

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 7 June 2004 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 R Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs J Young

108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
PC R Fisher

109 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

110 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendments the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 May 2004 be confirmed as a correct record:

- Minute No 96 Golden Jubilee Park Development
 - (e) Wayleave
Replace last word in first paragraph, sort, with sought.
- Minute No 101 Attendance at Outside Bodies
 - (e) Reports from meetings the Council has been represented at
 - (i) Councillor RA Storrar did not attend Cheshire County Council's Launch Event for the County Structure Plan Alterations: Cheshire 2016 on 7 April 2004 at St Mary's Close.

111 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

112 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 10 May 2004:

Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	1,180.83	101704
Street Cleaning, new litter bin and reinstating of sign		
Warrington Borough Council	74.03	101705
(Printing Special Newsletter)		
Chester City Council	505.50	101706
Parish Plan Questionnaire – Printing		
Cheshire County Playing Fields Association	12.00	101707
Annual Subscription		
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	70.61	101708
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	542.68	101709

(b) Receipts

Interest to 22 May 2004 (14 Day Account)	70.54
Interest to 23 May 2004 (Treasurer Account)	0.33
VAT Repayment (via BACS)	2,139.47

(c) Accounts 2003/2004

The Clerk reported that the 2003/2004 Accounts must be with the Auditor, Hacker Young, by 31 July 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the Accounts be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and passed to Mr H Dobson, the Council's Internal Auditor, for his input, etc. before being submitted to the External Auditor in accordance with normal procedure.

113 DOUBLE TAXATION – CHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S REVIEW

Councillor B Kerr informed that at very short notice and following the intervention of the Clerk, he had been invited to attend a meeting of a Working Group established to consider Double Taxation. He had been unable to attend but was happy to attend future meetings so long as he was given adequate notice of their date and time.

Councillor RA Storrar reported that he had heard unofficially that the next meeting of the Working Group had been postponed.

Councillor Kerr informed that the Government had placed a duty on Principal Authorities to address double taxation.

The Chairman informed that double taxation would be considered at the next meeting of the Goway North Area Committee scheduled for Thursday, 8 July 2004. Councillor Kerr was unable to attend but Messers B Armitage and R Parkin of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils may attend.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Mr J Cassin of Chester City Council's Strategic Director (Resources) Section asking for a progress report on the Double Taxation initiative.

92 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Robin Fisher was not at the meeting, had not presented his apologies and had not provided the Council with a report.

(b) Homewatch

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that she and Mr K Stinson had held a very positive meeting with Mr D Owen, the Constabulary's Homewatch Co-ordinator. The AGM of the Saughall Homewatch would be held at 8:00pm on Tuesday, 22 June 2004 in the Parish Room.

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

It was reported that there had been incidents of nuisance youth activity in Meadows Lane.

Councillor Mrs J Young informed that older youths were regularly on the swings and slide in the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field with bags containing alcohol and younger children felt intimidated as a result.

Councillor C Moss had recently picked up a lot of litter on the Playing Field.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed that the CCTV cameras were now in position, trained on the Playing Field so if there was any trouble it should be easy to detect the culprits.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be received;

(2) PC Robin Fisher be informed of the disturbances on the Field late in the evening; and

(3) the Clerk be requested to write to Mr Ian Mason of Chester City Council's Legal Services in order to obtain advice on getting the Fiddlers Lane Playing Field designated as an alcohol free zone.

(d) Bus Shelter Monitoring

The bus shelters were still being used for anti social/nuisance youth activity and the evidence was still being left behind.

(e) "No Ball Games"

There had not been any recent complaints but there remained concerns over enforcement.

(f) Rural Police Officers

The Council had a number of concerns over disorder and lack of liaison with the Constabulary. The Rural Police Officer had not attended a Council meeting for a considerable time nor had he attended the Annual Assembly.

It was known that the Constabulary intended to attend meetings of the Area Committees but not Parish Councils and this was considered a retrograde step.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Chief Inspector D Hill and ask that there be Police attendance at the next Council meeting so that Members can air their concerns.

115 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 10 and 24 May 2004 be received.

116 PROPOSED EVENING AND SUNDAY BUS CUTS BY CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Council had not received the County Council's official decision following its proposal to reduce evening and Sunday bus services.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Mr Garth Goddard, County Transport Co-ordinator, to establish whether or not a definitive decision had been made.

117 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

Councillor RA Storrar informed that the Parish Council's Planning Application for change of use would be determined by Chester City Council's Planning Board on 30 June 2004. Officers were recommending approval.

Funding would not be pursued until planning approval was obtained. It was noted that WREN had less funds available for projects like the Golden Jubilee Park development than previously.

The Council noted that there had been an exchange of information between the Clerk and the Wayleave Officer, Mr S Legge, of Powersystems regarding the overhead electricity cables, negotiations to put them underground and the need for a new agreement in the interim.

Members considered the length of the grass on the land earmarked for development. They also had regard to the possibility of obtaining charitable status in order to attract funding and the advice provided by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the next meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Committee be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 1 July 2004 when the Planning Board's decision on the planning application would be known;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to the Wayleave Officer and request that he meet the Project Co-ordinator on site;
- (3) Councillor A Marsden be requested to cut the grass and take the cuttings away within the next three weeks; and
- (4) Councillor B Kerr be requested to meet informally with Mr D Parry and the Project Co-ordinator to discuss the merits and demerits of achieving charitable trust status in the light of the advice provided by NALC and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council along with an appropriate recommendation.

118 PLANNING APPLICATIONS OVER THE BORDER IN WALES

Although the Clerk had been in contact with Mr B Hughes of Chester City Council's Planning Department requesting a progress report on the proposed protocols being considered in respect of planning applications over the border in Wales that had implications for English parishes, no report had been forthcoming.

Members raised concerns over the continued closure of Sea Hill Road since 15 April 2004 whilst work was undertaken in relation to the utility access to the new Gleeson's housing. There were concerns over the implications of the closure for local businesses. It was noted that although the road was closed there were days when no work was carried out at all.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to ensure that Mr B Hughes responds as appropriate to the Clerk in respect of proposed planning protocol with Flintshire County Council; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to contact:

Gleeson Homes Ltd
Cheshire County Council's Highways Department
Flintshire County Council's Highways Department

and make strong representations over the continued closure of Sea Hill Road, their lack of understanding in allowing the closure to drag on and inform of the loss of trade to local retailers as a result of the action.

119 PARISH PLAN

Members had regard to the initial Snapshot report sent out prior to the meeting. The next step was to formulate an action plan from the information provided.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the next meeting of the Parish Plan Panel be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 17 June 2004 at the Uniform Group Headquarters;
- (2) all Members of the Council be invited to attend the meeting at (1) above; and
- (3) the action plan be formulated at this meeting.

120 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Members receive reports on proceedings of the following:

- (a) Gowy North Area Committee, Thursday, 13 May 2004 – 7:00-9:00pm, Waverton Village Hall
- (b) Licensing Ceremony of Revd B Harris, All Saints' Church, 7:30pm on Wednesday, 12 May 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

121 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar informed that he had been unable to attend the last meeting.

122 VERNON INSTITUTE CLOCK

It was reported that the Vernon Institute Clock had been inspected by JB Joyce at the request of the Clerk, Although they had not submitted their report yet it was known that the Clock had been stopped at 12 o'clock.

RESOLVED:

That JB Joyce's report on the state of the Clock be awaited.

123 BOUNDARY STONE

Councillor Mrs D Whitton reported that the Boundary Stone had been slightly damaged. Mr Adams had agreed to reset it in due course.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be requested to:

- (1) obtain a photograph of the Boundary Stone that highlights the damage caused to it;

- (2) ask Mr Adams at the Fish Farm to keep the Cheshire sign and the Boundary Stone safe until his building work is complete; and
- (3) ring Mr Cliff Mallows of Chester City Council and enquire if he has the traditional cast iron boundary marker for safe keeping.

124 NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Council was reminded that there would be no Council meeting in August 2004. Urgent items would be considered at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 16 August 2004 who would be given delegated authority to incur expenditure if it was deemed necessary. All Members were invited to attend.

125 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- letter from the Post Office dated 27 May 2004 informing of the closure of Burton Post Office.

126 CIRCULARS

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

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association Newsletter – The Playing Field – Spring 2004

Cheshire County Council's first Deposit Draft of the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan – consultation runs from 12 May to 12 noon on 23 June 2004

Standards Board for England Bulletin:17 – advice on ethics and standards issues

Chester District Voluntary and Community Sector Network Directory – Spring 2004