

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
held on 23 September 2004 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor C Moss
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs J Young (in the Chair)

Invited Members: Councillor Mrs D Whitton

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington

14 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations Of Interest were received.

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 March 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

17 ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

(a) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

Members considered the reports provided by Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council and Chester City Council following their recent inspections of the children's playground facilities. There had been nothing identified that required immediate attention and Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council would continue to provide weekly inspections and reports.

It was reported that the safety surface had been torn to the side of the slide.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the details of the reports submitted following the two recent inspections be received; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to obtain a quotation from Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council to carry out the necessary repairs to the safety surface.

(b) Tree Warden's Report

The Tree Warden reported that in general the trees in the village were fine although one or two may have broken branches following the latest storms.

The Tree Warden also informed that there had been a delay in claiming the Tree Council grant for the trees planted in the Golden Jubilee Park because he wanted to put down some mulch. However, funding would now need to be claimed and he hoped that it was not too late.

Members discussed whether to replace the trees that were vandalised on Saughall Hey.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to try to claim the grant from the Tree Council; and
- (3) the Council be recommended to replace the trees vandalised on Saughall Hey.

(c) Parish Paths

Councillor Mrs Young reported that 42 people had taken part in Saughall Walking Day. The weather had not been very good at the start of the day but had much improved in the afternoon. Mr Lowe had led some people out on the Castle Walk and there had been a barbecue at the Greyhound Public House when the walkers had returned.

It was hoped to repeat the Walking Day event next year but earlier in the year and maximum publicity would be sought.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Vernon Institute Clock

RESOLVED:

That the report on progress in respect of the lighting scheme for the Clock be deferred to the next meeting when Councillor A Warrington will be in attendance.

(e) Litter Bins

No problems were reported in respect of the litter bins in the village.

(f) Tidy Village Initiative

The Council had decided not to enter Cheshire Community Council's Civic Pride Competition but instead to donate the entrance fee to help improve the village.

RESOLVED:

That the money set aside to pay the entrance fee to the Civic Pride competition be put towards the cost of the concrete plinth on which the community seat will stand opposite the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School, on the grass at Saughall Hey.

18 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee

It was noted that the Joint Committee was also meeting this evening in the Council Chamber in Chester. One of the items for consideration was a report by the County Engineer on – A540 Parkgate Road/Chester High Road – Proposed 50 and 60 mph Speed Limits. Councillor RA Storrar was aware of this and had a copy of the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Application for Temporary Traffic Regulation Order

The Committee noted the contents of the application for temporary restrictions whilst works were carried out from 11 to 31 October 2004 on Church Road from the junction of Hermitage Road to the junction of Fiddlers Lane.

The proposed road closure would cause serious disruption. The Clerk had asked, on the advice of Councillor Kerr, whether it was necessary to close the whole length between Hermitage Road and Fiddlers Lane at the same time and had been told by the District Engineer that the work would be phased along Church Road. The junction with Hermitage Road would remain closed throughout and the diversion signing would be via Hermitage Road, Blacon Avenue and Parkgate Road.

The Clerk had also asked the District Engineer, who had informed that he was in discussion with Chester City Transport, to try get agreement to re-route the 15 Service via the Ridings and ensure single decker buses were used. She had also asked that when the section of Church Road between Saughall Hey and Fiddlers Lane was closed and buses were unable to use the Terminus, if they could turn around at the cul-de-sac at the end of Greenway as this would allow passengers to use the Church Road bus shelter.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

- (c) Junction of A5117 and A540, Saughall, Chester
Replacement Fencing on Roundabout

The Highways Agency had agreed to replace the ranch fencing on the roundabout with Cheshire fencing. As it was almost a year since the promise was made the Clerk had written to request a timescale for the fencing to be carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and a report on progress be made at the next meeting.

- (d) Bus Shelters

It was noted that the two new bus shelters had been erected on Hermitage Road. Work was still to be done and officers of Cheshire County Council's Transport Co-ordination Section were discussing this with their contractors.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.