

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
held on 14 March 2005 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor A Marsden
Councillor C Moss
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)
Councillor Mrs J Young (in the Chair)

Mr A Leach (Footpath Warden)
Mr S Holden (Cheshire County Council's Countryside Service)

1 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 November 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4 ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

(a) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

Members considered the reports provided weekly by Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council following 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.

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter dated 10 March 2005 from Mr P Davies, Play Development Officer, Community Services at Chester City Council, informing that again he would be organising an annual independent playground inspection. The anticipated date of inspection was during July 2005.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) the findings of the annual playground inspection by Chester City Council's contractors be awaited.

(b) Tree Warden's Report

The Tree Warden reported that the village trees were in good condition.

(c) Parish Paths

The Parish Paths Warden informed that there were no particular problems with the footpaths currently.

There were several permissive paths in the village and it was hoped that they could be registered as public rights of way. If this was to happen it would mean that they would be maintained regularly. Registration obliged the landowner to ensure footpaths on their land were open and available.

Mr Holden informed that the way forward was to make an application to modify the Definitive Map. It was hoped that Cheshire County Council (as the landowner) would dedicate the permissive paths on the Shotwick Park Estate as public rights of way. It was known that the Principal Authority wanted to promote the use of footpaths. If the request was refused the Parish Council would have to prove their use over the last twenty years. An application would have to be made in respect of each path.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Leach and Mr Holden be requested to identify the routes/footpaths in question and report them to the next meeting where arrangements would be made to seek registration.

(d) Litter Bins

It was reported that the litter bin at the bottom of Church Road, opposite the Day Nursery, needed attention.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council to take the necessary action in respect of the litter bin.

(e) Dog Mess

RESOLVED:

That Members be requested to make an inventory of the dog litter bins in the village and decide where more are needed and bring a report to the next meeting of the Committee.

5 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

(a) Heavy Traffic in Saughall

It was reported that a Police Officer had been knocked off his motorbike.

(b) Potholes

It was reported that there was a big pothole at the top of Long Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to remind the District Engineer about the pothole and his agreement to remedy it and inform him that there is a missing cover on the road opposite the Doctor's Surgery on Church Road.

(c) A5117 Deeside Park Junctions Improvement Publication of Draft Orders

A letter dated 4 March 2005 from Mrs Farquhar of the Highways Agency reminded Members of the proposed scheme to improve the A5117/A550 between the M56 and the A548 junction. The first step in the statutory process to allow the scheme to be built was the publication of draft Orders under the Highways Act. The draft Orders would be published on 17 March 2005.

As part of the process a public exhibition was to be held on 22 and 23 March 2005 at the Village Hall, Little Stanney. Members were invited to a preview of the exhibition and a short presentation of the scheme at 10:30am on 22 March 2005. The exhibition would be open to the public between 1:00pm and 8:00pm on 22 March 2005 and between 10:00am and 6:00pm on 23 March 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the letter from the Highways Agency be noted.

(d) Bus Shelters

The Chairman informed that it was important to monitor the state of the bus shelters in the village. It was thought that the bus shelter near Meadows Lane may need replacing.

RESOLVED:

That Members monitor the state of the bus shelters in the village in advance of a complete review to be taken at the next meeting of the Committee.

(e) Gypsies and Travellers

RESOLVED:

That consideration be given to the right to roam and implications for Saughall and Shotwick Park at the next meeting of the Committee.