

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 6 December 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 A Marsden
Councillor R Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young

Mr K Stinson, Chairman Saughall Homewatch
County Councillor D Rowlands

204 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor C Moss
PC R Fisher

205 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

206 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 November 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

207 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

208 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be requested to cover the Parish Council Surgery on 8 January 2005 and report on any issues raised at the next meeting of the Council.

209 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 1 November 2004:

Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
Saughall Friday Club (Christmas Lunch Donation) (Minute No 91(e)/2004 refers)	25.00	101753
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning & Grass Cutting)	1,049.67	101754
Mr W Abram – Gratuity for winding clock (Minute No 209(c)/2004 refers)	25.00	101755
Mrs M Abram – Gratuity for library work (Minute No 209(c)/2004 refers)	70.00	101756
Mrs J Young – travelling expenses and refund re. posting	10.67	101757
Mr D Francis – drainage work – GJP	7,242.88	101758
Mr D Bird – fencing for pond – GJP	28.98	101759
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	59.84	101760
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	555.54	101761
Oaktree Nursery – Christmas Festivities - Tree	55.00	101762

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 November 2004 (14 Day Account)	70.53
Interest to 23 November 2004 (Treasurer Account)	0.15
Footpath Booklets – Councillor R Shukla	10.00

(c) Gratuities

RESOLVED:

That the following gratuity payments be made:

Mrs M Abram - £70.00 to be shared with the ladies who help in the library
Mr W Abram - £25.00 for winding the Vernon Institute Clock

210 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that despite her best endeavours the Council's website was still down and Officers of Cheshire County Council did not seem to know how to remedy the situation.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Mr Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, to ask him to intervene in order to bring about a satisfactory conclusion in respect of his Council's offer and agreement to host the Parish Council's website.

211 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

RESOLVED:

That as PC Robin Fisher was not in attendance at the meeting his report be deferred until the next meeting of the Council he can attend.

(b) Homewatch

Mr K Stinson reported that he had received seven reports of anti-social behaviour in the last month. There had been problems on the footpath behind Wain House, in the bus shelter on Church Road and at the back of 55 Rakeway.

Mr Stinson also had a letter from Saughall Methodist Church about nuisance youth activity in the Church grounds. A copy would be sent to the police.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Stinson's report be received

(c) Crime and Disorder

The Council received reports from Members about the various incidents that had occurred in the village over the last month. These included reports about underage drinking, bus shelter vandalism, young people intimidating older parishioners and general anti-social behaviour.

(d) Meeting with Superintendent Ian Hopkins

Members agreed that in view of the numerous concerns raised about crime and disorder in the village, it was appropriate to seek a meeting with the new Divisional Commander at the earliest opportunity. Members would then discuss with him the problems identified and policing in rural areas in general.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be requested to make the arrangements for a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and Superintendent Ian Hopkins.

(e) Bus Shelter Monitoring

The Clerk had reported the recent bus shelter damage to Ms Christine Garner of Cheshire County Council's Transport Co-ordination Section.

212 LITTER PICKING

Members raised concerns that Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council's staff were litter picking after dark and consequently, not removing all of the litter because it was too dark to see it.

Also, it was reported that the bins on Parkgate Road and Church Road were in various states of disrepair.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council asking that the village be litter picked at the beginning of the day and that the litter bins be assessed and if replacements were needed that she be informed accordingly.

213 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be received:

Planning Committee held on 1 November 2004
Golden Jubilee Park held on 11 and 18 November 2004; and
Finance and General Purposes held on 18 November 2004

214 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

The Council noted that the Golden Jubilee Park Committee had agreed not to re-submit the funding application to WREN in respect of the drainage work required. This decision had been made because there were concerns about being able to attract match funding, because one of the partners had decided not to relocate to the proposed new facility and as the cost of the development could be less than previously thought.

Accordingly, on the Committee's instructions the Clerk had notified Mr Richard Smith of WREN of its decision not to re-submit its revised bid.

Members were dismayed by the Committee's decision and sought to challenge its Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk be requested to:

- (a) ask Mr Smith if he is willing to allow the revised bid to be re-submitted after all; and
- (b) if Mr Smith agrees to (a) above, call a Special Meeting of the Council, in consultation with the Chairman, to consider and amend the revised bid as it deems appropriate.

and

(2) the Council, at a future date, discuss with the Vernon Institute Management Committee its long term plans for its land at the bottom of Sea Hill Road and note that there maybe a potential conflict of interest.

215 PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask the Chief Executive of the Cheshire Community Council to request an extension to the time for the publication of the Parish Plan from the Countryside Agency, in the light of the recent problems encountered in obtaining the revised draft.

216 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN CHESHIRE

RESOLVED:

That the letter dated 11 November 2004 from Mr Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, setting out the current position be noted.

217 PARISH ROOM

RESOLVED:

That this issue be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

218 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Councillor Mrs D Whitton provided the Council with a report on the switching on of the Christmas lights by Mr Choi, Headteacher at the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School. Between 300 and 400 people had been there and all had enjoyed themselves.

It had been necessary to purchase some bulbs at a cost of £45. The Council was asked whether it was willing to pay for them.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the bulbs to the value of £45 be paid for by the Parish Council.

219 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

No Minutes had been received. It was reported that a children's garden was under construction and it was also planned to provide additional car parking.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

220 PLANNING APPLICATIONS OVER THE BORDER IN WALES

The Council noted that there had been no response to the letters from the Clerk to the Head of Development Control at Flintshire County Council dated 20 October and 12 November 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

221 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Attendance at Meetings

Members provided the Council with reports on proceedings of meetings at which they had represented the Council during the last month.

- (i) Seminar on New Planning System
Saturday, 6 November 2004, 9:30am-4:30pm, The Civic Hall, Victoria Buildings, Lewin Street, Middlewich
- (ii) Review of Chester's Way Ahead
Wednesday, 10 November 2004, 11:45am, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chester

(b) Attendance at Future Meetings

- (i) Cheshire County Council's Annual Town and Parish Council's Conference
Thursday, 3 February 2005, 7:00pm, Nantwich Civic Hall

Councillors A Bailey and RA Storrar to attend.

- (ii) The Countryside Agency's Succession Planning – What Happens Next?
Monday, 13 December 2004, 9:30am, Lancashire University Conference Centre.

No-one to attend.

222 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- Letter dated 12 November 2004 from the Chief Executive of the Standards Board for England regarding lobby groups, dual-hatted Members and the Code of Conduct: Guidance for Members – the Clerk has 10 copies of the Guidance.
- Letter dated 23 November 2004 from Chester City Council's Project Support Officer Ms Linda Jewsbury asking if the Council would like to see any changes in respect of the annual Parish Reception event and informing that the current Community Plan – "Chester's Way Ahead" – is being reviewed and comments on it are invited.

223 CIRCULARS

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

Minutes of a meeting of Gowy North Area Committee held on 9 September 2004

Cheshire County Council's Statement of Accounts 2003-2004

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters

Cheshire County Council's Winter Gritting Routes Leaflet 2004/2005

Chester City Council's meeting agenda 1 December 2004