Less money in Designated Funds

Vernon Institute	0	
Play Equipment	4,000	
Footpaths	513	
Golden Jubilee Park	2,000	
Community Safety	1,000	
ICT	500	-8,013

Balance Carried Forward	<u>13,142</u>
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2004/2005

Draft Budget	48,161
Less Balance C/Fwd	<u>13,142</u>
Required Precept	35,019

Tax Base (Band D)	1,181.4
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Tax	29.64
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Increase/Decrease	7%
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