

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 3 February 2014 in the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman
Councillor H Jennings (Homewatch Co-ordinator)
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)
Councillor PP Young

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe (Part)
PCSO Wendy Leason (Part)
Mr Bob Salisbury, Internal Auditor
PC Paul Taylor, Beat Manager (Part)

31. APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absences were received from:

Councillor Mrs J Edwards
Councillor Mrs K Ford
Councillor Mrs J Johnson
Councillor Mrs J Knox
Councillor Mrs D Whitton

32. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

33. MINUTES

Further to Minute No. 4(a) (ii) the Council discussed the Planning Officer's response to the Council's observations in respect of the following planning application which was considered to be incorrect. The Council also noted that planning permission had now been granted.

13/04333/FUL

Proposal: Renovation and reinstatement of derelict land to farm land comprising creation of new pond, hard standing and embankment.

Location: Kings Acre, Kingswood Lane, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 6 and 13 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record; and
- (2) Councillor Brian Crowe be requested to discuss the Council's concerns regarding the above listed planning application and the responses it had received with the planning officer and report back at the next meeting.

{Following the meeting the Planning Officer, Niall Mellan responded as follows:

As discussed in my report the application was assessed on its merits for what was being applied for. If any change of use occurs, or any works commence which require planning permission, then this would be a matter for our enforcement team who would investigate and advise the applicant to submit a planning application or serve an enforcement notice, although there does not appear to be any breaches of planning at present.}

34. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Applications

The Council considered the following planning applications which had been lodged with the Planning Authority, Cheshire West and Chester Council, since its last meeting and set out its observations on them as follows:

(i) 13/05513/S73

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on permission 13/02945/S73

Location: 76 Hermitage Road, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire.

“No objection.”

(ii) 14/00237/FUL

Proposal: Erection of shed (demolition of timber shed) (resubmission of planning application 13/04723/FUL)

Location: Kirkland House, 247 Hermitage Road, Saughall

“No objections.”

(b) Planning Decisions

The Council noted the following planning decisions that had been made by Cheshire West and Chester Council – the Planning Authority:

(i) 13/05157/FUL

Proposal: Installation of gas storage compound.

Location: Wheatsheaf Inn, Parkgate Road, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire. CH1 6JS

“Planning Permission.”

(ii) 13/04265/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of American Horse Barn to one dwelling.

Location: Little Creek Kennels, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire. CH1 6DE

“Planning Permission.”

(iii) 13/04778/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and front porch, including bay window to side.

Location: Darland, 98 Hermitage Road, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire. CH1 6AQ

“Planning Permission.”

(iv) 13/05513/S73

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans).on permission 13/02945/S73 to allow for an amended design of two dwellings.

Location: 76 Hermitage Road, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire. CH1 6AQ

“Planning Permission.”

(v) 13/05157/S73

Proposal: Installation of gas storage compound.

Location: Wheatsheaf Inn, Parkgate Road, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire. CH1 6JS

“Planning Permission.”

35. POLICE/HOME WATCH

(a) Police

PC Paul Taylor informed the Council that in Saughall in the last month there had been six anti social behaviour incidents but there was no trends identified. Two related to music from a house party. Two related to another house party where uninvited guests had turned up. One involved an off road bike being ridden in Lodge Lane. One related to a nuisance communication.

There had been a number of house burglaries and some thefts from vehicles.

PC Paul Taylor reported the following:

- Two drive offs from the Red Ensign Garage.
- Three RTC incidents.
- Two incidents of a loose dog on the A550 by Shotwick Lights.
- Two thefts and three attempted thefts from motor vehicles.
- One theft of scrap metal from Darlington Crescent.
- One burglary on the Ridings.
- Three horses escaping.

PCSO Leason had attended:

- The Golden Link
- The Art Group
- The Youth Club
- The Guides
- Wain Court
- Drop-ins at Wain Court

PCSO Leason had also:

- collected an abandoned bike from a field in Hermitage Road;
- attended the Rawlinson site on Lodge Lane to speak to the Manager about a parking complaint;
- delivered letters about shed break ins to properties on Church Road and made a reassurance visit to a victim;
- delivered burglary alert letters to properties on the Ridings and Rakeway; and
- made regular reassurance visits to the Co-op Store and Red Ensign Garage.

Members were concerned that three horses had been escaping in their quest to find food. It was noted that the RSPCA had been contacted and their owners were being traced. The horses had broken through the fence and the Council had paid to have it repaired as the animals had been able to get into the Golden Jubilee Park and do damage.

RESOLVED: That

(1) PCSO Leason and PC Paul Taylor be thanked for their reports; and

(2) a notice be placed on the fence asking the owner of the horses to get in touch with the Chairman, within 21 days.

(b) Anti Social Behaviour in the Golden Jubilee Park

The Chairman reported on the proceedings of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 with Inspector Kevin Chambers about concerns raised over anti social behaviour incidents in the Golden Jubilee Park.

Councillor H Jennings informed that there had been a change in attitude and the Inspector had accepted that serious incidents had occurred but had not been reported to the police.

PC Paul Taylor informed that the Police would continue with the hard work in partnership in an attempt to make progress and PCSO Wendy Leason was keeping the situation under surveillance.

(c) Home Watch and Alert System

Councillor H Jennings reported that Liz Biddle, Police, Home Watch Officer, Cheshire Constabulary had not made contact with him but he would chase her up regarding flyers she had promised. They would then be adapted, if possible, for Saughall's use and distributed around the village.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(d) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Neighbourhood Management Team had met with the organisers of the Chester Half Marathon and were discussing where the water station should be located.

The Marathon organisers had offered help and advice in respect of the fun run on the cycle path taking place at the weekend.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young's report be noted.

36. MEMBERS' TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Councillor H Jennings had attended the Cheshire Training Partnership Chairmanship 1 training on 13 January 2014 in Congleton. He informed that there had not been enough depth to it and he may attend a Chairmanship 2 training course later in the year.

It was noted that a CPRE and ChALC Planning Workshop would be held on Tuesday, 8 April 2014 at Middlewich Community Church from 1pm to 5pm (Afternoon Tea was included) at a cost of £20 per Member. Councillor PP Young informed that he may attend. He would let the Clerk know if he could attend so that she could book him a place.

37. VILLAGE EVENTS

The Council received the Minutes of a meeting of the Group who arranged village events which had been held on 9 January 2014. As the 'Music in the Park' event, held last year, had broken even, it was noted that the Group still had £600 to assist its next event plus another £400 of funding it had received. The Group had discussed a number of proposals for future village events along with the World War One commemorations event which it was currently planning. The Group intended to meet again on 5 February 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes be received.

38. SAUGHALL CHRISTMAS POSTAL SERVICE

The Council received a written report on the Saughall Christmas Postal Service project along with the accounts (Receipts and Payments and Income and Expenditure) from Mr Bob Salisbury.

The project had gone well and would be repeated in 2014. Mr Salisbury had thanked everyone who had helped.

39. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Council received frequently asked questions in respect of Cheshire West and Chester Council's consultation on the proposed changes to children and young people's transport provision. The results would be considered by Cheshire West and Chester Council's Executive at its meeting on 13 March 2014.

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported on the proceedings of a consultation meeting which she had attended. She had informed that meeting that the walking route from Saughall to Blacon High School could not be considered safe, even for an accompanied child. There was not a continuous footpath and there was not a bus to Blacon High School. Cheshire West and Chester Council Officers were to undertake a site visit and Councillor Mrs JM Young had agreed to accompany them when they did so.

Councillor Mrs JM Young also reported that parents of children with Special Educational needs may have to pay up to £1200 per annum to transport them to High School.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to feed into the consultation that the Council is concerned that parents of children with Special Educational needs may have to pay up to £1,200 per annum to transport them to High School.

40. DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER SAUGHALL, THE RIDINGS INFANT SCHOOL SITE – NEW DRAINS

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that she had met with Cheshire West and Chester Council's Principal Planning Enforcement Officer, Rob Charnley and the site Manager Paul Moscrop to discuss and remedy concerns about the drainage, parking and noise.

Mr Charnley did not consider that there was a problem in respect of the drains for the new housing. He was aware that the pipes being put in had bigger dimensions than existing ones on the road. Members were concerned that they would not be able to take the water. Members were aware that there had been similar problems in the past with Newcroft.

The Clerk had previously written to Nick Smith, the Planning Officer who had dealt with the planning application raising concerns over drainage but he had not replied.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write, again to Nick Smith, informing him that this Council continues to have grave concerns over the drainage and requesting that a Building Control Officer is sent out to assess the situation.

{Following the meeting Rob Charnley informed that:

“When I met with representatives from the Parish Council on the 16th January we discussed the issue of drainage. I highlighted that the larger pipe diameter had been agreed with Welsh Water and formed part of their approved drainage scheme. I also explained that as Welsh Water have agreed this scheme there is no further action we can take with regards to planning enforcement.

In terms of a Building Inspector, as Nick has highlighted, they are using an approved inspector rather than the Council’s own service and therefore our own Building Inspectors would not visit the site.

If there are any issues we can look at please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Nick however there is no further action that can be taken in relation to the drainage for the site.”}

41. LODGE LANE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the Housing project was a little behind but it was expected to be completed by the end of May 2014. The Council would be involved with the housing allocation process.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

42. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Field Committee Report

The Field Committee had cancelled its meeting because of the inclement weather.

(b) Fencing

Members discussed whether to put up a stock fence or if a hedgerow would be better option to protect its property. Councillor Mrs JM Young agreed to find out if there was anyone locally who specialised in putting in hedgerows. Discussion ensued on whose land the fence should go on.

(c) Proposal to build a Community Facility/Sports Pavilion

Councillor JM Young informed that the Pavilion Working Group was trying to access external funding. The Cheshire Football Association was probably not an option as the project was a joint venture between Saughall Cricket Club and the local community and their grants provided mostly for football initiatives.

(d) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Councillor DF Holman reported that the Council had now gone out to tender and submissions must be back by noon on Monday, 10 March 2014. The tender documentation could be viewed on the Council's website.

Once returned the tender documents would be opened and analysed and the Council would then receive a report and agree who could have the contract to provide and install the MUGA.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made with the MUGA project be noted.

43. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Council was reminded that Ron Davies Young People's Participation and Inclusion Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council had agreed to provide some youth workers to help with the Youth Club.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor H Jennings be requested to get in touch with Ron Davies to ascertain if he could provide the youth workers that he had promised as the Youth Club was in need of help.

44. VERNON INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

(a) Vernon Institute Building

Councillor PP Young reported that the VIMC would be an incorporated charity within the next few months.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor PP Young's report be noted.

(b) Clock Automation

Councillor DF Holman informed that the Clock's lighting was a lot better now and that the time regulation unit had been fitted and was working. The Clock should now keep accurate time to within a couple of seconds. It would adjust itself in summer and winter.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor DF Holman's report be noted.

(c) New Roll of Honour

Councillor A Warrington informed that he had a quote for a new plaque in the sum of £1,442 and £110 to install it. Also, he was arranging for the existing plaques to be cleaned again.

Councillor A Warrington also informed that at the Cheshire Association of Local Council's Chester Area Meeting on 29 January 2014 it had been announced that there were grants available for improvement work for war memorials and he was looking into this.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Councillor A Warrington be thanked for his hard work on the War Memorial; and

(2) the quotes detailed above be accepted, the plaque be procured and the work associated with it be commissioned.

45. CHAIRMAN'S MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Mrs JM Young inform of various issues she had been involved in during the month. These included:

- A cyclist riding without lights on By Pass Road.
- The drainage issue on Long Lane which had still not been remedied.
- Meeting with Wain Court residents about parking.
- Snow Angel proposal.
- Meeting at the Ridings site with the Manager about parking problems.
- Dealing with the escaping horses and informing the RSPCA.
- Attended a meeting at Upton High School about the Home to School Transport proposals.
- The Death of Anita Lesley, her funeral was at 2pm on 4 February 2014.
- Meeting with Councillor Mrs D Whitton and pupils at Upton High School. The next meeting was scheduled for 6:30pm on Monday, 3 March 2014 at the Vernon Institute.

The children had put forward a number of proposals that they would like to see in the village to relieve their boredom as follows:

- Wet Weather Shelter.
- Shop e.g. Subway, Starbucks.
- Boxing Ring.
- Flowers and Trees around.
- Cinema/Film Night.
- Climbing Frame.

Councillor Brian Kerr reminded the Council that it had attempted to set up a Youth Council some time ago but it had not been successful. Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the youngsters had previously come forward with ideas but then nothing had happened. This time it had been agreed to focus on a film night and the children had gone away to think about films.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman be thanked for her report.

46. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Surgery held on Saturday, 1 February 2014

Councillor Mrs J Edwards had presided over the Parish Council Surgery which had been held outside the Co-op Stores. She had sent a written report which the Chairman read out. Issues raised and discussed had included the following:

- Dog mess was getting worse.
- Traffic was moving too fast through the village.
- The pavements are hazardous and an eye sore, especially on the Ridings Estate.
- Too many cars were parked on Church Road.
- The ditches at the top of Long Lane needed dredging to stop flooding onto the road.
- The hedges at the top of Long Lane needed cutting back as they were over hanging the path.
- The path opposite the Church needed sweeping as it was covered in twigs and moss.
- The street lamp in Darlington Crescent was still not working (on grass verge by Council houses).
- Litter was getting worse.
- Cars and buses were damaging the grass verge by parking and driving on them.
- Some buses were too big to come through the village; the Busy Bee was the right size.
- Residents of Hermitage Road who had overhanging hedges should be made to cut them back.
- The road opposite the building site on Rakeway needed resurfacing.

Councillor Brian Crowe informed that the street light outside No. 44 Darlington Crescent had been repaired three times but someone was shooting the bulb with an air rifle. He informed he had reported it to the Chester District Housing Trust.

Councillor RA Storrar informed that he was aware that people living in sheltered accommodation (Wain Court) were running businesses from their homes. He asked what criteria had to be fulfilled to warrant this housing and did all residents have to fulfil it.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Mrs J Edwards be thanked for her very informative report; and
- (2) The Clerk be requested to write to Saughall farmers and ask them to cut back their overhanging hedges, before the birds started nesting.

(b) Surgery on Saturday, 1 March 2014.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be requested to preside over the next Parish Council Surgery to be held from 10 to 10:45am at the Co-op Stores.

47. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL – WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (INCLUDING ANY HIGHWAYS OR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS)

Councillor Brian Crowe reported that the situation with standing water on Long Lane was not acceptable. One of the land owners was not co-operating with his Council. However, Cheshire West and Chester Council was seeking to go onto the land to carry out the work required.

Councillor Brian Crowe informed that communities could request 20 miles per hour speed limits so long as they paid for the road signs.

In respect of planning, where the Parish Council objected to a proposal for various reasons but the planning authority was expected to approve it anyway, Councillor Brian Crowe advised the Council to include "without prejudice" if planning permission is granted the Council would like to see certain conditions on it and list any.

Councillor Brian Crowe also reported that the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority wanted to build a new Fire Station on Powey Lane. Mollington Parish Council intended to fight this proposal as the proposed site was in the Green Belt. The proposal was for a two storey building with five bays being built on nine acres of land. The applicant would have to come up with very special circumstances to be allowed to build a Fire Station on Green Belt land.

Councillor Brian Crowe was given a copy of the Newsletter and he informed that in his view it was an excellent publication and a credit to all involved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Brian Crowe's report be received; and
- (2) Home to School Transport be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council on Monday, 6 January 2014.

48. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 6 January 2014:

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2013/2014</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
The Cumbrian Clock Company (Automatic Regulation Works)	1,780:80	102749
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	35:00	102750
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	495:24	102751
Mr DF Holman (Travelling Expenses)	13:64	102752
Mr JE Davies (Litter Picking)	63.00	102753

(b) Receipts

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rural Support Grant of £38,691:25 for the MUGA. (Paid through BACS.)

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the cash to bank reconciliation sheet be noted.

(d) Request for a Funding Contribution – All Saints Church - Rewiring

The Council was asked to consider a request from Mr John Hallas (Church Warden) to provide a financial contribution towards the cost of rewiring work in the Church

RESOLVED:

That in principle, £2,000 be set aside to help fund the rewiring work in All Saints Church, to be paid on completion of the work and on production of the invoice.

49. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Meetings Coming Up

- National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) What Next for Localism? – Wednesday, 26 March 2014 at the Royal National Hotel, London

Councillor Brian Kerr agreed to attend. The Clerk would make the conference booking and Councillor Kerr would arrange his own rail travel.

(b) Outside Events that have been attended

- Cheshire Association of Local Council's Area Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, 29 January 2014 at Cheshire West and Chester Council' HQ in Chester.

Councillors B Kerr, RA and Mrs JE Storrar had attended. They reported that they had been informed that Cheshire West and Chester Council had identified the following priorities: Parish Fields; Fuel Poverty; Connecting Cheshire; First World War commemorations; Aging Population and Digital Inclusion; and the World Cup. It was considered that the priorities should include: supervision of services provided; ensuring work was done properly; drainage; road improvements and maintenance; and education.

Members had not been impressed with the speakers and it was clear they had not liaised beforehand.

50. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The content of the following correspondence was noted:

- Letter dated 17 January 2014 from Joanna Brookes on behalf of the Chair and Committee, Saughall Uniformed Groups asking questions about the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to be installed in the Golden Jubilee Park.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to inform Mrs Brookes that the Council is not in a position to answer her questions until a contractor has been appointed to carry out the work required. Once that has been achieved there will be liaison with appropriate Groups in the village.

- Email dated 3 February 2014 from Councillor Mrs J Knox requesting that the following be put on record:

"I am still very angry and upset about the vote regarding the MUGA which was taken not long after I had left last month. As my feelings were well known, I feel that the vote was flawed, especially as I understand my vote would have left the decision as deadlocked. For the sake of such a short while, I feel I should have been either asked to stay for the vote or that it should have been brought forward."

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to reply to Councillor Mrs J Knox as follows:

"Members hold you in the highest regard. They said last night that they understood your frustration. They had not realised that you intended to leave the meeting when you did and it was unfortunate that you left before the vote was taken on the MUGA."

Councillor Mrs J Knox had also included two issues for Councillor Brian Crowe's attention:

- Long Lane, up by Mrs Bland is STILL flooding so obviously the ditches/drains haven't been cleared enough - this state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. Another spot which is still flooding badly is the top of Saughall Hey on the left of the junction with Rakeway.
 - When are the Ridings pavements going to be done as I was assured it would be early in 2014?
- . These Cheshire West and Chester Council issues were referred to Councillor Brian Crowe who agreed to report back on them at the next Council meeting on 3 March 2014.

51. CIRCULARS

No circular had been received.