

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

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

33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton  
Councillor Mrs J Young

34 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Shukla declared an Interest in agenda item No. 8 – Application for Temporary Traffic Regulation Order as his Pharmacy was on Church Road – one of the roads to be closed.

35 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 August 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

36 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

37 CONSULTATION ON:

- (1) A draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees; and
- (2) A review of Restrictions on the Political Activities of Local Authority Employees and Pay of Political Assistants

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had written to the Clerk in respect of the above two consultation exercises. Copies of both draft documents had been provided and responses were invited by 19 November 2004.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk and the Chairman be requested to consider the two draft documents received and make comments as appropriate.

38 SEA HILL ROAD – NEED FOR 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT

The Committee had regard to a letter sent to the Chief Highways and Transportation Officer at Flintshire County Council by Sealand Community Council.

It was noted that Sealand Community Council had expressed concern about the need to introduce a 30 mph speed limit along the unrestricted section of Sea Hill Road from the boundary with Cheshire and Sealand Road.

As a direct result of the development of residential housing at the former Caxious site near Station Cottages there would be increasing traffic travelling along Sea Hill Road at the approach to the railway bridge. There was potential for serious accidents.

Flintshire County Council was requested to give serious consideration to setting an appropriate 30 mph speed limit along the entire length of Sea Hill Road.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the letter from Sealand Community Council be noted and supported; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to convey the Council's support to both Flintshire County Council and Sealand Community Council.

### 39 PARISH PLAN

Little progress had been made on the final report because Cheshire Community Council staff had been concentrating on the 'Step into Cheshire' event scheduled for weekend 18 and 19 September 2004.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Peter Webb who wanted to know how many copies of the snapshot report should be printed. He suggested that arrangements to take forward the Youth Shelter and the monthly event, and the affordable housing initiative should be made and asked if the Council would like the services of a new member of his team in respect of Acting Planning.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Mr Webb that:

- (1) the Council would like 1,400 copies of the snapshot report, one for each household in the village;
- (2) the Youth Shelter initiative is not to be taken forward at the current time as further discussions must be held and the way forward agreed first;
- (3) the Council has already gone as far as it can with affordable housing and is waiting for the Housing Association to obtain the funding required;
- (4) the Council does not wish to avail itself of the services of another officer of the Community Council at this stage; and
- (5) the Council would like to see progress with the final report.

40 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 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.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to respond to the District Engineer as follows:

- (1) is the road too narrow for a one-way system with traffic lights?
- (2) can a No. 16 (Business open as usual please follow diversion) sign be added to the list to be provided at X on the map?
- (3) are you getting in touch with Chester City Transport? The 15 Service will need to be routed via the Ridings (will we get single-deckers?). However, when the section of Church Road between Saughall Hey and Fiddlers Lane is closed buses will not be able to use the Terminus and it is suggested they turn around at the cul-de-sac at the end of Greenway which will allow passengers to use the Church Road bus shelter.

41 SEATING

There had been no progress made in respect of the proposal to erect a community seat at the Saughall Hey junction with Church Road, opposite the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Shukla be requested to contact an appropriate person to put down a concrete plinth as a base for the seat and to liaise with Councillors Bailey and RA Storrar over the position and fittings, etc.

42 SAUGHALL WALKING DAY – SATURDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2004

The Chairman brought the Committee up to speed with the arrangements for Saughall Walking Day.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

43 COMMUNITY BROADBAND

Councillor Shukla informed that the County Council was holding a one day seminar on Community Broadband on Thursday, 30 September 2004 at 9:30am at the Memorial Hall, Northwich.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton be requested to attend this seminar and report back to a future meeting of the Committee on its proceedings.

**[Following the meeting Peter Webb informed that this event had been cancelled and it was planned that an alternative event for interested Councils would be scheduled at a later date.**

**The Clerk requested that she be informed of any other event planned in due course.]**

44 INVITATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman of the County Council had written to the Clerk on 8 September 2004 to invite up to three representatives of the Parish Council to an informal gathering to be held on Tuesday, 26 October 2004 in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chester. This would provide an opportunity to meet and consider how best both Council's could work together locally in the future. Neighbouring parishes-based around the 16 areas the county Council was suggesting for the formation of new local committees were also invited.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors A Bailey, Mrs JE Storrar and B Kerr (if he is agreeable) be requested to represent the Parish Council at this forthcoming event.

45 DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – MANAGING THE SUPPLY OF NEW HOUSING IN CHESTER

Members noted the consultation period in respect of the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance was due to end on 24 September 2004. They wished to register their displeasure over the Government's intention that the decision making process on new housing be a central government function rather than being the responsibility of locally elected Members who were familiar with the local area and its requirements. This view had been endorsed at the last meeting of the Goway North Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ensure that Chester City Council's Forward Planning Section was aware of the Council's views.