

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK
PARISH PLAN PANEL held on 15 September 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers
Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

Mrs A Amesbury
Miss S Brookes – Uniform Groups
Mr K Evans – Saughall Colts
Mr J Hallas – All Saints Parochial Church Council
Mr G Southey – Saughall Gardening Club

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A Marsden and Revd M Banks.

32 CODE OF CONDUCT

No Declarations of Interest were received.

33 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the former Steering Group held on 23 April 2003 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

34 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr Hallas reminded the Panel that the Council had agreed that if it was able to obtain the land to the North of Lodge Lane, Saughall that was currently in the ownership of Cheshire County Council, it would pursue the possibility of using a parcel of it (land behind Park Avenue) as burial ground. The vicar had indicated a year or so ago the All Saints Graveyard would probably be full within five years.

The Chairman reported that there had been a recent development in respect of the land. The Council, Chester City Council, Cheshire County Council and Arena were working together with the aim of progressing an affordable housing scheme in the village. There were two phases and the first was to build 12 units of low cost housing to meet local need on 0.8 acres of the land in question. This was the priority and the Council was determined not to let anything jeopardise this objective. The original proposals had been shelved in the shorter term. However, in the longer term it was hoped to have a second phase and there was still a possibility that additional land could be obtained for a further affordable housing scheme and for burial land.

The Council had considered this matter at its meeting on 4 August 2003 and the Chairman apologised for not informing the Parochial Church Council sooner.

Mr Hallas informed that he considered that the Parish Council had let the Parochial Church Council down by not informing it of its current position.

It was noted that Arena had made the County Council a formal offer for 0.8 acres of land designated for affordable housing to meet local needs, an "exception site". Discussions would continue and the County Property Officer would let the Parish Council know of his Council's decision in due course.

35 BUSINESS AGREEMENT

The Panel was informed that the Business Agreement with Cheshire Community Council had been signed by the Chairman.

36 FOCUS GROUPS

(a) Golden Jubilee Park

The meeting held on 22 July 2003 had been a lively affair. The site layout had been received in a negative way. Local residents considered that increasing the playable area would increase the disorder factor. As a consequence, and after a long discussion, the Parish Council agreed to amend its plans. This matter was still under discussion and Mr Evans was asked to investigate whether the Colts funding bid would be affected if the site layout was altered. Representatives from the Colts would attend the next meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Focus Group scheduled for 29 September 2003 when the matter would be further discussed.

(b) Community Safety

The next meeting of the Community Safety Focus Group had been scheduled for 7:00pm on 6 November 2003.

(c) Commerce and Business

There had been a meeting of the Commerce and Business Focus Group on 3 September 2003. Although it had not been well attended there had been a useful discussion. The Chairman would arrange a further meeting of this Group to seek more views and Members were asked to encourage the business community to attend.

(d) Youth

Arrangements were in hand to hold a meeting of the Youth Focus Group and three provisional dates had been set aside. A report on the proceedings would be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.

(e) 50+

The Chairman was co-ordinating the views of those members of the community who were over 50. He had taken a stand at the Church fete

where residents had contributed to the drawing up of a wish list detailing what they would like to see in the village in the next few years.

Mr Southey reported on a number of concerns older people of the village had as follows:

- ?? The footpath from the Ridings heading towards the Vernon Institute was in a state of disrepair and very dangerous.
- ?? Lack of seating in the village.
- ?? Parking opposite All Saints Church.
- ?? People being knocked down by the wing mirrors on heavy goods vehicles.

The Chairman **AGREED** to bring these issues up at the next meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee scheduled for 18 September 2003.

(f) Community Halls

Councillor A Warrington had arrangements in hand to hold a meeting of the Community Hall Focus Group.

Revd Banks had informed the Clerk that the Saughall Methodist Church project was proceeding through the Methodist Churches national structure and had reached the 'District' stage. There was to be a meeting the following week with the Stoke-on-Trent and Chester District Property Secretary to talk things through. If he was satisfied, it would proceed to the national level for approval. If and when approval was received the Methodist Church could make its application for planning permission.

It was a slow but necessary procedure to ensure that the Church had not taken on something it could not achieve. Revd Banks would continue to keep the Council informed of developments.

37 ACTION LIST

It was **AGREED** to defer this item to the next meeting of the Panel as there was no representative from the Cheshire Community Council in attendance and advice was needed on how to proceed.

38 PONDS IN SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK

Mr Mark Robinson, who had previously been the Council's Pond Warden, had not responded to the Clerk's letter inviting him to become involved in the Parish Plan process. Members could only conclude that Mr Robinson did not wish to take up the invitation.

39 BROADBAND

It was noted that the campaign to attract the appropriate number of subscribers needed to ensure access to broadband had been successful. British Telecom would upgrade the exchange and broadband would be available in Saughall from 22 October 2003.

The Chairman informed that Mr Vince Pleasant who had run the campaign had told the Clerk that he did not consider the campaign had received the full support of the Parish Council. He had contacted Mr Pleasant by e-mail to establish what he would have liked the Council to do. It was noted that Councillors had encouraged a number of people to register for broadband and had publicised the campaign in the village on its notice boards and website.

40 PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

The possibility of Parish Councils banding together to collectively obtain third party liability insurance had been discussed at the Cheshire Area Meeting. The County Secretary had agreed to take this proposal forward.

41 GOWY NORTH AREA COMMITTEE FUNDING

It was reported that a bid for £20,000 had been made to the Area Committee to assist the development of the Golden Jubilee Park.

42 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Panel would be held at 7:30pm on Monday, 10 November 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.