

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 16 August 2004 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)  
Councillor R Shukla  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton

Mr D Bird - Golden Jubilee Park Project Co-ordinator

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton

21 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

22 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

24 2004/05 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

Members considered the details of the 2004/05 National Salary Award agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services from 1 April 2004. Consequently, the National Association of Local Council and Society of Local Council Clerks jointly recommended that the salary scales of all full and part-time clerks be adjusted in accordance with the new spinal column points. In the case of the Clerk, spinal point 21 (hourly rate £8.819)

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2004/05 National Salary Award for Local Councils be agreed and adopted;  
and
- (2) the Clerk's salary be increased from 1 April 2004 and arrears paid in accordance with the new salary scale as recommended above.

25 REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH COUNCILS  
DOUBLE TAXATION

Chester City Council was currently undertaking a review with the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (Chester area) in order to identify possible solutions for double taxation. The City Council's Strategic Director (Resources), Mr J Cassin, had written to the Clerk to inform on progress and to request the submission of financial statements for 2003/04.

The City Council's Examination and Review Committee had received a detailed progress report at its meeting on 28 June 2004 and agreed to consider a budget policy option later in the Autumn for possible implementation of a part or full solution in April 2005.

It was however recognised that the review may take longer than this due to the lengthy consultation process required and the likely difficulties in getting an agreed system approved prior to the setting of the Council Tax for next year.

Councillor RA Storrar informed that three main areas of expenditure were being considered as follows:

- ?? Children's Play Areas
- ?? Street Cleaning
- ?? Grounds Maintenance

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

26 PARISH PLAN

The Clerk reported that officers of the Cheshire Community Council were now in the process of writing the final report and that she had been consulted over sub-titles.

RESOLVED:

That the final Parish Plan Report be awaited.

27 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Letters of Support

Concerns were raised that despite repeated requests no letters of support had been received. These letters were essential if bids were to be submitted for funding and especially in respect of the WREN application.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Chief Inspector David Hill to ask him to arrange for a letter of support to be written in respect of Saughall Colts

(b) Play Equipment Report

Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council had provided a report on the state of the play equipment in the Fiddlers Lane Swing Park. Chester City Council would also carry out an inspection in consultation with Councillor RA Storrar.

Members considered the report on the play equipment and noted that although some issues had been identified that would need consideration none of them were high risk.

RESOLVED:

That further consideration be given to the condition of the children's play equipment once Chester City Council had carried out its assessment.

28 CRIME AND DISORDER IN SAUGHALL

The Chairman reported that he had been informed that Sergeant Smith would contact him to discuss the concerns Members had over the rising disorder and nuisance youth activity in the village. Unfortunately, he had not been in touch as yet.

Members raised concerns over the number of motorists who were parking their cars on the pavements of Long Lane and Church Road. They were causing an obstruction and people with buggies could not get passed.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Chairman be requested to bring a report to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 6 September 2004 on police liaison; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to ask PC Robin Fisher to intervene when he sees cars parked on the village footpaths.

29 PLANNING APPLICATIONS OVER THE BORDER IN WALES

It was reported that Mr Brian Hughes of Chester City Council was willing to attend a Council meeting to make a presentation on progress made in respect of providing Parish Council's with the opportunity to comment on planning applications in neighbouring Welsh Authority area.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Hughes be informed of the date and times of future meetings of the Council and requested to indicate which meeting he was prepared to attend.

30 SEATING

The Chairman reported that a resident of the village had requested that the Council give consideration to providing a seat near to Woodville Stores so that elderly shoppers could rest before returning home. He had considered this request and was of the opinion that the best place to locate such a seat was opposite the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School on the grass by the Saughall Hey junction.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a community seat be located on the grass by the Saughall Hey junction; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to obtain a quotation from Mr Brian Ebbrell and inform him that Members want the work completed before the schools go back, the Chairman is prepared to meet him on site and Councillor RA Storrar will provide the fixing details, etc.

31 SAUGHALL WALKING DAY – 18 SEPTEMBER 2004

The Chairman reported on proposals and ongoing arrangements made so far in respect of Saughall Waking Day.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a detailed report be brought to the next meeting of the Council on 6 September 2004;
- (2) the Chairman be requested to contact Mr John Clarke, Chairman of the Shotwick House Residents Association regarding arrangements for the Walk; and
- (3) Councillor RA Storrar be requested to investigate the possibility of providing commemorate medals for those who complete the Walks and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council on 6 September 2004.

32 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT OUTSIDE MEETINGS

- (a) Invitation to Regional Government Seminar  
Tuesday, 24 August 2004, 7:00pm, Middlewich

It was noted that there would be no referendum in the North West until next year.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be not represented at the Regional Government Seminar.

- (b) Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Annual Meeting  
Thursday, 23 September 2004, 6:30pm, Byley Village Hall, Buffet from 5:30pm, £5 per head

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman represent the Council at the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils' Annual Meeting.

- (c) Seminar on New Planning System  
Saturday, 6 November 2004, 9:30am-4:30pm, The Civic Hall, Victoria Buildings,  
Lewin Street, Middlewich, £25

RESOLVED:

That the Vice-Chairman represent the Council at the seminar on the New Planning System.

- (d) Funding and Managing of Community Projects Seminar  
Monday, 20 September 2004, 10:00-3:15pm, Kendall, £40

RESOLVED:

That Mr D Bird be the Council's representative at the seminar on Funding and Managing of Community Projects.

- (e) Chester City Council's Parish Partnership Reception  
Wednesday, 27 October 2004, 7:30pm, Chester Town Hall

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman and Mr D Bird represent the Parish Council at Chester City Council's Parish Partnership Reception.