

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 5 July 2004 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor R Shukla
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

127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
County Councillor D Rowlands

128 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

129 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 June 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

130 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

131 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 7 June 2004:

Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
JB Joyce & Co (Annual Clock Service)	186.83	101710
Warrington Borough Council (Parish Plan copying)	168.04	101711
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning & Grass Cutting)	818.58	101712
National Association of Local Councils (Conference Fees)	258.00	101713
Chester Zoo (Family Ticket – prize re. Parish Plan draw)	79.50	101714

Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
Acts Sound & Lighting (Sound System hire – Parish Plan)	32.25	101715
Mr C Moss (Parish Room rental)	312.50	101716
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	79.24	101717
Inland Revenue	742.22	101718
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	541.68	101719

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 June 2004 (14 Day Account)	77.83
Interest to 23 June 2004 (Treasurer Account)	0.25
Mr A Bailey (Dinner & outing for wife during NALC conference)	40.00

132 DOUBLE TAXATION – CHESTER CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

It was reported that there would be a presentation at the Gowy North Area Committee meeting on 8 July 2004 on this initiative. The City Council was concentrating on three particular issues:

- ?? Grounds Maintenance
- ?? Play Areas
- ?? Street Cleaning

A report would be produced, hopefully, by April 2005.

The Chairman informed that he would now take the lead on double taxation as Councillor B Kerr was unwell. He would also provide a report on the proceedings of the Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

133 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

The Chairman reported on a conversation he had had with representatives of the Cheshire Constabulary regarding perceptions of increasing disorder in the village. Sergeant Smith would contact the Chairman later in the week to discuss concerns.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) The Future of the Homewatch

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey reported on the proceedings of the Saughall Homewatch Annual General Meeting. The Council was informed that Mr Keith Stinson had been elected Chairman. Some new Co-ordinators had come forward

and a Secretary and Treasurer had also been appointed. The next meeting of the Homewatch was scheduled for 21 September 2004.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) Saughall Homewatch be provided with a cheque for £350 (covering grant aid agreed for 2003/04 and 2004/05) to assist its work and administration.

(c) Increasing Disorder

It was reported that five trees had been sawn down in Saughall Hey. It was estimated that it would cost approximately £150 to replace them. It was noted that the trees had been on land in the ownership of the City Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to write a letter of complaint to the Cheshire Constabulary and ask what follow up action they would be taking.

(d) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field – Alcohol Free Zone?

Chester City Council's Community Health Manager, Mr Mike Lee, was currently progressing a list of proposed areas for "no alcohol zones". He would respond to the Clerk informing whether it was possible for the field to be designated as a "no alcohol zone". If it was he would set out the merits and demerits.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Lee's response be awaited.

(e) Bus Shelter Monitoring

Members discussed the current state of the bus shelters in the village.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Council continue to monitor the bus shelters in Saughall; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to ascertain from Christine Garner of Cheshire County Council when the two new bus shelters will be erected on Hermitage Road.

134 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that Parish Councillors had complained at the Gowy North Area Committee about plans not being to scale. The Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils would be writing to the Planning Authority - Chester City Council asking for proper dimensions to be included on plans.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 7 and 13 June 2004 be received.

135 PROPOSED EVENING AND SUNDAY BUS CUTS BY CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Transport Co-ordinator reported that Members of Cheshire County Council had asked him to review the evening bus services in Chester with a view to reducing the existing service. He was currently in discussions with Chester City Transport on how this may be achieved but no decision had yet been taken on which bus frequencies would be reduced.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

136 "SAUGHALL WALKING DAY"

The Council discussed arrangements for the proposed "Saughall Walking Day" on 18 September 2004. It was noted that Mr Eric Lowe had agreed to assist and provide the history on the Castle, etc. The Chairman would contact Mrs P Shennen of Shotwick House as a first step to contact the Residents Association to discuss proposals and the walking routes.

The Clerk informed that Mr B Lello of Wirral Ramblers Association was interested in taking part and had asked that the details be sent to him nearer the time.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to firm up the arrangements in respect of the walk and bring a detailed report with the associated costs to the September 2004 meeting of the Council.

137 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Golden Jubilee Park Committee held on 1 July 2004 and noted their content.

Members received details of the proceedings of Chester City Council's Planning Board meeting held on 30 June 2004 when the Parish Council's Planning Application for Change of Use of land on Fiddlers Lane had received planning consent, subject to certain conditions.

A funding application would be submitted to Wren in the July 2004 bid round.

Members discussed the possibility of obtaining Charitable Trust status but agreed that it was not the way forward as the disadvantages outweighed the advantages of such a move. A partnership arrangement was more appropriate and could include the Cricket Club, Saughall Colts, the youth Club and the Schools.

Members considered work required to dig out another pond and maintain the existing ones. Councillor A Marsden's advice was being sought on dredging.

The Project Co-ordinator informed that he was meeting representatives from Ringwood Fencing later in the week as the pond must be fenced before the hedge was removed.

The Council was informed that a site meeting had taken place between the Project Co-ordinator and Mr Edwin Davies of Powersystems on Friday, 25 June 2004 to discuss re-routing of the overhead electrical cables. Mr Davies had informed on the proposed route that the cables would take. He did not consider that there would be any problems with the re-routing and would begin the process as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports be received;
- (2) the Project Co-ordinator be thanked for all of his work that had culminated in planning consent;
- (3) the Project Co-ordinator be requested to get in touch with Councillor B Kerr and obtain the necessary documentation and information in order to make a funding bid to WREN;
- (4) a partnership agreement be drawn up consisting of interested parties;
- (5) the Chairman be requested to contact Dr Hodgson to obtain advice on piping the ditch, dimensions of the new pond, etc. and report to the next meeting;
- (6) the £13,000 accrued and earmarked for the Golden Jubilee Park's development be used to finance the grubbing out of the hedge, piping of the ditch, appropriate fencing and work on the new pond;
- (7) the Project Co-ordinator be requested to liaise with Councillor A Marsden with the aim of identifying someone to dredge the pond;
- (8) the Project Co-ordinator be requested to revise the Bill of Quantities in respect of the piping of the ditch; and
- (9) the Clerk be requested to write again to Mr Edwin Davies of Powersystems to:
 - (a) confirm that a further site visit has taken place with the Project Co-ordinator ;
 - (b) informing that planning permission for Change of Use has been obtained and that it is imperative that Powersystems now takes immediate action to re-route the overhead cables; and
 - (c) requesting a copy of the Programme of Works and timescales for completion as a matter of urgency.

138 DEPOSIT DRAFT CHESTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
CONSULTATION ON FURTHER AMENDMENTS

A letter dated 9 June 2004 from Chester City Council's Strategic Director (Development), Mr A Farrell, informed the Council that the Planning Authority would be consulting on the Further Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan for a six week period between 11 June and 23 July 2004. During this time there was an opportunity to make representations either in support of or objecting to the Further Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the letter from Chester City Council be noted.

139 PLANNING APPLICATIONS OVER THE BORDER IN WALES

Ms Anne Lancaster, Chester City Council's Area Manager, informed that Mr Brian Hughes, Chester City Council's Development Co-ordinator, would respond officially with an in depth reply to the Clerk's request for a progress report on liaison with the neighbouring Welsh Planning Authority.

Mr Hughes was considering the possibility of the City Council acting as an 'honest broker' with Flintshire County Council re. the major application notified to it to ensure the Parish Council was also consulted.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Hughes' response be awaited.

140 PARISH PLAN

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group held on 17 June 2004 were received and their contents noted.

The Chairman reported the proceedings of the Parish Plan Launch on 3 July 2004 at the Saughall Village Fayre. The Lord Mayor of Chester had been in attendance but unfortunately had not been able to stay until the end because of another engagement. A "snapshot" report had been produced and distributed at the event and subsequently to shops, pubic houses and the Medical Centre. More copies were being printed and would be delivered either by volunteers or the post office to every house in the village in due course.

There had been a number of invited guests at the Launch and excellent refreshments had been provided by Mrs Bailey.

Cheshire Community Council Officials were now preparing the final report document and a report on progress would be made at the next meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received;

- (2) those volunteers who had arranged the launch and helped on the day be thanked for their contributions;
- (3) a decision be made at the next meeting on the mode by which the “snapshot” reports should be distributed;
- (4) a report on progress with the final report be presented at the next meeting; and
- (5) the Clerk begin to set out the costs of producing the Parish Plan so that the remaining grant can be claimed from the Countryside Agency.

141 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It was reported that Mr Brian Huxley had resigned as Chairman of the Vernon Institute Management Committee for family reasons. Mr Bill Murphy would now take over as Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

142 VERNON INSTITUTE CLOCK

The Council noted an exchange of correspondence between the Clerk and JB Joyce. The Clock needed urgent work and had been stopped because it was dangerous. The cost of the work required was £770.

The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had asked JB Joyce to carry out the necessary work without delay. She was aware that there was a possibility that upon dismantling the Clock mechanism, further work may be required. In the unlikely event of this happening JB Joyce would show the relevant parts to someone in authority explaining what was required, but no allowance had been made for carrying out the additional corrective work.

RESOLVED:

That the action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman be endorsed.

143 LOCAL DETERMINATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS STANDARDS PANEL

Members noted the contents of a letter dated 17 June 2004 received from the Solicitor to Chester City Council, Mr Charles Kerry. The letter consulted on proposals to establish Panels to deal with hearings of cases concerning complaints against Councillors. One Panel would be set up to deal with complaints against Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of Mr Kerry’s letter be noted.

144 THE BOUNDARY STONE

It was reported that the Boundary Stone was grazed. Building work was ongoing and so it had been removed for safe keeping and would be re-sited once the works were completed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the Council receive a further report at its meeting on 6 September 2004.

145 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- letter dated 7 June 2004 from Cheshire County Council's Partnership Officer, Ms L Raynor, regarding enhanced information and communication methods.

146 CIRCULARS

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

Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Training Update – May 2004
The Boundary Committee for England - Local Government Review of the Two-Tier Area in the North West: Final Recommendations
Chester City Council's Food Safety Information and Advice for Parish Councils
Chester City Council's The Past Uncovered – June 2004