

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on 10 January 2005 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
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 (in the Chair)

Mr SI Hyslop, Managing Director, Chester City Transport

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor R Shukla
Mr K Stinson, Chairman Saughall Homewatch
PC R Fisher

2 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Moss declared an Interest in item 13 – Parish Room. He owned the premises and was the Council's Landlord.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2004 be confirmed as a correct record subject to Minute No 209/04 Accounts – lights being added to the end of the line detailing the payment made to Oaktree Nursery.

4 LOCAL BUS SERVICES

The Council received a presentation on proposals to provide an improved bus service for users in Saughall and the Chester area generally. Members were told that a decision would be made by the Board of Chester City Transport and ultimately Chester City Council's Cabinet, as the Principal Authority was the company's majority shareholder.

Issues discussed included an improved No. 28 bus service, services 15 and 15A, day rover tickets, access to the Countess of Chester Hospital by bus and access to the Greyhound Retail Park via the No 28 bus and not being able to "Park and Ride".

Of particular concern to Members was Mr Hyslop's report of an incident where youths had stoned the bus on Church Lane and how the No 28 service was nearly lost as a direct result.

My Hyslop informed that if agreement was obtained to his plans for improvement he hoped to have a new bus schedule in place by Monday, 4 April 2005.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr Hyslop be thanked for his attendance and informative presentation;
- (2) the stoning of No 28 bus be brought to the attention of the Constabulary when a liaison meeting between the Divisional Commander, Superintendent Ian Hopkins, and representatives of the Parish Council takes place; and
- (3) Mr Hyslop be requested to ask the question as to why the "Park and Ride" at the Greyhound Retail Park could not be used by bus users.

5 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery on 8 January 2005

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey provided the Council with a report on the proceedings of the Parish Council Surgery she had held on Saturday, 8 January 2005.

An ambulance had been called for a resident of Saughall Hey on 25 November 2004 but unfortunately it had become stuck on the grass. Another ambulance had been dispatched to take the resident to hospital but unfortunately he had died.

As a direct consequence of this distressing incident residents of Saughall Hey were calling for a service road to be built.

RESOLVED:

That this very sad report be noted.

(b) Surgery on 5 February 2005

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be requested to cover the Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 5 February 2005 between 10:00am and 10:45am in the Parish Room.

6 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2004:

Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
Landlord of Greyhound Public House (Bulbs for Christmas Lights)	45.00	101763

Financial Year 2004/2005	£	Cheque No
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Street Cleaning & Grass Cutting)	1,049.67	101764
Mrs S Hudspeth (Exp)	191.61	101765
Mrs S Hudspeth (Sal)	555.32	101766
Inland Revenue	768.64	101767
Mr C Moss (Parish Room rental)	312.50	101768

(b) Receipts

Interest to 21 December 2004 (14 Day Account)	54.35
Interest to 23 December 2004 (Treasurer Account)	1.36
Footpath Booklets – Councillor R Shukla	10.00
Chester City Council’s Goway North Area Committee	7,243.88
Grant for Golden Jubilee Park development	

7 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Members were aware that last year’s Christmas festivities had been a great success. The Council had purchased lights for the Christmas tree and some new bulbs and were prepared to aid a similar event next year. An item would be placed on the Council’s agenda, in good time, so it could discuss and agree the contribution it would make.

There were concerns expressed because it was not known where the lights were being stored,

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs D Whitton be requested to ascertain where the Christmas lights are and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council.

8 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Following a letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, Mr Jeremy Taylor, positive actions had been taken by County Officers and the Parish Council’s website was now up and running.

Unfortunately, there was a problem over the small size of the mailbox that meant that e-mails to the Clerk with attachments were bouncing back to the senders. The Clerk had made representations and the County Officers were in the process of increasing the size of her mailbox which currently was not receiving any e-mail at all.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and a further progress report be brought to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 7 February 2005.

9 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC R Fisher was recovering from an operation and was unable to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Police report be deferred until the next meeting of the Council when hopefully PC Fisher will be in attendance.

(b) Homewatch

Mr K Stinson had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting along with a short report in respect of Homewatch activities.

The Homewatch meeting scheduled for 11 January 2005 had been cancelled because Mr Stinson had been unable to attend.

Anti-social behaviour continued to be a serious concern in Saughall, especially in the area around the new bus shelter on Church Road. Youths drinking, filth and squalor along with deliberate damage made the bus shelter a no-go area. This matter had been reported frequently to the Police but despite this there was no sign of improvement.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) a proposal on the provision of a Youth Shelter be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Council.

(c) Informal Meeting with the Divisional Commander

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman of the Council, Councillor A Bailey, be requested to urgently progress arrangements to hold a meeting between representatives to the Parish Council and the Divisional Commander, Superintendent Ian Hopkins, to set out and discuss concerns over the increased anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the village, particularly in relation to bus shelters and the stoning of the No 28 bus, at the earliest opportunity.

(d) Community Wardens

It was reported that Chester City Council was considering employing some Community Wardens.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Chester City Council's Mia Jones, the Portfolio Holder concerned, asking for details of the proposed Community Wardens Scheme and on expected levels of service to be provided in the Saughall area.

10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 5 December 2004 be received.

11 PARISH PLAN

The next meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Panel would be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 20 January 2005. the Countryside Agency had agreed that, so long as the Parish Plan Final Report was published on 31 January 2005, the outstanding grant to aid completion of the Parish Plan would still be paid.

RESOLVED:

That authority be delegated to the Parish Plan Steering Panel to agree the final Parish Plan Report and arrange the necessary printing to ensure its publication by 31 January 2005 in accordance with the revised conditions laid down.

Councillor C Moss left the meeting.

12 PARISH ROOM

Members deliberated the advantages and disadvantages of renting the Parish Room. They considered the costs of occupying the room and of alternative venues that the Council could use for its meetings.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council's budget include financial provision for the possible occupation of the Parish Room for a further year;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to provide a report for the Council's June 2005 meeting on the number of times the room was used for Parish Council Surgeries and meetings over the last year;
- (3) those Councillors who are Governors be requested to liaise with the Headteachers over the letting arrangements and provide details of the costs of holding and possible arrangements for meetings in each of the two schools;
- (4) the Clerk be requested to make arrangements with the vicar to hold a meeting in the All Saints Church meeting room as an experiment; and

(5) an informal debate on venues for meetings and the merits and demerits of continuing to occupy the Parish Room be held at the June 2005 Council meeting with a view to deciding whether to not to cease occupation of the Parish Room.

13 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor RA Storrar informed that the Vernon Institute Management Committee was still without a Chairman. It was in the process of trying to clear the car park and that its meeting was the following evening.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

14 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

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

- Letter dated 22 December 2004 from Chester City Council's Programme Officer re the Chester District Local Plan Inquiry – beginning on 22 February 2005.

Noted.

15 CIRCULARS

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

National Probation Service –Local Crime: Community Sentence (LCCS)

Cheshire County Council – Cheshire Matters December 2004

Chester City Council – Project Chester