

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK
PARISH COUNCIL held on 19 January 2009 in the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall

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

County Councillor D Rowlands
Mr H Dobson, Internal Auditor

27 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs P Humphrey
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor JG Johnson
Councillor Mrs J Knox

28 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

29 DETERMINATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2009/2010
AND THE PARISH PRECEPT

The Council received details of payments made from 1 April 2008 until 5 January 2009, estimated expenditure and income to the end of March 2009, its 2008/2009 Budget, its proposed budget for 2009/2010 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 6 November 2008, and the parish tax base – 2009/2010 – Council Tax.

Members were reminded that the new unitary Council, Cheshire West and Chester, had decided not to continue to provide the Double Taxation Grant that had been paid by Chester City Council and that in 2008/09 had been in the sum of £3,913. This reduction in grant had to be taken into account when setting the Parish Council's budget because it had serious implications on the level of the parish precept.

Members were also reminded that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had identified that when the Council drew up and agreed its 2009/10 Budget it should consider any additional activities it may wish to support during the new Municipal Year and whether it would need additional funding in respect of any of them. The Committee had also recommended that the following matters be taken into consideration (Minute No 8/2009 refers):

- Community events
- Provision of a new car park in the village
- Provision of a youth shelter in the village
- All Saints Church Garden of Rest Proposal
- Parish Paths Booklet

Members considered each budget head in turn and debated the funding that would be required over the next year against each one in order to carry out the Council's activities, and provide an appropriate level of service both effectively and efficiently.

Consideration was also given to the matters detailed above as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The following was agreed: That

- no financial provision be made in respect of community events because they must be self funding;
- no financial provision be made in respect of a new car park in the village or a youth shelter in the 2009/10 budget;
- provision be made in the 2009/10 budget for a £2,000 contribution to the All Saints Church Garden of Rest initiative and that this sum be placed in a designated fund for the purpose; and
- when a new Parish Paths Booklet is produced and printed its costs be drawn from the Council's designated fund for footpaths, which currently contains £710.

The Council also reviewed progress in respect of the Golden Jubilee Park, noting that a lot of new play equipment had been purchased during 2008/09 and this had implications in respect of an increased insurance premium. It was noted that drainage problems existed in the car park and a quotation to alleviate the situation was discussed. It was also noted that some new litterbins would need to be purchased and installed in the Park.

The Council had made a funding application to Cheshire County Council to provide three map boards. It was reported that it had been unsuccessful but that Public Rights of Way Officers were hopeful that further funding would become available to provide further grants soon. If this were to be the case the Parish Council would need to be in the position to be able to provide match funding to attract any grants on offer.

After substantial deliberation the 2009/2010 Parish Budget was agreed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Parish Council budget for 2009/2010 be agreed as set out in Appendix 1; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to inform Cheshire West and Chester Council's head of Finance, Mark Winn, that this Council requires a precept of £52,327.00 for 2009/2010 (Appendix 2)

Appendix 1

Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council Budget 2009/2010

| Budget Head | Budget 2009/2010 |
|--|---------------------|
| Environment Matters | |
| Miscellaneous Minor Repairs | 1,000.00 |
| Street Cleaning | 12,100.00 |
| Litter Bins | 550 |
| Grass Cutting (Playing Fields) (Weekly cut) | 3,500.00 |
| Play Equipment (rolling replacement programme) | 1,000.00 |
| Play Equipment Inspections (4No) | 250 |
| Map Boards | 500 |
| Sub Total | 18,900.00 |
| Golden Jubilee Park | |
| Grass & Hedge Cutting | 1,000.00 |
| Development Fund | |
| Golden Jubilee Park Loan Repayment | 5,545.00 |
| Sub Total | 6,545.00 |
| Finance and General Purposes | |
| (a) Administration | |
| Principal Officer to the Parish Council | 11,550.00 |
| Chairman's Allowance | 1,000.00 |
| Stationary/Postage/Computer Consumables | 750 |
| Parish Councillor's Expenses | 100 |
| Computer (including rental) | 360 |
| Newsletter publication costs | 800 |
| Training/Seminars | 500 |
| Risk Assessment Software | 100 |
| Sub Total | 15,160.00 |
| (b) Annual Payments | |
| Audit Fees | 450 |
| Donations/Honorarium | 250 |
| Insurance | 1,600.00 |
| Subscriptions | 850 |
| VI Clock Service | 250 |
| Village Events | 250 |
| Sub Total | 3,650.00 |
| (c) Vernon Institute - (Annual Grant to designated fund) | 1,000.00 |
| Highways Matters | |
| Bus Shelter maintenance | 2,500.00 |
| Sub Total | 2,500.00 |
| Police Community Support Officers | 11,000.00 |
| Neighbourhood Management Team | 835 |
| All Saints Garden of Remembrance | 2,000.00 |
| Contingencies | 1,000.00 |
| Grand Total | 62,590.00 |

Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council Precept Calculation 2009/2010

2008/2009

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| Budget | £59,710.00 | | |
| Precept | £47,794.00 | | |
| Council Tax (Band D) | £40.41 | | |
| | | £ | |
| | Estimated Income | 117,561 | |
| | Estimated Expenditure | <u>-97,729</u> | |
| | Surplus | 19,832 | 19,832 |
| Less money in Designated Funds | | | |
| | Vernon Institute | 3,927 | |
| | Footpaths | 740 | |
| | Play Equipment | 7,749 | |
| | Golden Jubilee Park | 956 | |
| | Community Safety/PCSO | 0 | |
| | ICT | 1,000 | |
| | Christmas Events | 398 | -14,769 |
| | Balance Carried Forward | | <hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/> 5,063 |

2009/2010

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| | Draft Budget | 62,590 | An increase of 5% |
| Less Income | Street Cleaning Grant | -5,200 | |
| Less Balance C/Fwd | | <u>-5,063</u> | |
| | Required Precept | 52,327 | |
| | Tax Base (Band D) | 1,175.0 | |
| | Tax | 44.53 | |
| | Increase/Decrease | 10% | |