

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 2 February 2004 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr
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

PC R Fisher

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

Apologies were not received from:

Councillor R Shukla

26 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.

The Clerk reported that the Standards Board for England had issued guidance on 12 January 2004 to the effect that membership of the Freemasons must be declared under the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct for Members specifically required them to declare membership of any Charities. The United Grand Lodge of Freemasons has advised the Standards Board for England that when Freemasons paid their annual membership fee to their lodge a part of the fee went to the Freemasons' Charity. Therefore, individuals who were Councillors must register their membership or prejudicial interest before or during Council meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

27 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5 January 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

28 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

29 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 5 January 2004:

Financial Year 2003/2004 Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	£	Cheque No
(Litter picking and grass cutting)	1185.35	101674
Standard Newspapers (Distribution of Newsletter)	29.61	101675
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	110.06	101676
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	540.69	101677

(b) Receipts

Interest to 22 January 2004 (14 Day Account)	30.44
Interest to 24 January 2004 (Treasurer Account)	0.31
Footpath Booklets	2.00
Uniformed Group's rent – 2002/2003	12.00

30 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Robin Fisher reported on the “Vulture Culture” vehicle crime initiative that was currently ongoing. The Police were watching car parks.

There had been 45 reported incidents of crime last month, 26 of these were in Saughall and were mostly road traffic collisions.

PC Fisher had met with Mr C McIlwrick to discuss the Homewatch. He had also met with representatives of the security firm who had won the contract to look after security at both of the schools in the village.

There has been some nuisance youth activity in the Darlington Crescent area.

PC Fisher had spoken to Rev M Banks following the damage caused to the Methodist Hall during a private booking.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar was concerned about the potholes on Fiddlers Lane. Three weeks previous there had been a road traffic accident and PC Fisher had agreed to report the state of the road to the Highway Authority. Although he had done this no action had been taken. He agreed to follow this up.

PC Fisher was informed that a number of youths continued to hang around the bus shelter on Church Road. They caused a nuisance and appeared intimidating. He agreed to monitor the situation, especially during the hours of darkness and informed of the new legislation that allowed Local Authorities to stop undesirables congregating in designated areas.

Members were also informed of a theft of ornamental statues in Kingswood Avenue. They had been loaded into a silver Vauxhall Cavalier and then driven away. It was thought that the vehicle was owned locally. The theft had been reported to the Police.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to write to Chester City Council requesting it uses its new powers in respect of all bus shelters and recreational areas in Saughall and designate them so that no alcohol can be consumed there.

(b) Homewatch

RESOLVED:

That as Mr McIlwrick was not in attendance at the meeting the Homewatch Report be deferred until the next meeting.

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour/Nuisance Youth Activity/Under-Age Drinking – Monitoring

It was noted that no information was available in respect of Meadows Lane where there had been a number of problems with youths involved in anti-social behaviour in the past.

RESOLVED:

That anti-social behaviour in the village as a whole continue to be monitored.

31 REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH COUNCILS

Members received a copy of the letter the Clerk had sent in response to the letter received from Mr Cassin, Strategic Director (Resources), Chester City Council (Minute No 6/2004 refers).

The letter informed Mr Cassin that:

- ? This Council does feel that double taxation occurs in its administrative area.
- ? Examples of double taxation are in the provision of services such as:
 - ? Street cleaning (litter collection)
 - ? Litter bins
 - ? Provision and maintenance of bus shelters
 - ? Playgrounds

? Playing fields

- ? As the highest taxed Parish in the Chester District double taxation is a significant issue although the grant provision made by the City Council was acknowledged.
- ? Whilst recognising that it is a complex issue and all options must be considered, the Parish Council would wish to have the Special Expenses provisions of the Local Government Finance ACT 1992 explored in detail.
- ? The Parish Council recommended that a joint Panel be established comprising Officers/Members of the City Council and representatives from Parish Councils. The Parish Council representative could be co-ordinated through the Chester Area Meeting of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the letter be noted.

32 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 January 2004 be received; and
- (2) the Minutes of the Environment and Highways Committee held on 29 January 2004 be received at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 1 March 2004 but the recommendations therein be agreed at this meeting.

33 PROPOSED EVENING AND SUNDAY BUS CUTS BY CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Council received a report from Councillor Kerr on a conversation he'd had with County Councillor A Needham, Chairman of the County Council's Environment Committee, at the County Council's Annual Town and Parish Councils' Conference on 21 January 2004. The recommendation was that all subsidised evening bus services should be discontinued to save money.

Councillor Kerr had pointed out that Saughall bus services were run by Chester City Council with only one shareholder, the City Council. County Councillor Needham had undertaken to carry out enquiries.

During the question and answer session at the Conference a question on consultation was put. The response was that consultation in respect of the proposed bus service cuts had been via the Liaison Committees but it was agreed that every Parish Council effected by the proposed cuts would now be consulted.

The reason why the County Council had taken a broad brush approach was because of fare increases by first North Western and Arriva. It was noted that the proposal was going against its own Rural Policies.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Cheshire County Council setting out the Parish Council's concerns and opposition to the proposals.

34 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Council received a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group held on 8 January 2004 and noted their contents. It also received a copy of the Action List following the meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Funding Working Party also held on 8 January 2004 and noted its contents.

Included in the Minutes of the Focus Group was a recommendation to establish a Charitable Trust. It was considered that if a Trust was established it would have more flexibility and be better placed to attract funding to aid the Park's development. It was noted that Mr Parry had information on, and experience in, setting up such a Trust.

The Council also received a report on the proceedings of the very successful Awareness Raising Event held on 10 January 2004 to keep local residents abreast of proposals for the Park's development.

It was reported that the Clerk had written to Gleeson Homes Limited in respect of the Willow Nook Housing Development requesting a contribution to assist the Park's development. A holding letter had been received.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) Mr D Parry be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council to give a presentation on the merits of and work required to establish a Charitable Trust; and
- (3) Mr D Bird be thanked for his hard work that had helped to make the Golden Jubilee Park Awareness raising Event such a success.

35 PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of Parish Plan Steering Panel held on 15 January 2004 be received; and
- (2) subject to the Cheshire Community Council's agreement the next meeting of the Steering Panel be held on 18 February 2004 instead of 19 February 2004..

36 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Attendance

RESOLVED: That

- (1) attendance at the following meeting be as follows:

- ? Regional Debate Meeting organised by the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils with representatives of Cheshire County Council, Borough and City Councils, Boundary Committee and Parish Councils.

Councillors Bailey and Kerr.

(b) Reports

- (i) Gowy North Area Committee Meeting held at 7:00pm on Thursday, 15 January 2004 at Christleton High School.

There had been a presentation by the PCT and one by Dee Valley Water and United Utilities. There had been discussions on a particular planning application and a report on the speed camera.

Members were concerned that the Area Committee was discussing planning applications. It was reported that this approach was a result of a Chester City Council Cabinet decision and would continue for one year when there would be a review. It was noted that in the urban areas the Area Committee was the only body that could be consulted but in the rural parished areas Parish Councils were statutory consultees.

The Chairman informed that he would provide a report for the next meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee on the findings following the use of the speed camera in the village.

Members discussed the speed of traffic on Hermitage Road. It was noted that as there were few accidents it must be considered a safe road.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (ii) Cheshire County Council's Annual Town and Parish Council's Conference – 7:00pm, Wednesday, 21 January 2004, Northwich Memorial Hall

The Clerk to Poynton Parish Council had made a presentation on Quality Parish Council status. Poynton was the first Parish Council in Cheshire to be accredited. The Clerk was a very good speaker and had captivated the audience. She had raised the public's awareness to the fact that they had a Parish Council and that it was able to facilitate things it couldn't have done before it was accredited.

The Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, Mr Jeremy Taylor, had given an upbeat talk on the work of the County Council. There had also been a talk on Local Government Review and a question and answer session.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(iii)Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Chester Area Meeting, Wednesday, 7 January 2004, 7:30pm, County Hall, Chester

The Area Meeting had received a presentation on Local Government Review.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

37 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Vernon Institute Management Committee's held on 11 November 2003, 9 December 2003 and 13 January 2004 and noted there contents.

38 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Parish Council's Surgeries rota for the next four weeks be as follows:

Date	Member
7 February 2004	Councillor B Kerr
14 February 2004	Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
21 February 2004	Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
28 February 2004	Councillor Mrs J Young

and

(2) monthly Parish Council Surgeries and quarterly Awareness Raising Events be held on Saturdays, instead of weekly Surgeries, from the beginning of the next Municipal Year.

39 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- letter from Programme Manager, Nicola Lavin, dated 14 January 2004 regarding Rural Recovery and financial assistance for projects that will bring economic benefits to the village.

Noted.

- letter dated 14 January 2004 from Chester City Council's Community & Health Manager, MJ Lee, regarding consumption of alcohol in public places – consultation asking for details of any specific locations where the new power making it a criminal offence to drink alcohol in designated public spaces is necessary, by end of March 2004.

Minute No 30(a)/2004 refers – Clerk to reply to Mr Lee with specific locations of bus shelters and recreational areas in Saughall.

- letter dated 14 January 2004 from Ms Jayne Bellis, Manager of Consumer Credit Counselling Service, regarding arrangements for its 'drop-in' sessions in the Parish Room from 31 January 2004.

Noted.

40 CIRCULARS

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

Chester Volunteer Bureau – Volunteer Voice – Winter 2003/2004

Chester Police Authority – Chester Police Forum 2004/05 – schedule of meetings

Chester City Council's Chester News – Winter 2004