

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 3 October 2011 at the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor WI Humphrey (Homewatch Chairman)  
Councillor B Kerr  
Councillor Mrs J Knox  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs D Whitton  
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe

Also in attendance: Councillor Mrs K Ford  
Cheshire West and Chester Councillor B Crowe  
PCSO Wendy Leason

35. APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Johnson who was unable to attend.

36. CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

37. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 August 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

38. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the Membership of the Committee be noted as follows:

Councillors WI Humphrey, B Kerr, Mrs J Johnson, Mrs J Knox, Mrs JE Storrar, A Warrington, Mrs D Whitton and Mrs JM Young.

39. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS ON GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS AND SITE PROVISION

Members received a report on the proceedings of the last meeting of Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Council's Executive on 13 September 2011 when it had considered a report on Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation. It was noted that the statement within the report that the site was Brownfield was nothing more than misleading. Those who had wanted to speak against the proposal to develop Oakwood Farm in Saughall on Green Belt land as a transit site for Gypsies and Travellers had been allowed to do so.

Although those who had been in attendance at the meeting were aware that the report had been noted, the subsequent Minute stated:

“That planning permission be sought for the development of Oakwood Farm, Saughall as a transit Gypsy and Traveller site.”

It was proposed that this Minute be challenged at the next Executive meeting on 10 October 2011 and as many objectors as possible attend the meeting with Councillor Crowe to ask questions about the proposal during Public Speaking Time. Councillor Crowe agreed to co-ordinate this.

CWAC Council would not be considering the petition in respect of the proposal for Oakwood Farm at a meeting because as it related to a regulatory matter, it fell outside of its Petition Scheme.

Councillor Mrs JM Young, in her capacity as Chairman of the Council, had met with CWAC Council's Chief Executive, Steve Robinson, and she informed of proceedings. Mr Robinson had not agreed to carry out public consultation and had not responded to the question of why consultants, Ekosgen, had not been commissioned to report on transit sites. This was clearly outside the scope of the consultant's report. Mr Robinson had promised that Members would be invited to visit a Gypsies and Travellers site in Halton Borough Council's administrative area.

Councillor Mrs K Ford made a number of representations and requested the Council to hold a special Council meeting to discuss the protection of the local Green Belt. It was noted that this Committee and the Finance and Business Development Committee had items relating to the protection of the Green Belt on their agenda and were able to make decisions on the way forward. Councillor Mrs K Ford also requested that a Village Design Statement be drawn up urgently with her help. She was informed that this action would involve a lengthy process and a Village Design Statement could not be put in place quickly enough to block this proposed development. Also, the Committee was committed to drawing up a Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan but was waiting to see what the new Localism Act said in relation to this. The Bill was expected to be enacted by the end of the year.

It was noted that if legal advice was required the Council would be able to access it free via the National Association of Local Councils. It was also noted that a campaign group had been set up in the local area and it had already commissioned some independent advice.

**RESOLVED:**

That the current situation in respect of the proposal to develop a transit Gypsies and Travellers site on local Green Belt land in Saughall be noted and as many Parish Councillors as possible be requested to attend CWAC Council's next Executive meeting on 10 October 2011 to ask question about it during Public Question Time.

#### 40. POLICE/HOMEWATCH

##### (a) Police

PCSO Wendy Leason presented her report setting out details of crimes and anti-social behaviour which had occurred in the village since the last Committee meeting. There had been three burglaries and although there had not been any reports of anti-social activity, she was aware that there had been issues with youngsters on the car park at Wain Court. They had been riding scooters and playing football. Chester and District Housing Trust had put a security guard in the new building until it was occupied. Local children had been spoken to and advised regarding where they played by the Police.

The police had received complaints from residents regarding problem parking on Hermitage Road, Sea Hill Road and Church Road. PCSO Leason had distributed 200+ letters to properties on these roads and had highlighted and displayed the letter in prominent locations around the village.

Saughall Walkabout had taken place recently and issues raised had been Youths hanging around Wain Court and potential problems, littering to the rear of Wain Court and dog fouling in Greenway and Rakeway.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Leason be thanked for her informative report.

##### (b) Homewatch

Councillor WI Humphrey, in his capacity as Homewatch Chairman, presented an oral report detailing low level crime and anti-social activity that had taken place over the last few weeks in the village. This included:

- young lads throwing berries onto cars on Church Road by the bottom bus shelter;
- youths camping in the woods seen taking vegetables from the allotments;
- drugs activity;
- traffic cones being moved at Rakeway and Darlington Crescent junction whilst gas works were being carried out;
- youths in the Church Hall, the Vicar and Church Wardens notified to secure the building;
- fly tipping in Darlington Crescent;
- intruder disturbed on Long Lane at 1am;
- laser pen used in property in Long Lane;
- nuisance youth activity around Wain Court.

Councillor Humphrey also raised concerns about the number of children riding scooters in a dangerous manner and suggested that he and the PCSO hold an information session about scooter safety.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Humphrey be thanked for his informative presentation.

(c) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Committee

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Neighbourhood Management Team had plotted all of Saughall's highway issues and problems on a map of the village, submitted it to CWAC Council's Highway Section and where now awaiting a job number.

Concrete posts in Saughall Hey were broken and quotes for their replacement had been sought. The Team had also agreed to help with the Christmas Lights Switch on celebrations and would put out traffic cones.

RESOLVED:

That the Neighbourhood Management Team's report be received.

41. REVIEW OF PARISH PLAN/NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RESOLVED:

That this matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

42. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Joint Use Agreement had not been signed by Saughall Cricket Team yet. She would pursue this and report back to the next meeting.

The moles had now gone and the damage they had caused needed to be addressed by filling in the holes and some reseeding. Two quotations for this work had been received. One quote was in the sum of £200 from Just a Mow and the other was in the sum of £240 from D & J Garden Services.

It was proposed that land behind the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters be tarmaced because it would then be easier to keep tidy.

The hedge on Fiddlers Lane needed to be cut back. In the case of the hedge on Long Lane some residents cut it but others did not. It was proposed that the ownership of this hedge be established, if possible.

Members considered the car park's drainage problem and agreed that they did not want to spend a lot of money on it at the current time.

Members considered where funding could be obtained to address the problems with the perimeter path.

The Clerk had asked Massey and Harris to have a look at the aerial runway to see what could be done to tighten it up so that it was more fun for the children to play on. However, they had not got back to her with any proposals or quotations.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the quote in the sum of £200 from Just a Mow to repair the damage made by moles be accepted;
- (3) quotes to tarmac the land behind the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters be sought;
- (4) Gordon Dutton be requested to cut back the hedge on Fiddlers Lane;
- (5) the ownership of the hedge on Long Lane be established, if possible;
- (6) quotations be sought to put down lime stone in the car park to try to address the drainage problem;
- (7) the Health and Wellbeing Fund be investigated as a means to improve the perimeter path; and
- (8) the Clerk be requested to contact Massey and Harris to see if any progress could be made with the aerial runway.

43. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPOSALS FOR LAND AT LODGE LANE

There was no progress to report in respect of the Affordable Housing Project.

44. THE REDEVELOPMENT OF WAIN HOUSE

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that seven people had attended the walkabout that day and had been very impressed with Wain Court. The first resident would move in at the end of the week. The street lights were to be capped because they were too bright and new trees would be planted in November 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

45. ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

(a) Community Use

The Chair of the Governors at All Saints Primary School, Paul Jenkins, had replied to the Clerk's letter of 6 July 2011 on 6 September 2011. He informed that the School strongly recognised the opportunity that it had to make a significant contribution to the wider Saughall community.

Since the School had opened in November 2009, the Governing Body, Staff and pupils had worked extremely hard to get it off to a flying start. They had had two very pleasing OFSTED reports (from both CWAC Council and Church Inspectors) from inspections carried out during March and April this year.

Mr Jenkins went on to inform that during the time the School has been open, it had continued to work with the project manager from CWAC Council and the engaged contractors to ensure that all the facilities and systems were fully operational to support the education of the pupils from the community of Saughall. Given the complex nature of some of these systems, this had taken longer than the project manager or the School had expected. The Governing Body did not feel that it was appropriate to consider the building for wider community use until the 'teething' problems had been addressed effectively.

During this academic year, the School expected the continued support from the CWAC Council's project manager to enable it to bring this initialisation stage of the building to completion.

As a result, the Governing Body was now committed to exploring possibilities for using the School premises for community use whilst ensuring that the high quality education provided is maintained.

Mr Jenkins asked the Clerk to provide him with the details of the type and frequency of usages that the Council had in mind.

The Council was interested in seeing the School being available for use by the whole community and was acting as a facilitator to that end. It already had premises available in which to meet.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Chair of the Governor's letter be noted and he be informed that the Council is trying to facilitate the use of the School for the wider community, not the Council.

(b) Travel Plan

The Chair of the Governors at All Saints Primary School, Paul Jenkins had written to the Clerk on 6 September 2011 after reading the June edition of the Parish Newsletter. He referred to page 6 which informed that the Council had concerns about the School's Travel Plan. Mr Jenkins informed that the School was acutely aware of concerns regarding traffic volumes at the School during starting and finishing times and he would be happy to discuss the steps that were in the Schools control that had been taken to address the situation.

Mr Jenkins went on to say that the School Governing Body would welcome the chance to work constructively with the Council on this matter. He was particularly interested to understand the concerns the Council had about the Travel Plan.

Members noted that it would be a while before the Travel Plan was updated.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Chair of the Governors letter be noted.

## 46. HIGHWAY ISSUES

### (a) Parked Cars on Pavements

PCSO Wendy Leason was attempting to address this problem. (Minute No. 40 (a) refers)

### (b) Speeding Traffic and the Proposal for Saughall to be designated a Community Speed Watch Area

There was no progress to report on this initiative.

### (c) Bus Stop Opposite Aspen Grove on Hermitage Road

The work required at this bus stop was a priority for CWAC Council, if funding became available. It had been agreed that someone would be sent out to tidy up the area.

### (d) Bus Shelter on Parkgate Road

It was noted that the roof repairs had now been carried out.

### (e) Kingswood Lane – Proposed Traffic Prevention Order

There was no progress to report on this initiative.

### (f) Hermitage Road Hedge

It was noted that CWAC Council's Rural Team was responsible for the work required.

### (g) Twenty's Plenty

It was reported that the Twenty's Plenty trial in Hoole had been completed and the data collected was being analysed.

### (h) Obstructions causing danger to persons in Church Way

Mr D Parry had written to the Council about obstructions causing danger to persons in Church Way. Members noted that Church Way was a private road which had not been adopted by the Highway Authority. It was the National Grid's responsibility to put the lines back.

RESOLVED:

That this problem be referred to CWAC Council.

(i) Speeding Traffic – Speed Awareness Signs

A company had written to the Clerk about temporary signage it printed and sold to stick on wheelie bins as a reminder to motorists to drive safely and stick to the speed limit.

The Neighbourhood Management Team had been informed that these stickers were illegal and Committee did not consider that there was any merit in them anyway.

(j) Crofters Way – Moss

There was moss on the pavement that was in the shade and this would be reported to CWAC Council's Streetscene Team.

(k) Bin at the Egerton Public House

CWAC Council's Streetscene Team would be asked to collect the litter by the bin.

(l) Speed Gun

The speed gun would be used next on Hermitage Road and on Sea Hill Road.

47. DOG FOULING BINS

Karl Siteine, CWAC Council's Streetscene Officer had written to the Clerk to tell her that he intended to replace two bins on Church Road. (One outside the Greyhound Inn and the other outside the Vernon Institute.) He informed that he would not be replacing the bin by the bus stop due to lack of use. Mr Siteine also informed that he would be installing a dog bin at the end of the public right of way into The Meadows.

It was noted that litter bins could be used to discard dog fouling as well.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Siteine be requested to replace the litter bin at the bus stop on Church Road by the Vernon Institute.

48. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Councillor WI Humphrey reported that the Youth Club's membership has changed to younger boys and girls using scooters. They would have to be educated not to use them in the car park.

The Youth Club had recently had a lovely day out at Alton Towers.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.



#### 49. LITTER PICKING

It was reported that there was no problems with the current litter picking arrangements. A bin had been located in the Golden Jubilee Park making the litter problem more manageable.

The Clerk reported that she had prepared adverts in respect of the new litter picking contract and had advertised the details in local Newsletters as well as the Councils own and on notice boards. It informed that tenders were invited for a four year litter picking contract commencing 1 April 2012. The successful tenderer would be required to keep designated areas within the Saughall Parish clear of litter and broken glass; to empty the litter bins located on the Jubilee Park and ensure they were not allowed to overflow; to dispose of all litter collected at an approved disposal site.

The areas to be delittered were;-

##### **Daily (including Public Holidays):**

- The recreational land (Jubilee Park) situated at Fiddlers Lane.
- Church Road -The full length from the Bus Terminus to the Vernon Institute.

##### **Weekly:**

- Long Lane. From junction with Parkgate Road to junction with Lodge Lane.
- Fiddlers Lane. From junction with Parkgate Rd to junction with Church Road.
- Hermitage Rd. From Blacon Boundary (Saughall Road) to junction with Church Road.
- Sea Hill Road. From the Greyhound Inn to the Wales Boundary.

The successful tenderer would choose the working days and hours but have regard to the need to keep the village adequately delittered.

The successful tenderer would be self employed and must have appropriate insurance cover.

Payment would be made monthly at one twelfth the agreed annual fee.

Tenders must be submitted by no later than **5:00pm on Friday, 9 December 2011.** Late tenders would not be considered.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

50. COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Ms Jillian Cavanagh had written to the Chairman on 25 August 2011 about a proposal to provide a community notice board in the Co-op Stores car park, near the post box. The Store's Manager agreed to the proposal. It was reported that the Co-op had agreed to bear the cost of erecting it

RESOLVED:

That the proposal be noted.

51. CHESTER AND DISTRICT HOUSING TRUST'S NEIGHBOURHOOD WALKABOUT ON WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2011

It was noted that the last walkabout event had not been as widely publicised as usual and not many people had attended.

52. SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK RIGHTS OF WAY

Members noted the content of letters from the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society and the Clerk to Mr Tony Leach, the Council's Footpath Warden about problems experienced on the Public Rights of Way within the Parish. Copies had also been sent to CWAC Council's Rights of Way Officer. It was noted that Mr Leach had not replied to the Clerk's letter.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to discuss the content of the letters with Mr Leach.

53. FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Committee reviewed its current projects and priorities as follows noting any progress made:

- **A Sports Pavilion in the Golden Jubilee Park**

As this will be a very large capital project for the Council to undertake it may determine that the new building will reflect a modern, forward thinking community, and that it will be as 'green' as possible within an agreed budget, to benefit the environment and reduce future running costs. The new building could be open to all users of the Golden Jubilee Park and regarded as a community facility.

The Council must formulate external funding applications to help meet the costs of any new build, and is fortunate to have the support of Saughall Cricket Club, which may also attract grant aid to contribute to the building costs. The aim may be, subject to external funding being available, to have a new sports pavilion in use by 2016.

This initiative was also included in the Parish Council's Business Plan that the Finance and Business Development Committee was drafting. It was hoped to visit Neston Cricket Club at Parkgate at some stage.

- **A New Parish Plan**

Before work can begin to replace the Council's existing Parish Plan which was drawn up with the assistance of the Cheshire Community Council and part financed with a match funded grant for £2,500 from the Countryside Agency's 'Vital Villages Programme' and published in 2004, it would be wise to see what the enacted Localism Bill says in respect of Neighbourhood/Community and Parish Plans before work begins.

Survey work must be carried out as well as consultative meetings held before the new Plan is drafted and launched.

This work would flow from the Council's Business Plan.

- **Woodlands Trust – Free Trees**

The Tree Warden is choosing the trees and where to plant them in the village.

The Tree Warden had not informed of her choices yet.

- **Community Events**

The Council is keen to support and help facilitate events such as:

- The Queen's Diamond Jubilee  
A team of like minded people were meeting to move this initiative forward. There had been an open meeting on 27 September 2011 to pool ideas. An event was being planned – Music in the Park. A recommendation would be made to the Finance and Business Development Committee to provide a grant to help pump prime.
- Remembrance Sundays – 13 November 2011
- Roll of Honour  
There were four War Commission Graves in Saughall Grave Yards whether the names of the Service Men who had died in War time did not appear on the Roll of Honour. Quotations would be sought to rectify this.
- Village Sports Day – To receive a report.
- Christmas Lights Switch on – 1 December 2011  
There would be a procession from the School to the Vernon Institute.