

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 4 August 2008 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

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

PCSO Mike Butler
Mr H Dobson, Internal Auditor
Councillor E Johnson (Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Authority)
Mr B Huxley, Saughall Cricket Club
Ms A Lancaster, Gowy North Area Committee Manager, Chester City
Council

164 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor DF Holman
Councillor JG Johnson

165 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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. 171/2008 refers) because of their association with the local schools.

166 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

167 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 7 July 2008 be received.

(a) Police

PCSO Mike Butler presented his report on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour that had occurred in the village over the last month.

The report set out details of crimes committed, attempted break-ins, anti-social behaviour in the Golden Jubilee Park, fixed penalty notices given out, arrangements for the use of the speed gun between 8 and 18 August 2008 and arrangements for the Community Action meeting scheduled for 18 August 2008.

PCSO Butler also detailed an initiative he was planning to improve communications with Parish Councillors. He was putting together an Awareness Pack and was seeking Members' comments on an accompanying letter before they were distributed.

PCSO Butler reported problems with obstructive parking on Fiddlers Lane, particularly at the entrance to the Golden Jubilee Park. He requested that a key to the Council's car park be made available to a volunteer so that it could be used to alleviate the parking problems. It was noted that the second gate had not yet been modified because it was dependant on the Council acquiring another gate, which it was still trying to do.

Reference was made to the ASBO Booklets and PCSO Butler agreed to provide Councillor Mrs J Johnson with one.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the PCSO's reports be received; and
- (2) PCSO Butler be given a key to the Council's car park to pass on to a responsible volunteer.

(b) PCSOs' Additional Responsibilities

The Council noted the additional responsibilities that had been given to PCSOs as follows:

- Seize drugs and require name and address for possession of drugs
- Photograph persons away from a police station
- Issue fixed penalty notices in respect of offences under the dog control orders
- Stop and search in authorised areas
- Enforce cordoned areas
- Stop vehicles for testing
- Direct traffic for the purposes of escorting abnormal loads
- Carry out road checks

The new standardised set of powers also includes powers that are at the discretion of the Chief Constable, including the power to:

- Issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling (local authority)
- Issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti / fly-posting (local authority)
- To enter licensed premises (limited)
- Search for alcohol and tobacco
- Issue penalty notices for disorder for: sale of alcohol to a person under 18: purchase of alcohol for under person under 18: delivery of alcohol to person under 18: drinking in a designated area; consumption of alcohol by person under 18 or allowing such consumption; buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18 and sells or attempts to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk
- Deal with begging
- Issue penalty notices for breach of fireworks curfew; possession of a category 4 firework; possession by a persons under 18 of an adult firework; supply of excessively load firework
- Detain

Whilst PCSO's have been given a number of powers, it should not be forgotten that there primary role is to provide reassurance through enhanced visibility and community engagement.

RESOLVED:

That the additional powers given to PCSOs be noted.

(c) PCSO's Open Evening

PCSO Butler informed that he had arranged a Community Action meeting for Monday, 18 August 2008 at the Uniform Groups Headquarters. The event would be advertised throughout the village and in the local newspapers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Coordinator, detailed low level crime and anti-social activity that had taken place over the last month in the village including a motorbike being ridden along Church Road at speed, youths climbing on garage roofs in Greenway and beer bottles and cans littering the Golden Jubilee Park.

Members had collected a number of offending bottles and cans and agreed to place them in white bags for recycling.

RESOLVED:

That the Homewatch Co-ordinator's report be received.

169 YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey informed that the Youth Club continued to meet during the school holidays.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

170 PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF WAIN HOUSE

Councillor RA Storrar declared a personal interest in this item of business as he is the Chairman of Chester City Council's Planning Board that would consider a planning application in respect of the redevelopment proposal in due course.

Members discussed the proposal to demolish Wain House and two bungalows in Rakeway and redevelop the site by building 32 one and two bedroom apartments. Councillor RA Storrar informed that he had visited Chester District Housing Trust and left it in no doubt of the Parish Council's views on this matter.

A planning application was to be submitted to the Planning Authority shortly but before that it was expected that there would be full consultation on the proposal, including a meeting to which Members of the Council would be invited.

RESOLVED:

That Members be informed of the date, time and venue of the consultation meeting as soon as it is known.

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

It was reported that the planning application for a new primary school in Saughall on the site of the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School had been approved with conditions. There was however, nothing included in the conditions about car parking. It was noted that Mr Chris Burnham of Cheshire Constabulary was agreeable to attending a future meeting to discuss associated issues.

Councillor Eleanor Johnson informed that Cheshire County Council was involved in a pilot scheme to bring Council owned property into community use (with the upkeep and maintenance costs being passed to a third party). Dunham Hill Primary School was one such building and the lease on it would be signed soon.

It was noted that because of the covenants it would not be possible for the Thomas Wedge CE (Controlled) Junior School building to pass to community use but it may be possible for the Ridings Community Infant School to be made available for such a purpose.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact Ms Anne Bingham-Holmes, as the Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Council's Lead Officer, and Mr Ian Gould, the County

Property Manager, to log with both an expression of interest that this Council would like to see a similar initiative to the one involving Dunham Hill Primary School in respect of the Ridings Community Infant School once the new primary school opened in Saughall.

172 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

As the Schools were closed for the summer holidays there were less problems with cars parked on pavements currently.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) A5117 Major Roadworks

It was noted that it was expected that the scheme would be completed in December 2008. The contractors were working during the night in order to meet this deadline.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Weighbridge at the Beginning of the M56 Motorway

A rumour had been circulating that the weighbridge was to be dismantled and either relocated or replaced with a new one in the farmyard that Carillion was currently occupying on the A540 Parkgate Road. As the land was part of the County Farms Estate, the County Council's Land Agent had informed that he had received no approaches regarding the disposal of the site (Minute No 147(b)/2008 refers).

The Clerk had written to the Highways Agency to establish if there was any truth in the rumour and had been informed that the weighbridge was operated by VOSA, an executive agency within the Department of Transport and that VOSA had confirmed that the current facility would be inadequate for its needs once the scheme was completed.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to VOSA to find out if there was any truth in the rumour that a weighbridge would be located in the farmyard on the A540 once Carillion leaves the site.

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

Mr Trevor Clibery of Chester City Council's Community Services had informed that there was a problem in downloading the data recently collected in a usable

form. This happened from time to time because of problems with the software used to extract the data from the SID and passing it to a Personal Computer.

RESOLVED:

That the problem in accessing the SID data be noted.

(e) Fly Posting

It was reported that the Church Garden Party notices had been left up for a long time after the event had taken place. The Chairman agreed to ring Mr Hallas and request the notices be taken down as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(f) The Current 'Bus War'

The Clerk reported that she had not received a response from Arriva to her letter dated 16 July 2008 enquiring whether any new smaller and narrower buses had been acquired for use in the Saughall area.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to send Arriva a reminder letter in the hope that the information requested would be received.

(g) Traffic Congestion – The Ridings Estate

Members had conflicting views on the speed of buses on the Ridings Estate.

(h) Church Road – Sewage

Councillor RK Shukla reported that there had been a problem with escaping sewage on Church Road. The Area Maintenance Engineer, Mr Graham Anderton, had conformed that the responsibility for alleviating the problem rested with Welsh Water. The County Council's gullies only took water. The sewage was supposed to be in the main drain. Sometimes, after a prolonged dry spell, there could be a smell from a road gully because the water, acting as a barrier to the smell, had evaporated. This was not likely to be the situation at the moment. If the gullies were blocked, it was unlikely that there would be a smell, as the blockage would create a barrier. The other possibility was that there might be an unauthorised connection from a property onto the connection into the main drain. If that happened, it would cause a smell.

Councillor A Warrington reported that Mr Anderton had agreed to clear out the blocked grids on Church Road and he would be following this up to make sure this action was taken.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

173 REVIEW OF STREET LITTER CLEANING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

(a) Street Litter Cleaning

The Clerk had written to Mr Hopkiss, the street litter cleaning contractor, regarding a litter problem in the Golden Jubilee Park and requesting that he pay particular attention to the area in the future and remove litter earlier in the day. Mr Hipkiss had taken offense over the letter and had complained to the Chairman. The letter in question was circulated and it was agreed that it was a perfectly acceptable letter to have been sent to the contractor.

The Chairman reported that Mr Hipkiss had refused to delitter the area of the Park where the aerial runway was located informing it was not in his contract. The Council referred to Mr Hipkiss' contract and the litter picking routes, which were subject to an annual review. It was agreed that the village in general terms was tidier and cleaner than it had ever been before the contract had been placed with Mr Hipkiss. However, there was a problem in the Park because more use was being made of it since new play equipment had been installed.

RESOLVED:

That a meeting between Mr Hipkiss, the Chairman, the Clerk and Councillor B Kerr be arranged as soon as possible so that the annual review of the litter cleaning contract can be carried out.

(b) Grounds Maintenance

The Chairman reported that the contractor, Mr Dave O'Gorman of All Cheshire Garden Services, had not cut the hedge properly to the standard expected (£120 had consequently been held back until the hedge was cut satisfactorily (Minute No 150(a)/2008 refers)) and he refused to cut the grass where the hedge that separated the pieces of land used to be before it was grubbed out to create the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

That a meeting be held between Mr O'Gorman, the Chairman and the Clerk to discuss the problems being currently being experienced with the grounds maintenance contract in the hope that a satisfactory outcome could be achieved.

174 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Ground Maintenance Quotation

The Council considered a quotation from Just a Mow that had been circulated by the Clerk. It related to grounds maintenance work in the Golden Jubilee Park near to the ponds. Three areas had been identified as requiring attention.

RESOLVED:

That grounds maintenance works be undertaken by Just a Mow under contract as follows:

Area 1 - To be cut three times a year in May, August and October @ £220 per cut, total £660

Area 2 - To be cut twice a year in May and October @ £50 per cut, total £100

Area 3 - To be cut every four weeks from May until October @ £35 per cut

[All areas to have the option to have additional cuts on request.

All areas to be treated with weed killer (the right type so not to kill fish or the wild flowers) twice a year at the end of April and at the beginning of September @ a cost of £90 per treatment.

The contract to be reviewed annually and revised accordingly.

The perimeter path to be reconsidered and a quotation to be provided in due course.]

(b) Cheshire Railings

It was reported that quotations were being sought to remove the hedge and replace with Cheshire Railings.

(c) Saughall Cricket Club

Mr Brian Huxley reported that Saughall Cricket Club had been successful in attracting £1,000 of funding towards ground improvements. The Club planned to raise the extra monies needed by a series of fund raising events starting with a commemorative programme, which would be distributed around the village to allow local businesses an opportunity to advertise directly to Saughall people.

The Club's first match would be taking place, hopefully, on 28 August 2008. A decision had been taken not to play league matches at home until next year but it was hoped to play a match between Saughall's stars of the past against the present Team. There was also a proposal to have a "Grand Opening" of the ground and Councillor RA Storrar had agreed to perform the opening ceremony.

175 NAMING OF A ROAD IN SAUGHALL

Ms Anne Lancaster, Gowy North Area Committee Manager, was in attendance at the meeting to provide the background regarding the proposal to name a road in Saughall. She reported that Mr Parry (of Church Lodge), the only resident of the road, had raised the issue with the City Council's building consultancy. The road off Church Road, between the Church and the School, did not have a name. There had been an incident when the emergency services had been called to Mr Parry's house but had been unable to find it. He had pointed out that the City Council had both the jurisdiction over street names and a duty under the Crime and Disorder Act in relation to Section 17 to ensure that emergency services could find properties in the case of emergencies by adequate street signage.

Mr Parry had suggested Church Way and this had been communicated to the Parish Council by Ms Lyndy Mulligan as part of the normal consultation process, which happened as part of the street naming function. The Parish Council at its meeting on 7 April 2008 resolved that its preferred name was Thomas Wedge Lane (Minute No 72/2008 refers). Mr Parry did not agree with this suggestion.

It was noted that the final decision on the name rested with Chester City Council who had delegated the responsibility to the Goway North Area Committee via its Executive Board.

It was also noted that there was a good historical precedent for Mr Parry's suggestion as the road was originally the access road to the Church from Shotwick House and it would provide a further identifying link to Church Lodge to ease identifying the property which was in a semi-isolated position and could only be accessed from that road. In addition, Ms Lancaster informed that the City Council took all parties views into consideration when naming a street. Where there were different views, it took residents wishes seriously. Ms Lancaster had consulted Chester City Council's Saughall Ward Members (Councillors RA and Mrs JE Storrar) and they both supported Mr Parry's suggestion of Church Way and she felt that it was more appropriate than the Parish Council's preference of Thomas Wedge Lane. She further informed that she would be circulating this information to the Area Committee asking it to endorse the Ward Members' views.

The Clerk reported that as the Council had considered this issue at its April 2008 meeting and resolved that its preference of a name for the road be Thomas Wedge Lane and that this had been communicated to Chester City Council it could not change that decision unless it suspended its Standing Orders.

[Standing Order No. 36 stated that "a decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 4 Members of the Council, or by a resolution moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a Committee.]

Substantial deliberation ensued and the majority of Members present did not accept the argument that naming the road Church Way would provide a clearer address for the emergency services than naming it Thomas Wedge Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the Council is happy with the resolution contained in Minute No 72/2008 and does not want to amend it or make any further recommendation to Council.

176 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 7 July 2008:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2008/2009</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Mr H Wilkinson (odd jobs)	135.00	102148
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Franked mail)	50.13	102149
Glasdon UK Ltd (New Street Litter Bin)	536.00	102150
Andrew Newton (New Notice board)	506.42	102151
All Cheshire Garden Services (hedge cut held back Minute No 173(b) refers)	120.00	102152
Mr R Hipkiss (July 2008 Street Cleaning)	910.23	102153
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	44.38	102154
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	622.69	102155
Mrs JE Storrar (Keys cut for field gates)	12.00	102156

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	£
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 July 2008	50.43
Mr & Mrs C Jones (Greyhound Public House - Donation to help fund the "Family Fun Day") Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team	100.00
(Outstanding rent on Parish Room from 1 June to February 2008)	750.00

(c) Family Fun Day Accounts – 5 May 2008

The Council received the final accounts in respect of the Family Fun Day. It was noted that there was a surplus of £550.20.

RESOLVED:

That the Family Fun Day accounts be received.

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

177 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN CHESHIRE

(a) Progress Report

The Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Council had appointed Mr Steve Robinson, currently Chief Executive of Stoke-on-Trent Council, as its Chief Executive. He was expected to start his new job in October 2008.

The Cheshire East Shadow Council had appointed Erika Wenzel, currently Executive Director for Neighbourhood and Community Services at Tameside Council, as its Chief Executive. She was also expected to start in her new post in October 2008.

Cheshire West and Chester had confirmed its top structure and evaluated the Directors' jobs. The jobs were currently being advertised, with a closing date of 12 September 2008. The Directors to be appointed would be: Director of Resources, Director of Regeneration and Culture, Director of Environment Services, Director of Children and Young Persons' Services, Director of Area and Community Services and Director of Adult Services.

(b) Consultation on Area and Neighbourhood Working

It was reported that Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Council was inviting residents of the new authority to get involved in a consultation being conducted on new area and neighbourhood working.

The new Council planned to introduce Area Programme Boards to influence and shape policies and action plans for local areas in partnership with stakeholders and communities. The consultation exercise would run until 30 September 2008 and the Parish Council was a consultee.

A meeting facilitated by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils was being held at Christleton on Wednesday, 13 August 2008 from 6:30pm-9:00pm to brief parish councils on the proposal.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the consultation documents be deferred until the next meeting of the Council by which time Members will have had the opportunity to attend the meeting in Christleton and form views.

178 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON CEREMONY
THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2008

Councillor Mrs J Johnson, in her capacity as Chairman of the Steering Committee, reported that the Lights would be switched on at 6:30pm. There would be additional lights this year around the Greyhound Public House, the Vicarage and the Vernon Institute. The Greyhound would provide electricity and the Council was requested to pay for a twenty foot Christmas tree. Volunteers would put up the Tree. The outfit for Father Christmas would be supplied free of charge. Father Christmas would arrive in a pony and trap. Stewards would direct the traffic and PCSO Butler would be on duty. The two Schools had been asked to design the front and back of the Carol Sheet and the two winners from each School would be asked to switch on the lights.

Members were asked to each provide a prize suitable for a Christmas raffle. A band was booked and would be provided with refreshments. The Gardening Club was providing teas and mince pies in the Vernon Institute where there would be various stalls and a bran tub.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee would be held on Friday, 12 September 2008 in the Vernon Institute.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Mrs J Johnson be thanked for her very informative progress report; and
- (2) it be agreed that the Council will provide the appropriate funding to purchase a 20-foot Christmas tree for the village.

179 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

- (a) Parish Council Surgery on 2 August 2008

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey informed that no one had attended the last Surgery.

- (b) Parish Council Surgery on Saturday, 30 August 2008

RESOLVED:

That Councillor RA Storrar be requested to preside at the next Parish Council Surgery scheduled for Saturday, 30 August 2008 from 10:00am to 10:45am in the Library at the Vernon Institute, Saughall.

180 ODD JOBS

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that he had taken delivery of the new street litterbin, which was to be located near to the bus stop, by the junction of Church Road and Saughall Hey.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Wilkinson be requested to install the new litterbin but if he is unable to do so Councillor WI Humphrey be requested to ask the person who put in the fishing pegs at the Golden Jubilee Park if he is able and willing to carry out the necessary work.

181 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

The Chairman reported that there was nothing relevant to the Parish Council discussed at the last meeting of the Vernon Institute Management Committee.

182 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

- (a) Attendance

Cheshire County Council's Chairman's Garden Party for Local Council
Tuesday, 30 September 2008 at Tatton Park

Councillors Mrs J Young, Mrs JE Storrar and B Kerr picked up the invitations supplied for this event.

183 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

It was reported that Cheshire County Council was consulting on Accessibility and the exercise would run until 19 September 2008.

184 CIRCULARS

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

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters – July 2008

Chester District Local Plan adopted May 2006

Enjoy Tatton Park – Visitor's Guide 2008-2009