

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 18 November 2004 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor R Shukla
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs M Wynne-Eyton
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton
Councillor Mrs J Young (in the Chair)

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor A Bailey
Councillor RA Storrar

47 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.

48 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

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

49 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

50 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 Clerk reported that it had not been considered necessary to make any responses to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It was known that certain Principal Authorities had responded to the consultation exercise.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

51 SEA HILL ROAD – NEED FOR 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT

In support of Sealand Community Council, the Clerk had written to the Chief Highways and Transportation Officer at Flintshire County Council requesting the

imposition of a 30 mph speed limit on Sea Hill Road, from the termination of the existing limit at Saughall to the junction with the A548 Sealand Road.

The Chief Highways and Transportation Officer had responded informing that all speed limits were determined from national criteria set out in the Department of Transport/National Assembly of Wales Circulars 1/93 and were applied to all Local Authorities in order to ensure a consistent national approach to their application.

The length of road in question was primarily rural in character with a sharp bend near the Church that was provided with appropriate signs and markings and provided a natural control on traffic speeds. The new development under construction at the former Caxio site had its own access road with no properties having direct access to Sea Hill Road. Most properties opposite the Church also had no direct access onto this road. Having regard to these factors and the relevant criteria the Chief Highways and Transportation Officer confirmed that there was no justification for any extension in the existing limit to Sea Hill Road.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

52 PARISH PLAN

A meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Panel had been scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 8 November 2004 to consider the latest draft of the Final Report. Unfortunately, the Cheshire Community Council's Officer charged with delivering the work required had failed to turn up at the meeting.

The Clerk, on the Chairman's instructions, had contacted the Chief Executive of the Community Council on 9 November 2004 by e-mail to inform her of the Council's displeasure and annoyance as the final plan had to be published within tight timescales as the Council ran the risk of losing part of the £5,000 grant secured from the Countryside Agency to develop the Parish Plan and requested urgent progress to be made.

On 15 November 2004 Mr Ray Dodd of the Community Council had e-mailed the Clerk to inform that the Chief Executive, Vivien Ellis, had just picked up the e-mail sent. She was away from the office until 18 November 2004 and had asked him to investigate what had gone wrong. Before he could fully respond to the serious points that had been made by the Clerk he needed to speak to the Officer who had failed to attend the meeting. Mr Dodd apologised for the non-attendance and promised to report back as soon as possible and before Friday. Unfortunately, Mr Dodd had not contacted the Clerk again as promised.

RESOLVED:

That the lack of progress being made in respect of the Parish Plan be noted and the Chief Executive of Cheshire Community Council's response be awaited.

40 APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

Councillor Shukla reported that his pharmacy had been isolated for 3 to 4 days whilst Church Road was closed. A lorry had also created a block for a considerable period. This had had serious implications for local people and especially those who were disabled. He also informed that although the contractor had worked 2-3 full days over the 3-week period for the rest of the time only half days were worked. This had not been satisfactory.

It was noted that the surface on Church Road was now unsatisfactory and that the contractors had done a dreadful job. Also, barriers had been left and they were causing an obstruction.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact the District Engineer to inform him of the Committee's concerns over Church Road and request that action be taken to rectify the situation.

54 SEATING

It was noted that the wrong fittings had been supplied with the community seats and that arrangements were being made with the suppliers to rectify this problem.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

55 BUDGET 2005/2006

Members gave initial consideration to the Council's budget requirements in the next financial year. They considered possible new projects that would require funding and possible savings that could be made. After substantial deliberation they compiled a first draft of the 2005/2006 Budget for the Council's consideration at its meeting scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 17 January 2005 in the Vernon Institute, Saughall. (Appendix 1 attached)

56 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that in January 2005 there would be an ordinary monthly meeting of the Council on the 10th and the Budget meeting on the 17th. Consequently, it was not considered necessary to hold a meeting of this Committee on 20 January 2005.

Budget Head	Draft Budget 2005/2006
Environment Matters	
Saughall Village Pride Competition	
Notice boards	100.00
Street Cleaning	9,000.00
Trees	500.00
Litter Bins	500.00
Cheshire Railings	500.00
Grass Cutting (Playing Fields) (Weekly cut)	2,400.00
Play Field Maintenance	500.00
Play Equipment (rolling replacement programme)	2,000.00
Sub Total	15,500.00
Golden Jubilee Park	
Tree Husbandry	300.00
Grass & Hedge Cutting	1,000.00
Weed Control	500.00
Environmental Projects	500.00
Contingency	2,000.00
Sub Total	4,300.00
Finance and General Purposes	
(a) Administration	
Principal Officer to the Parish Council	9,000.00
Assistant to the Principal Officer	
Stationary/Postage	700.00
Parish Councillor's Expenses	500.00
Computer	800.00
Newsletter publication costs	1,000.00
Training/Seminars	750.00
IT Fund	500.00
Sub Total	13,250.00
(b) Annual Payments	
Parish Room rental and associated costs	2,000.00
Audit Fees	400.00
Donations/Honorarium	250.00
Insurance	1,700.00
Subscriptions (APC £500, PFA £20, Com CI £30)	750.00
VI Clock Service	230.00
Website Hosting	
Homewatch Support	250.00
Golden Jubilee Park Loan Repayment	3,656.00
Sub Total	9,236.00
(c) Vernon Institute - Annual Grant	2,000.00
(d) Contingency	250.00
Highways Matters	
Bus Shelter replacement	2,000.00
Bus Shelter maintenance	1,500.00
Safety Initiatives	500.00
Sub Total	4,000.00
Grand Total	48,536.00

