

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH  
COUNCIL held on 5 January 2009 at the Vernon Institute, Saughall

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

PCSO Mike Butler

1 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Humphrey and Mrs J and JG Johnson.

2 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs J Knox, RA and Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs D Whitton declared personal interests in respect of the item on the agenda – The New School And The Future Of The Infant And Junior School Buildings (Minute No 9/2009 refers) because of their association with the local schools.

Councillor RA Storrar also declared a personal interest in anything to do with the Cheshire West and Chester Shadow Council by virtue of the fact that he was a Member of it.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 1 December 2008 be received.

## 5 GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK DEVELOPMENT

It was reported that a new tree, to replace the tree that Councillor RA Storrar had donated but which died, had been planted in the Park.

The car park remained waterlogged following the recent inclement weather. The Field Committee would meet soon and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council on its observations and recommendations.

Further to Minute No 268(c)(i)/2008 where it had been agreed that the Clerk would find out when the Annual Play Inspection would take place and cancel a quarterly Inspection, if appropriate, to avoid any duplication and to save money, the Clerk reported that cancellation had not been option after all.

The Clerk had discovered that an Annual Inspection was different to an Operational Inspection, which in turn was different to a Routine Inspection. The Annual Inspection would highlight none standard compliance. It provided a play value and a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) rating for the site, which helped to identify areas where the Local Authority might wish to make improvements in future.

The Annual Inspection report was required to be available in the event of an accident that led to a claim, along with the Routine and Operational Inspection reports. These all helped to defend any claims received. These three Inspections were required under the BSEN1176 Standard. Even though the Standard was not a statutory requirement it would be taken as being so in the event of any claim resulting in legal action. The three levels of Inspection were used to compliment each other rather than to replace one another:

- Routine – Daily or Weekly
- Operational – Monthly or Quarterly
- Annual – One per Year

It was important to continue with the Annual Inspection as the cost of not doing so could be potentially far greater than any savings made.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

## 6 POLICE/HOMEWATCH

### (a) Police

PCSO Mike Butler presented his monthly report on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour that had occurred in the village over the last month. Set out in the report were details of a theft of a motor vehicle from an address on Parkgate Road. It was noted that there had not been any reports of anti-social behaviour in the last month.

In respect of speeding traffic, the PCSO had issued one fixed penalty notice to an obstructive motorist outside of the Ridings Community Infant School. Out of 98

registrations taken by the community speed watch volunteers, PCSO Butler had sent out 89 warning letters to speeding motorists. Almost half of them had been from the Saughall area.

On Thursday, 18 and Friday 19, December 2008 PCSO Butler and a Traffic Officer, PC Griffiths, had conducted two days of enforceable speed checks in Saughall. Those persons caught speeding were given a £60 fine each and three points on their driving licence. The operation had been reported in the local press.

PCSO Butler informed that throughout December 2008 Saughall households had received their awareness packs. These included details on how best to keep safe and secure in your home and advice on how to deal with bogus callers. Residents had been invited to inform the Police of any concerns that they had within the village. This information would be collected at Police Headquarters in Winsford and forwarded to the appropriate officer. PCSO Butler thanked those volunteers who had helped him deliver the packs.

Finally, PCSO Butler informed that on 16 December 2008 he had handed over new equipment, including Wii games, pool cues, CD player and a Karaoke machine to the Saughall Youth Club at their Christmas Party. This equipment had been warmly received by those in attendance and a photograph and story had appeared in the local press.

Members informed PCSO Butler that there would be a funeral on Monday, 12 January 2009 at the Methodist Church, of a resident of the village who had been tragically killed in an accident on the Parkgate Road. It was expected to attract a large number of mourners and some traffic management activity was requested from the Police. PCSO Butler undertook to inform those concerned.

PCSO Butler's December 2008 report was appended to the agenda for Members' information.

RESOLVED:

That the PCSO's report be received.

- (b) PCSO Issues Meeting – Wednesday, 17 December 2008  
Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters, Winsford

A copy of the Minutes taken at the above meeting facilitated by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils was distributed. The Council had not been represented at this meeting. The importance of Members attending any such future meetings was enforced.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the PCSO Issues Meeting be received.

(c) 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. Members noted that anti-social behaviour had been at an all time low recently but that there continued to be lots of cans and bottles left behind in the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

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

(c) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

The Chairman informed that the Team's Co-ordinator, Tony Summers, had provided some copy for the next Parish Council Newsletter on the Team's activities. He was trying, unsuccessfully, to establish contact with the Ambulance Service to discuss the possibility of having defibrillators in the village.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

7 YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the Youth Club was very pleased with the new equipment PCSO Mike Butler had provided and he thanked the PCSO for his actions.

Arrangements were being made for members of the Youth Club to pack bags at the Morrison Store in Upton, as a means to raising funds, and a Jumble Sale was being planned to be held in the village soon, also to generate income for the Club.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

8 CO-OP STORES, CHURCH ROAD, SAUGHALL

The Council received copies of an exchange of emails between the Clerk, Mr Boyd, a resident of Saughall, and Mr Blackburn of Chester City Council in respect of the ongoing problems identified at the Co-op Stores.

It was noted that the Co-op's Headquarters were now fully informed of all of the problems and seemed to be committed to addressing them with the assistance of Chester City Council.

RESOLVED:

That this Council will continue to monitor the situation at the Co-op Store with a view to receiving a report at its next meeting on any progress made.

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

Councillor RA Storrar had attended the official ‘Start on Site Ceremony’ at the Thomas Wedge School site on Wednesday, 17 December 2008 at which the Chairman of Cheshire County Council, Councillor Steve Wilkinson, had officiated. He reported that few members of the two schools’ Governing Bodies had been informed of this event.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

10 LAND AT LODGE LANE, SAUGHALL FOR RURAL AFFORDABLE HOMES

It was reported that Northern Affordable Homes Ltd had, unfortunately, gone into administration and would not be able to proceed with the proposed development in Saughall.

As the Council still wished to proceed with the development of affordable housing a meeting was being arranged for representative Members with Alison Amesbury of Chester City Council, David Job of Cheshire County Council and Danielle Harrison of Chester and District Housing Trust to discuss a way forward.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to proceed with the arrangements she is making to hold a meeting with interested parties and that Councillors B Kerr, WI Humphrey, A Warrington, Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs JM Young be requested to attend to represent the Council with a view to reporting the meeting’s proceedings to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 2 February 2009.

11 PROPOSED WALK-IN HEALTH CENTRE, BLACON

**Councillor RK Shukla declared a personal interest in this item of business** and went on to inform of an initiative the PCT was proposing to embark on as a part of a wider Government initiative. He informed that the proposal was to open an 8:00am to 8:00pm, seven days a week, Health Centre in Blacon on a site to be identified. He also told the Council that if this initiative came to fruition it would have an impact on him (as the village pharmacist) and on the local GPs. A meeting of interested parties was being held on 25 January 2009 to discuss the proposal.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12 CYCLE ACCESS AT HIGH GROVE OF SEAHILL LANE

Further to Minute No 283/2008 the Clerk had written to the Clerk to Sealand Community Council, Peter Richmond, regarding the padlocked gate on the cycleway. Unfortunately, Mr Richmond had not replied.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

13 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Parked Cars on Pavements

It was reported that a tractor with a trailer had parked on the path outside the Co-op Stores whilst the driver went into the shop, making it very difficult for people to get passed.

PCSO Mike Butler informed that situations such as this could only be remedied if people actually phoned the Police with all the details.

(b) A5117 Major Roadworks

It was reported that the right-lane filter had been discussed at the Parish Council Liaison Meeting held on Tuesday, 9 December 2008. The next meeting was on 10 February 2009 and Members agreed to raise the need to remove the cats eyes from the filter road and the size of the A5117/A540 roundabout. Concern was also raised over the lack of white road markings to encourage motorists to get into the appropriate lane.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(c) Speeding Traffic and the Proposal for Community Speed Watch Signage

Further to Minute No 275(k)/2008 Councillor Mrs JE Storrar reported that Derek Bowker of Cheshire Action was still researching the criteria required before installation of community speed watch signage would be considered. If permission was granted, funding would need to be found so that the signs could be purchased.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and Councillor Mrs JE Storrar be requested to chase this up with Derek Bowker.

(d) Fly Posting

It was reported that red and white signs had been posted on the Parkgate Road.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Kay Parry of Cheshire County Council's Highways Service so that she can arrange to have the illegal signage removed.

(e) The Current "Bus War" and Public Transport Services

The Council was informed that a programme of area based "route and branch" reviews of the Public Transport Network was currently being undertaken and comments and suggestions were required by 28 February 2009.

Members agreed that this provided an opportunity to make comments on the regular problems experienced at the Bus Terminus and the resulting state of the roundabout. The buses were being driven too close to the water valve that was in the middle of the roundabout and it was only a matter of time before it was damaged. They also continued to mount and damage grass verges.

Members registered concerns that there was no Arriva bus service to Chester after 6:30pm on a Sunday. Therefore, if Arriva was successful in obtaining the contract, and First Bus pulled out, it may mean a worse bus service for Saughall on Sundays.

Members referred to the fact that the Government was promoting a more Integrated Transport Policy and that there was now an hourly train from Chester Railway Station to London. However, people in Saughall did not have a direct bus service to the Station and had to alight the bus at the Town Hall and then walk, carrying luggage, to Frodsham Street to catch another bus to take them to the Station.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to respond to the consultation exercise as detailed above;
- (2) the problems caused by bus service competition continue to be monitored;
- (3) the Clerk be requested to contact David Norbury, Honorary Secretary of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils' Chester Area Meeting, with a view to making arrangements for Councillor B Kerr to be a representative Member on the Chester District Liaison Committee.

(f) Area Maintenance Engineer's Annual Village Inspection

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to make arrangements for the Annual Inspection in the company of the Area Maintenance Engineer and ensure Councillors WI Humphrey, A Warrington, Mrs D Whitton, Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs JM Young area aware of the details so that they can attend; and
- (2) the possibility of Saughall being provided with a grit storage bin be explored with the Area Maintenance Engineer.

(g) Sewage Problem at 100 Hermitage Road, Saughall

RESOLVED:

That this problem be discussed and dealt with during the Annual Village Inspection at (f) above.

(h) Tree at 72 Darlington Crescent

RESOLVED:

That this problem be discussed and dealt with during the Annual Village Inspection at (f) above.

(i) Copper Beach, Church Road, Saughall – Sewage Problem

RESOLVED:

That this problem be discussed and dealt with during the Annual Village Inspection at (f) above.

(j) Park Avenue, Saughall – Parking Chaos

PCSO Mike Butler reported that this problem should improve soon.

(k) Bus Shelter on Church Road with Junction of Saughall Hey

The seats had been removed from the shelter.

RESOLVED:

That in the light of the action taken to remove the seats making it less comfortable the Council no longer monitor the level of nuisance youth activity in the bus shelter unless subsequent problems are brought to its attention.

(l) Crab Apple Tree at 34 Meadows Lane

No one knew who had removed the tree.

RESOLVED:

That any re-growth in respect of the crab apple tree be monitored.

(m) Bus Service to Chester Railway Station

The Council had been informed that an option was being considered.

RESOLVED:

That Council continue to monitor the situation.

(n) Proposed Puffin Crossing, Church Road, Saughall

Kay Parry of Cheshire County Council's Highways Service had written to the Clerk on 5 December 2008 to inform that as part of the new School development in Saughall, it was proposed to provide a signalised pedestrian crossing. It was intended to construct this during the Summer holidays in 2009, subject to receiving the necessary permission. She requested the Council's comments on the proposal as she intended to include them in a report to the Chester District Transport Liaison Committee to request permission to formally advertise the crossing.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Kay Parry that this Council welcomes the installation of the crossing but would like it to be a controlled crossing during peak times.

(o) Saughall Hey, Saughall – Damaged Signage

It was reported that the damaged sign had been replaced with a new one.

(p) Speed Limit Review Info Note December 2008

RESOLVED:

That the content of Cheshire County Council's publication be noted.

14 ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2008:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2008/2009</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Cancelled		102203
Audit Commission (Annual Audit)	493.50	102208
Close Finance Ltd (Supply and installation of Playnet)	12,832.53	102209
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council (Printing)	47.63	102210
Allianz Insurance plc(Additional insurance for Playnet, Balancing Beam and Stepping Stones)	73.47	102211
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	34.00	102212
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	767.31	102213
HM Revenue & Customs	767.31	102214
Cancelled		102215
Mr R Hipkiss (September 2008 Street Cleaning)	1,007.87	102216
Saughall Friday Club (Contribution towards Christmas Dinner) – (Minute No 14(d)/2009 below refers)	25.00	102217
M Ludgate (Fitting 4 benches on Golden Jubilee Park)	360.00	102218

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED:

That the following receipts be noted:

	<u>£</u>
Interest on 14 Day Interest Account to 21 December 2008	0.80
Grant from Chester City Council towards cost of Playnet	5,000.00

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents be noted.

**Councillor Mrs JE Storrar declared a personal interest in the next item of business as she regularly helped out at the Saughall Friday Club.**

(d) Saughall Friday Club

The Council considered a request from the Saughall Friday Club for a financial contribution towards the cost of its Christmas Dinner.

RESOLVED:

That the Saughall Friday Club be given a financial donation of £25 towards the cost of its Christmas Dinner.

## 15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN CHESHIRE

### (a) Update on Progress

The Majority of Cheshire West and Chester Council's first three tier appointments had been made. Consultation on the fourth and fifth tier appointments had now closed and would be advertised soon. It was aimed to begin the interviews on 26 January 2009 and announce fourth tier appointments on 12 February 2009.

A number of staff members had been unsuccessful in obtaining posts within the new authority and they were being consulted on their options.

Staff had been requested to express a preference for voluntary redundancy to leave the employment of the County or District Council on 31 March 2009. No decisions had been made on who could be released yet.

The budget process was well underway.

### (b) Consultations

- (i) Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles
- (ii) Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy

**Councillor Mrs H Thorniley-Jones declared a personal interest** because of her involvement with the Greyhound Public house in Saughall and informed that she intended to respond to the Licensing Policy consultation in her personal capacity.

RESOLVED:

That this Council will not respond to the above consultations.

### (c) Double Taxation Grant

Councillor Mike Jones, Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council, had written to Parish Councils on 27 November 2008 regarding funding streams to Town and Parish Councils and those issues detailed in the Parish Issues Log. He had advised Councils not to include double taxation grant when setting budgets as the new authority had agreed not to pay it.

The Council considered the content of the Leader's letter and an extract from his Council's Minutes where the double taxation issue had been discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to reply to Councillor Mike Jones' letter to register the injustice of his Council's action because it meant that parished areas of the Chester District will be disadvantaged in comparison with the rest of the area served by it.

(d) Parish Issues Log

The Council received a copy of a letter from Steve Robinson, Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council, dated 28 November 2008 regarding the Parish Issues Log and enclosing a pro-forma to be completed and returned in respect of Service Level Agreements for the Maintenance of the All Saints and Methodist Churchyards and the Street and Amenity Grant.

RESOLVED:

That the content of Mr Robinson's letter be noted and the Clerk be requested to respond to the pro-forma as appropriate.

(e) Introducing Cheshire West and Chester

Events to be held on 22 January 2009 between 7:00pm and 8:30pm at Ellesmere Port Holiday Inn and on 29 January 2009 between 7:00pm and 8:30pm at Chester Guild Hall were noted. Any Member who wished to attend would have the opportunity to meet Councillors and the newly appointed Management Team.

16 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Clerk reported that the next Parish Council Newsletter would be published at the end of January 2009. Any Member who wished to make a submission must do so by Monday, 12 January 2009 at the latest.

RESOLVED:

That the deadline for the Newsletter items of 12 January 2009 be noted and adhered to.

17 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery held on 3 January 2009

Councillor Mrs JM Young had presided over the last Parish Council Surgery which had been held outside of the Co-op Stores. Concerns had been raised over cars and lorries parked on pavements, the lack of a bus link from Saughall to Chester Railway Station, bus competition, damaged grass verges and speeding traffic on Hermitage Road.

People were also keen to see a more visible PCSO presence in the village.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Surgery on Saturday, 31 January 2009 between 10:00am and 10:45am

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Knox be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery on the forecourt of the Co-op Stores, Church Road, Saughall, if weather permits or if not at the Vernon Institute, and bring a report on its proceedings to the next meeting of the Council.

18 ODD JOBS

There were no odd jobs to be done at the moment.

19 VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed of the proceedings of the recent VIMC Annual General Meeting and the election of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. She also informed that the VIMC wished to replace the floor in the library so it could be used more often and generate more income. Quotes were being obtained.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

20 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Gowy North Area Committee meetings on Thursday, 4 and Tuesday, 9 December 2009

Councillor Mrs JE and RA Storrar reported on the proceedings at the above meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) Cheshire Association of Local Councils meeting on Planning Issues at the County Hall, Chester

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar agreed to attend if she could.

21 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

It was noted that a letter dated 27 November 2008 had been received from Mrs Mary Abrams, on behalf of the ladies of the library, thanking the Council for the honoraria payments.

22 CIRCULARS

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

What's On Chester and Cheshire – December 2008

Cheshire County Council's Cheshire Matters – December 2008

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – Engage Issue 4 – 2008

23 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 during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion of the information from the press and public:

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

24 ALL SAINTS CHURCH – PROPOSED GARDEN OF REST

The Council noted the details of quotations received by the Parochial Church Council in respect of a proposed scheme – A Garden of Rest. This information had been provided to assist it to give initial consideration to making a financial contribution to help fund the scheme in advance of the Council's Budget Meeting scheduled for 19 January 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to invite the Vicar, Rev Brian Harris, to attend a meeting with the Council at 7:00pm on Monday, 19 January 2009 to discuss the proposed Scheme in more detail, in advance of the Budget Meeting to be held later that same evening.

25 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman informed that, with the agreement of the Council, she wished to provide it with some information in relation to the Council's Police Community Support Service Level Agreement as she was of the view that it was beneficial for Members to be made aware of it now rather than having to wait until the next ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 2 February 2009.

26 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT, SAUGHALL

The Chairman informed the Council of a decision made by the Cheshire Constabulary that had an affect on Saughall's PCSO arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to arrange an urgent meeting with Inspector Ian Thorp and representatives of the Council (Councillors Mrs JE and RA Storrar, B Kerr, WI Humphrey, Mrs D Whitton and Mrs JM Young) to discuss the situation in detail and bring a report to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 2 February 2009.