

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 3 March 2008 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman
Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Co-ordinator)
Councillor JG Johnson
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor Mrs J Knox
Councillor RK Shukla
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

County Councillor D Rowlands

39 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors B Kerr and Mrs JE Storrar and from PCSO Mike Butler.

40 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

Councillors Mrs J Knox, RK Shukla, RA Storrar and Mrs D Whitton declared personal interests in respect of the item on the agenda – The New School and the Future of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School Building (Minute No. 42/2008 refers) because of their association with the local Schools.

Councillor Mrs J Young declared a personal interest in respect of the item on the agenda – Correspondence Received (Minute No. 57/2008 refers). A letter had been received from the Saughall Rangers concerning a proposed Community Project. Councillor Mrs Young had a personal interest because of her voluntary work and association with the Uniform Groups.

41 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 February 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

42 THE NEW SCHOOL AND THE FUTURE OF THE THOMAS WEDGE CE (CONTROLLED) JUNIOR SCHOOL BUILDING

The Council was asked to agree possible dates for a drop-in session to be arranged by Cheshire County Council Officers in Saughall. The drop-in session was being arranged, at the request of County Councillor D Rowlands in consultation with the Parish Council, so that local people could receive a presentation from Planning Officers, view the plans, ask questions and make comments. It was intended to hold this event in April or May 2008.

It was noted that the Strategic Planning Authority would determine the planning application in June 2008 and had agreed to accept comments outside of the 21 day consultation period and right up until the date of its Planning meeting.

As a statutory consultee the Council had received a copy of the planning application and it was available at the meeting. Members gave initial consideration to this application but agreed that the Council would not formally comment on it until after the proposed drop-in session in the village.

Members took it in turn to inform each other of their mixed and varied views on the planning application for the new primary school, the new building, its proposed siting and its car parking arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Members' initial views be noted; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to inform Cheshire County Council Officers that the Council would like the proposed drop-in session to be arranged in the village on any one of the following dates:

Monday, 14 April 2008

Monday, 28 April 2008 (same night as the Annual Parish Assembly)

Saturday, 5, 12, 19 or 16 April 2008

43 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the following Committee meetings be received:

- Planning Committee held on 4 February 2008
- Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21 February 2008

and

- (2) it be noted that the village has a Millennium Fund that could be used to finance the relocation of the Stone, the plinth and the time capsule (Finance and General Purposes Committee Minute No 12(c)/2008 refers).

44 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

As PCSO Mike Butler was not in attendance at the meeting, his written report would be obtained by the Clerk and included with the agenda for the next meeting.

(b) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, detailed anti-social activity that had taken place over the last month. This included youths having alcohol confiscated and their parents being spoken to by the Police and three girls suspected of putting graffiti on the bus shelter.

It was also reported that residents of Park Avenue had complained about cars parking and blocking their access and that on 4 February 2008 the Play Group could not take place because of damage caused to the fire escape.

A resident had also reported that occupants of two cars parked in the Co-operative Stores' car park were drinking and playing loud music.

An incident in and around the environs of the Golden Jubilee Park was reported which involved the lamping of rabbits and foxes.

Also, a house on the corner of Church Road and Saughall Hey had been broken into a number of times in the last four weeks. Councillor WI Humphrey agreed to ask PCSO Mike Butler to call and see the residents.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

45 YOUTH CLUB

It was reported that Councillors WI and Mrs P Humphrey had run the Youth Club the previous Tuesday evening as the Youth Leader had broken her ankle. The Council had agreed to financially contribute to an outing but it had not yet taken place.

It was also reported that a lady who helped run the Youth Club for the older children had indicated that she was interested in running the Youth Club for the younger children. She had been asked to speak to the Vicar.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received

46 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

Members agreed that the ongoing situation with cars parking on village pavements was getting worse and that the PCSO needed to get tougher and issue more tickets.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Mike Butler be informed of the Council's views.

(b) A5117 Major Roadworks

It was reported that Carillion had agreed to relocate the Millennium Stone to the Golden Jubilee Park and at the same time deliver the promised Cheshire Railings.

The Liaison Meeting had taken place on 5 February 2008 and it had been noted that good progress was being made. It was planned to open a new stretch of road soon. The rodent problem had been discussed and steps taken to remedy it.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Speeding Traffic and the use of the Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Council had borrowed the SID on 12 February 2008 and Councillor WI Humphrey provided the Council with a report on its use.

It was noted that 907 vehicles had been checked. 394 vehicles were travelling at speeds over 30 miles per hour (zero tolerance) equating to 43.4%.

30-33 mph	-	155	=	17%
34-40 mph	-	167	=	18%
41-54 mph	-	72	=	8%
		Total		<u>43%</u>

The Council would borrow the SID again on 11 March 2008 and the speed gun had been booked for 7 April 2008 for one week.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and those who had helped work the equipment be thanked

(d) Fly Posting

The Council remained concerned over the proliferation of fly posting in the Saughall area. It had previously made representations but no satisfactory outcome had been reached. Members agreed that it was time for further action.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to ask Cheshire County Council Officers what action can be taken to stop the fly posting and if Members can remove the offending and unauthorised notices.

(e) Damage to Grass Verges

The Council considered the problems being encountered as a result of the current "bus war". The verges were continuously being damaged because there was not enough room on the narrow estate roads for them to pass each other without the buses having to mount the kerb. They were creating traffic congestion and this was of particular concern at the beginning and end of the school day. Some bus drivers had been seen to behave in an aggressive manner and had dragged rubbish bags along the road and ran over some spilling their contents,

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Arriva Depot Manager setting out the problems being encountered as a result of the current "bus war" and inviting him to attend the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 7 April 2008 to discuss the situation in the hope that a satisfactory solution can be found.

(f) Flooding on Long Lane

The Chairman reported that the Council had done all that it could to try to resolve the flooding problem on Long Lane. The tenant farmer's ditch was not blocked and the problem appeared to be behind Long Lane and not in front.

RESOLVED:

That no further action be taken and the item be removed from the agenda.

(g) Pavements in The Ridings

The Council noted that Mr J Garner had written to the Clerk on 4 February 2008 complaining about the state of the pavements between Nos 39 and 49 in comparison with Saughall Hey that had received resurfacing work the previous year.

The Clerk had taken advice from the District Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, and had responded on 7 February 2008 accordingly. Mr Anderton had agreed to arrange another inspection of the footways in the village, to see if they should be proposed for footway surface dressing or slurry seal.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(a) The Park's Official Opening – 'Family Fun Day' – Monday, 5 May 2008

The Council received a brief report from Councillor WI Humphrey on proposals and progress made in respect of the forthcoming event.

At the request of the Council at its last meeting (Minute No 26(e)/2008 refers), the Clerk had drafted a letter for distribution to various interest groups and organisations in the village, schools and local businesses about a meeting scheduled for 6 March 2008 to agree a way forward with this event and Members noted and finalised its contents.

Concerns were raised that Saughall Colts may be holding an event at the Greyhound Inn also on 5 May 2008. Members were informed by Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones that the Colts had not made a definite booking at the Greyhound Inn. It was thought that they may reconsider when to hold their event. Also, Members were worried that they did not have enough time to arrange the event if it was held on 5 May 2008.

The Clerk had given Councillor WI Humphrey an email from Ms Lindy Whelan (who had written an article for the last Parish Council Newsletter) who had offered to help with the event and take a stall. Councillor Humphrey informed that he had been unable to make contact with her up to now.

Mrs K Evans had responded to the Clerk's letter of 5 February 2008 on 18 February 2008 informing that she was unable to accept the invitation to become involved in the arrangements for the 'Family Fun Day'.

The Clerk reported that the Sheriff of Chester had formally accepted the invitation to open the 'Family Fun Day' on 5 May 2008.

Members informed that there were concerns being expressed over the car parking arrangements for the Golden Jubilee Park and it was noted that Mr Tony Summers would be asked to consider fitting locks to both gates that could be opened with the same key

Members were asked if they wished to sit on the Steering Group and Councillor Mrs D Whitton, whilst not making a commitment, informed that she intended to attend the meeting on 6 March 2008. Councillor A Warrington agreed to sit on the Steering Group.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports be received;
- (2) the Clerk's letter be distributed to the groups and organisations in the village, the two schools and local businesses in an attempt to generate support and invite representatives to a meeting scheduled for 7:00pm on 6 March 2008 in the Uniform Groups Headquarters to help plan the event; and

(3) the date of the 'Family Fun Day' be revisited after the meeting at (2) above if it is considered that there is not enough help and support available for it to take place on 5 May 2008.

(b) Funding application for an Aerial Runway

The Clerk reported that the Council had been successful in its funding application to Chester City Council for £5,000 to assist the purchase of an aerial runway. The letter of confirmation was awaited.

RESOLVED:

That as soon as the letter of confirmation in respect of the £5,000 grant is received, the Clerk be requested to order the aerial runway from Monster Play at a total cost of £9,101.95 including VAT.

(c) Field Gates

It was reported that the field gates had now been "traveller proofed" at a cost of £180. It was suggested that hedging be planted behind the gates.

RESOLVED:

That no hedging be planted until after the 'Family Fun Day' in May in case access to the Field is required for parking purposes.

(d) Electric Wayleaves

Mr Andrew Nelson, Administration Officer at SP Powersystems Ltd, had written to the Clerk on 14 February 2008 regarding the Wayleave Consent signed by her on 10 January 2006 to permit the placing of equipment on land in Fiddlers Lane. He informed that when the payment became due on 30 April 2008 the Council would receive an additional amount of £10.59 to cover the period 10 January 2006 to 30 April 2008.

The terms of the Consent provided for an annual rental payment of £4.60 to be made to the Council in respect of this apparatus. However, in order to avoid sending a cheque each year for this relatively small sum of money SP Powersystems Ltd wanted to commute the annual amount to a lump sum equivalent to 20 times the annual rental. This would be in lieu of all future annual payments and acceptance of this sum would in no way alter or change the terms of the signed Wayleave Consent.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform SP Powersystems Ltd that the Council does not wish to accept its offer of a commuted lump sum and is happy to receive annual payments as already agreed.

(e) CCTV Equipment

The Clerk reported that she had made a funding application to Chester City Council's Goway North Area Committee for £2,900 to purchase and install CCTV

equipment in the Uniform Groups' Headquarters in the interests of community safety. The meeting where the decision would be made was scheduled for 13 March 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(f) Fiddlers Lane Playing Field

It was reported that the gate catch had been modified by the same firm that had 'traveller proofed' the field gates and it was now up to RoSPA standards. An invoice for this work was awaited.

The new play equipment (stepping stones and balancing beam) were on order and would be delivered next week.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

48 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 February 2008:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2007/2008</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (postal costs)	38.89	102080
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (printing costs)	51.77	102081
Mr H Wilkinson (odd jobs)	30.00	102082
Fusioneering (traveller proofing gates)	180.00	102083
NWN Media Ltd (Distribution of Newsletter)	28.79	102084
Saughall Rangers (Newsletter delivery)	20.00	102085
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	64.50	102086
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	603.89	102087
Mr R Hipkiss (February 2008 Street Cleaning)	910.23	102088

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	<u>£</u>
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 February 2008	103.43
Interest on Treasurer Account to 23 February 2008	0.28
Rate rebate in respect of vacation of Parish Room on 29 February 2008	48.52

- (c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation and Golden Jubilee Park Development Fund Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Cash to Bank Reconciliation and the Golden Jubilee Park Development Fund Reconciliation be noted.

- (d) UHY Hacker Young

The Council considered a letter from the External Auditor, UHY Hacker Young, dated 2 February 2008 regarding the transfer to new external auditors for the year ending 31 March 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the letter be noted.

- (e) Non-Domestic Rate Bill

The Clerk had written to Chester City Council's Business Rates Section on 21 February 2008 to inform them that the Parish Council was giving up the occupancy of the Parish Room on 29 February 2008 and to request a refund of any overpayment of rates and to instruct that no further direct debit payments were to be taken.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Clerk's letter be noted along with the subsequent repayment of £48.52 (Minute No 48(b)/2008 refers).

- (f) Parish Room Rental

The Council was informed that the landlord had requested that the Parish Council vacate the Parish Room on 29 February 2008 to accommodate a new tenant. This had been done although permission had been received for him to let the CCTV equipment stay a little longer until Chester Security Ltd was in a position to disconnect and move the equipment to safe storage.

It was not known how much the Council owed in respect of public utilities yet.

RESOLVED:

That the position regarding the vacation of the Parish Room be noted.

49 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION (LGR) IN CHESHIRE

The Council received a progress report in respect of LGR in Cheshire. It was reported that the Structural Change Order for Cheshire was laid before Parliament on 31 January 2008 and had gone through. It was expected that it would be debated in the House of Lords on 4 March 2008.

The House of Lords Merits Committee had considered the Draft Order in the light of representations it had received from a variety of sources including Cheshire County Council. It had been recognised that creating two new authorities to run some of the most complex services, such as a child protection and adult care, must pose particular challenges. It had been understood that the Government's wish to achieve an early resolution to the uncertainties caused by the reorganisation but the way the Committee had suggested that this should be weighed carefully against allowing more preparation time for the new authorities to be established, bearing in mind the complexities that had been identified.

Nevertheless, it was expected that the Order would be made approximately three days after the House of Lords debate i.e. 7 March 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

50 PLANNING APPLICATION

(a) The following planning applications were considered and commented upon as follows:

- (i) 08/00355/TPO/PM
Proposal: Fell 1 sycamore tree
Location: 2 Hermitage Court, Saughall

“No objections”

- (ii) 08/00329/FUL/JP
Proposal: Rear conservatory
Location: 2 Whaley Court, Hermitage Road, Saughall

“No objections”

RESOLVED:

That the Council's comments on the above planning applications be fed through to Chester City Council, the Planning Authority.

(b) The following refusal of planning permission had been received:

(i) 07/02363/FUL

Proposal: Dormer roof extension on side of property.

Location: 214 Hermitage Road, Saughall

RESOLVED:

That the refusal of planning permission in respect of the above planning application be noted.

51 SAUGHALL FOOTPATHS

The Clerk had written to Mr David Job, Cheshire County Council's Land Agent, regarding problems on Saughall's Rights of Way but had not yet received a response. She would chase the matter up.

The Council was asked to note the contents of emails between the Clerk and Mr K Stinson. The Clerk had asked the County Public Rights of Way Maintenance and Enforcement Officer and the PCSO for their comments and they had been included with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the emails be noted.

52 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON CEREMONY

Nominated members to serve on the Steering Committee were Councillor Mrs J Johnson, Jackie Alley, Peg Smith and Carl Jones (minute No 31/2008 refers). Councillor Mrs J Johnson agreed to find out if Mrs Peg Smith was able to serve on the Committee and arrange the first meeting.

RESOLVED:

That a progress report be made to the Council following the first meeting of the Steering Committee.

53 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Parish Council Surgery on 1 March 2008

Councillor DF Holman reported that Mr & Mrs Holmes of 108 Church Road had attended his Surgery held on 1 March 2008. Discussions had centred on the results of the current "bus war", abusive drivers and the turning circle at the Terminus, and the sewers and cables underneath. The problem identified arose because buses were not keeping to the road surface.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the problems at the Terminus be discussed with Arriva.

(b) Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 5 April 2008

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs P Humphrey be requested to preside at the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 5 April 2008 from 10:00am to 10:45am in the Library at the Vernon Institute.

54 ODD JOBS

Members noted that Mr H Wilkinson had not yet got around to removing the mud on the pavements in Saughall Hey.

Also, it was proposed that Mr Wilkinson be requested to use some of the soil removed from the Cricket Square in the Golden Jubilee Park to build up the ramp on the curtilage to the car park and make it wider so vehicles can have easier access.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to Mr H Wilkinson to ask him to carry out the work detailed above.

55 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

The Chairman informed that she had been unable to attend the last meeting of the VIMC so she could not report on its proceedings.

56 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Gowy North Area Committee on 13 March 2008

Councillor RA and Mrs JE Storrar would be attending.

(b) Sheriff of Chester's Breakfast – 19 March 2008

The Chairman wished to attend and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

57 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The Clerk had received a letter dated 29 February 2008 from Ms CJ Champion, Assistant Ranger Leader, Saughall Rangers, asking permission to carry out necessary works on the Golden Jubilee Park. The tasks would include:

- Litter picking around the pond area
- Pulling back undergrowth around the new trees
- Pulling up weeds from around the area
- Erecting bird boxes

All of the work would be carried out under the supervision of the Tree Warden between 5:30pm and 7:30pm on Monday 10 March 2008.

It was proposed that as this work would enhance the Golden Jubilee Park, the Rangers should receive a small financial contribution to boost their funds. However, after further discussion it was suggested that perhaps the best way forward would be to make some community awards, possibly in the form of framed certificates, that could be presented to those who had earned them at the 'Family Fun Day'.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) permission to carry out the proposed environmental project by the Saughall Rangers be granted; and
- (2) consideration be given to making Community Awards and presenting those who take part in the project with such Awards in the form of framed certificates, possibly at the 'Family Fun on 5 May 2008.

58 CIRCULARS RECEIVED

The following circulars had been received. Anyone who wanted a copy would approach the Clerk.

Cheshire County Council's Chester Matters February 2008

Cheshire County Council's Facts in Focus 1008/08 – A pocket guide of Cheshire County Council's services

Cheshire Community Council's Cheshire Rural View – February 2008

The Past Uncovered – February 2008