

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 2 October 2006 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Co-ordinator)
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

151 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor JG Johnson
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor C Moss
Councillor HL Thorniley-Jones

152 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

153 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 September 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

154 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 September 2006 be received.

155 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

(a) Planning Issues

The Clerk had received a letter dated 15 September 2006 from Chester City Council's Planning Officer, Mr N Smith, following a meeting and site visit with Members.

He informed that he had examined the approved plans and conditions in detail and had discussed the Council's proposals to:

- reduce the number of football pitches to two

- reduce the number of parking spaces to be provided
- use plastic lattice for surfacing the car park
- delete proposed basketball court and install a small hardstanding with single basketball hoop to rear of hut
- retain the existing boundary fence

Mr Smith informed that a reduction of football pitches would not require any variation in the existing permission. The white lines and moveable goalposts were not operational development, were not shown on the approved plans and were not mentioned in the conditions. The land outlined in red on the approved location plan would simply have been a 'recreational' use once planning permission 03/00999/COU was implemented.

In respect of Condition 2, Mr Smith informed that either a 70m by 2m visibility splay was provided, or it was not. The splay must conform to Cheshire County Council Highways Standards. An assessment on whether the existing fence would have to be removed could be done once the details required by the Condition had been submitted. A new application would be required to retain the fence in its current position.

Mr Smith considered that the use of a plastic lattice surface for the car park would comply with the requirement of Condition 3 for 'permeable surfacing'. However, Condition 3 also stated that the details would include the marking out of parking spaces (including disabled spaces) and this would have to happen. A new planning application would be required to resize the car park and to reduce the number of parking spaces from 33. The amount of recreational space would remain the same and this may mean that the parking requirement would need to remain. This would be assessed in the due course of the new application.

The approved plans also included a full-size basketball court. If this was not implemented in the location indicated on the plan or if it was to be reduced in size, a new planning application would be required since Condition 14 could not be complied with. Planning permission would be required for the provision of a new area of hardstanding suitable for basketball to the rear of the Uniform Groups Headquarters as the approved plans clearly showed that the overspill car park was to be surfaced with chippings and grass.

The proposed amendments were not substantial but they would materially alter the approved scheme. Consequently, a new planning application was required. The application would be free of charge.

RECOMMENDED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to pick up the relevant documentation so that the Council can submit a new planning application in respect of the amendments it wishes to make to the original plans.

(b) Reinforced Mesh Surface

The Council was informed that arrangements were being made for a meeting after 4 October 2006 between its representatives and those of Tenax UK Ltd of Wrexham who supply reinforced mesh to lie on grassed areas.

(c) Overhead Electrical Cables

Members noted that the cables and the posts had now been removed from the site.

(d) Revised Joint Agreement with the Cricket Club and Greyhound Pub Football Team

The Agreement had been revised in the light of Members' comments (Minute No 130(a)/2006 refers) and was ready for signature.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JE Young be requested to deliver the Agreement to the Chairman for signature.

(e) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

(i) Play Equipment

It was noted that since the new grounds maintenance contract had been let the Council no longer had arrangements in place for formal inspections of the play equipment. Although Councillors were very vigilant and acted immediately when repairs were necessary it was considered appropriate to have regular inspections carried out by experts.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Mr P Davies of Chester City Council how much it would cost for his officers to carry out quarterly play equipment inspections and ascertain if weekly visual inspections by a Parish Councillor, backed up by a written report was sufficient to cover the Council.

(ii) Moles

RESOLVED:

That the situation continue to be monitored.

156 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

Councillor Mrs D Whitton raised concerns over the problems caused by parents parking their cars opposite the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School. She had asked the police to monitor the situation and take appropriate action if necessary.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported a problem of a child causing a nuisance by continually kicking a ball against a wall.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

(b) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the CCTV camera had successfully captured an incident. The police had taken the film away and a name and address had been supplied.

Residents did not appear to have any concerns at the present time in relation to nuisance youth activity/anti social behaviour as the village was enjoying a quiet period and there was little litter in evidence in the Golden Jubilee Park.

Mr K Stinson had requested the loan of an engraving tool to brand property. It was suggested that if one was purchased the Council would reimburse the Homewatch.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

157 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 September 2006:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2006/2007</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
All Cheshire Garden Services (4 grass cuts)	480.00	101925
Hacker Young Chartered Accountants (Audit of Accounts)	411.25	101926
Mr C Moss (Parish Room rental)	312.50	101927
Saughall Rangers (Distribution of Newsletter)	20.00	101928
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	72.59	101929
HM Revenue and Customs	813.18	104930
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	589.04	101931
Mr R Hipkiss (Street Cleaning)	910.23	101932
Mr JP Hickson (Allotment Gate contribution)	50.00	101933

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

Interest to 21 September 2006 (14 Day Account)	132.93
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(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the content of the cash to Bank Reconciliation be noted.

(d) Audit of Accounts – 2005/06

The Clerk informed that she had received a letter from Hacker Young Chartered Accountants dated 27 September 2006 informing that the 2005/06 Accounts had been signed off with a “clean report”.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(e) Saughall Allotment Holders Association

Mr JP Hickson of the above Association had written to the Clerk requesting grant aid of £50 towards the purchase of a new gate.

RESOLVED:

That the Council contribute £50 towards the purchase of a new gate for Saughall Allotment Holders Association.

158 MID YEAR BUDGETARY REVIEW

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the mid year budgetary review situation be deferred until the next meeting of the Council to be held on 6 November 2006 and the Clerk be requested to provide a paper detailing actual expenditure against budget heads.

159 PARISH PLAN

The Council revisited its recently revised Action plan and noted progress:

(a) Parking on Pavements

The Clerk had written to PC M Hughes on 13 September 2006 requesting that arrangements be made for Traffic Wardens to visit the village and ticket those motorists who had parked on pavements. PC Hughes had not responded to the Clerk's letter.

(b) Proposal to Acquire Burial Land from Cheshire County Council

The Clerk had also written to the County Property Manager on 6 September 2006 referring to previous discussions held and a site visit undertaken by Councillor B Kerr and the County Land Agent, Mr D Job, in respect of the need for burial land in the village and informing that the Council now wanted to explore formally the possibility of acquiring approximately 3,000 sq metres of land at the bottom end of Lodge Lane, the field with planning consent for a low cost housing scheme. The Clerk had also requested to know what the long term plans were for the Ridings Community Infant School reserve land.

Mr Job responded on 27 September 2006 informing that following his meeting with Councillor B Kerr he had spoken to Chester City Council regarding the potential for a mixed market and affordable housing option to provide a mechanism to deliver the affordable element and address what would then be an isolated parcel of land. As an 'exception site' the City Council had confirmed that this was not a possibility and Councillor Kerr had been informed.

Mr Job also informed that he had taken the opportunity to discuss the burial ground proposal with colleagues and it had brought to his attention that a review of schools provision was ongoing and that options including those that might use the County Council's landholdings were under consideration. The review process involved stakeholder consultation in November 2006 and that the timescale for a decision was next Summer. At this time therefore, it would be inappropriate to consider the proposal for the burial ground further. He had noted the Council's desire for further burial land and following the outcome of the Schools Review would come back to this issue.

(c) Affordable Housing

Councillor RA Storrar informed that a particular developer had proposed that the affordable housing he may be required to build be erected in Saughall rather than on a development site elsewhere in the Chester District. However, it was considered by some that the proposed affordable housing was unsuitable and not in keeping with the rest of the village.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

160 REVIEW OF LITTER BIN PROVISION

Members were asked to give consideration to litter bin provision in the village and to the possibility of providing a new bin by the Ridings play area.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed that the provision of dog waste bins may be increased by Chester City Council if Members could identify sites for them to be located.

RESOLVED:

That all Members take note of the litter bins and the dog waste bins currently in the village so that an informed discussion on provision can be held at the next meeting of the Council on 6 November 2006 and recommendations be put forward to improve provision.

161 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

Members had already discussed this as part of their deliberations on progress with the Parish Plan. (Minute No 159(a)/2006 refers)

(b) Proposed A5117 Major Roadworks for Highway Agency

The Clerk had written to the District Engineer requesting County Officers to discuss with the Department of Transport the possibility of erecting traffic lights at the A540/A5517 junction.

The District Engineer, Mr G Anderton, had replied informing that the Highway Agency was in consultation with his Headquarters, during the design of the scheme and had decided to install traffic lights on the A540, where the slip roads from the new road would meet the A540.

Members remained very concerned about the traffic congestion. Saughall residents were finding it difficult to get in and out of the village at times. There were concerns about the volume of traffic and over safety.

Concerns were also expressed over the way in which local people had or had not been consulted. It was noted that although there had been a public meeting in a neighbouring village there had not been one in Saughall because an appropriate venue had not been available.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform the District Engineer that traffic was often backed up along the A540 and ask him what could be done to alleviate these traffic problems.

(c) Long Lane Pavements

The Council considered an email dated 11 September 2006 from a resident of Saughall which set out a number of concerns including those about motorists parking on the pavement in Lone Lane. It also had regard to the Clerk and District Engineer's response on 15 and 14 September 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

(d) Bus Shelter Replacement Programme

The Council was informed that the proposal to replace the bus shelter near the Vernon Institute had been put on hold. It would not go ahead until successful negotiations had been undertaken.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

162 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery on 30 September 2006

Councillor DF Holman informed that one parishioner had attended the Parish Council Surgery held on 30 September 2006.

(b) Surgery on 4 November 2006

RESOLVED:

That Councillor DF Holman's offer to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 4 November 2006 between 10:00am and 10:45am in the Parish Room on Fiddlers Lane be taken up.

163 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs J Young reported on recent issues that had concerned the Vernon Institute Management Committee including plans for the Youth Club's reopening for three evenings per week. Members were also reminded that Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones was the Council's representative on the Vernon Institute Management Committee and on the Youth Club Board.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

164 ODD JOBS

RESOLVED:

That Members consider if any odd jobs need doing around the village and raise them at the next meeting of the Council on 6 November 2006.

165 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Representation at meetings of Outside Bodies

RESOLVED:

That representation be agreed as follows:

- (i) Cheshire Association of Local Councils Annual Meeting 2006
Thursday, 12 October 2006, 7:00-9:30pm at the Middlewich Civic Hall

Councillors A Warrington and Mrs JE Storrar to attend

- (ii) Chester City Council's Parish Partnership Reception
Wednesday, 1 November 2006, 7:30pm at the Town Hall Chester

Councillors Mrs D Whitton, Mrs J Young, R Shukla and B Kerr to attend.

(b) Reports of those who attended meetings of Outside Bodies:

- (i) Gowy North Area Committee
Thursday, 7 September 2006, 7:00pm-9:00pm at Barrow Village Hall, Main Street, Great Barrow

Councillor RA Storrar had attended. Items discussed included:

- Community Safety Wardens Update
- Public Space and Grounds Maintenance
- Gambling Policy – Draft Statement of Principles
- Second round of payments 2006/07
- Proposed Steel Tower Developments
- Conservation Areas Consultation

- (ii) Driving Expertise: Empowering Local Councils
22-24 September 2006 at the Adelphi Britannia Hotel, Liverpool

Councillor WI Humphrey attended. Items discussed included:

- Quality Parish Council Status
- How to improve Parish Councils Image

166 CIRCULARS

The following circulars had been received. Any one wishing to see a copy would contact the Clerk.

EnCams Letter and the Law – a guide for the public

EnCams A guide to Improving Your Local Environment

Cheshire County Council's Your Guide to Cheshire's Local Transport Plan Delivery Report

Chester City Council's Ethics and Standards Annual Report 2005/2006

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters September 2006

Cheshire County Council's County Farms Newsletter – Summer 2006

Agenda for Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee meeting on Thursday, 21 September 2006. (There are no issues on the agenda specific to Saughall)

Cheshire Rural View

167 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The public interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion of the information from the press and public

PART 2 – MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

168 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2006/07

The Council had regard to its current schedule of meetings and revised it as it considered appropriate.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 23 October 2006 be cancelled;
- (2) the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 7:30pm on Thursday, 22 February 2007 be a single item agenda meeting to review and revise the NALC (2002) Model Standing Orders adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3 July 2006 (Minute No 111/2006 refers), the Clerk be requested to point out significant differences to those Standings Orders previously in use by the Council and Members be requested to read both sets of Standing Orders in advance of the meeting to familiarise themselves with them; and
- (3) the meetings of the Council and Planning Committee scheduled for Monday, 8 January 2007 be cancelled.