

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH
COUNCIL held on 5 January 2015 in the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman
Councillor Mrs K Ford
Councillor H Jennings (Home Watch Co-ordinator)
Councillor B Kerr (Part)
Councillor Mrs J Knox
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor RA Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs D Whitton
Councillor Mrs JM Young (in the Chair)

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe (Part)
PCSO Wendy Leason (Part)
PC Paul Taylor (Part)

1. APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillor PP Young and Mr Bob Salisbury.

2. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) No declarations of interest were received.

(b) There were no written applications for dispensations.

(c) Standards Complaint

At the meeting of the Council held on 6 October 2014, following concerns raised about the way a minority of Members had been behaving, following a majority decision being made to procure the construction of a multi-use games unit in Saughall, Councillor PP Young had proposed the following Motion:

‘that all Members give a commitment that they will abide by the Members’ Code of Conduct, the Council’s Standing Orders and the Council’s majority decisions and that the Clerk draw up a statement to this effect for each Member to sign at the next Council meeting.’

This proposal had then been agreed unanimously by those Members in attendance at the meeting. (Minute No. 241(e) refers.)

Councillor PP Young had proposed this Motion at that time to supersede other Motions and to bring the Council back together on something Members could all agree on. It had been an attempt to obtain unanimity.

On the instruction of the Council (Minute Nos. 255(c) and 270(c) refer) the Clerk had reported the catalogue of events to the Monitoring Officer that had culminated in Councillor RA Storrar refusing to sign the declaration as

a mark of his commitment to abide by the Members' Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and the Council's majority decisions. The Council had instructed the Clerk to make this complaint because it had been concerned that Councillor RA Storrar had refused to reaffirm a formal commitment when all of its other Members had done so.

It was reported that on 19 December 2014 the Interim Monitoring Officer, Mark Reaney, had written to the Clerk informing that, having considered her written complaint carefully, he did not feel that the conduct complained of amounted to a potential breach of the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, he did not consider that there was a legal basis for requiring Parish Councillors to sign declarations that they would stand by majority decisions.

Councillor RA Storrar queried why, at the last meeting held on 2 December 2014, as a Member of the Council, he had been excluded from the meeting when some business had been conducted in Part 2, in the absence of the press and public.

The Clerk reminded Councillor RA Storrar that he had arrived at the last meeting, signed the attendance register and informed the Council that, as he was under investigation by the Monitoring Officer, he intended to take no part in the meeting other than as a member of the public and would sit at the back with the members of the public in attendance.

Once all of the business in Part 1 of the agenda had been transacted the Council had moved a resolution to exclude the press and public and the Clerk had advised that if Councillor RA Storrar was in attendance as a member of the public and not intending to fulfil his Parish Councillor role he should be asked to leave.

Councillor RA Storrar informed the Clerk that she should not have excluded him from the meeting as he was an elected Parish Councillor and considered he should be accorded an explanation for why it had happened.

The Clerk reiterated what she had previously said and reminded the Council that she had no authority to exclude anyone from its meetings nor had she a vote. When Councillors, in similar circumstances to Councillor RA Storrar, were under investigation following a complaint being made to the Monitoring Officer, there was no rule or regulation that they were unable to carry out their Councillor role and that they had to sit with the public at Council meetings. This was a decision that Councillor RA Storrar had taken entirely himself. He could not have it both ways. He was either there at the meeting as a Councillor or a Member of the public. He had chosen to be there as a Member of the public and had left when the meeting had moved into Part 2. If Councillor RA Storrar had wished to remain as a Member of the Council he should have said so. In effect he had excluded himself.

The Clerk also reminded Members that most of them had been in attendance at the last meeting and they knew exactly what had happened and what Councillor RA Storrar had said.

Councillor RA Storrar did not think that the Clerk's explanation was adequate. However, Councillor B Kerr came to the Clerk's defence, informing that under the circumstances of the case he believed that she had given the Council the right advice at its 2 December 2014 meeting.

Councillor RA Storrar informed that he had seen no reason to sign the declaration. Councillor B Kerr pointed out that Councillor PP Young's Motion had been carried unanimously and this was recorded in the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 October 2014. However, Councillor RA Storrar then disputed that this was the case.

RESOLVED:

That the Monitoring Officer's decision on the complaint against Councillor RA Storrar, made by the Council, be noted.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record:

- Minute No. 279. Morris Homes – remove road and replace with pavement.

4. 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) 14/04924/FUL

Proposal: The construction of a raised timber tree house/play house with decking area.

Location: The Vicarage, Church Road, Saughall, Chester.

'No objections.'

(ii) 14/05079/FUL

Proposal: Single storey annex and garage.

Location: Wilbur Cottage, Long Lane, Saughall, Chester.

'The Council wishes to query why this is referred to as an annex when in its opinion it is a separate dwelling.'

(iii) 14/05058/FUL

Proposal: Construction of agricultural barn.

Location: New Ways Farm, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Shotwick Park, Chester.

'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) 14/04335/FUL

Proposal: First floor side extension.

Location: 4 Rosewood Grove, Saughall, Chester.

'Approval'

(ii) 14/03187/FUL

Proposal: Touring Caravan Park with 5 pitches, camping area with 5 pitches and use of outbuilding as toilet and shower block, access alterations and installation of drainage system.

Location: Oakwood Farm, Parkgate Road, Saughall, Chester.

'Approval'

5. DECLARATION OF A CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that the following residents of Saughall have expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Council:

- Mrs Jean Johnson
- Mr Andy Errington
- Mr Alan Bailey
- Dr Anna Manning

Mrs Jean Johnson had subsequently withdrawn her expression of interest.

Members of the Council were invited to express their preference on voting slips handed out and collected in by the Clerk.

The vote was as follows:

- Mr Andy Errington – 5 votes
- Dr Anna Manning – 3 votes
- Mr Alan Bailey – 2 votes

RESOLVED:

That Mr Andy Errington be co-opted onto the Parish Council from now until it is dissolved on 31 March 2015.

6. POLICE/HOMEWATCH

(a) Police

PC Paul Taylor reported on crimes committed in Saughall during December 2014. Members noted that there had been 15 crimes committed in Saughall in total and six were still under investigation.

Of particular concern was the number of thefts from motor vehicles as people routinely left their vehicles unsecured. PC Taylor informed that the Police planned to do some work on this in the New Year. They would be knocking on doors when they discovered vehicles unlooked and pointing it out to their owners.

PC Taylor informed that there had been little anti-social behaviour in the village and no problems had been reported in relation to the new multi-use games unit. He also informed that measures were being put in place to deal with speeding and other traffic related incidents.

PC Taylor noted that the Council had particular concerns regarding speeding traffic on Hermitage Road, Church Road and Seahill Road and with vehicles parking on pavements and grass verges. These were the Council's stated priorities.

The Council was also made aware of an incident where excrement had been rubbed on the War Memorial.

RESOLVED: That

(1) PC Paul Taylor be thanked for his report; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to point out in the next Parish Council Newsletter that if there was a theft from a vehicle that was insecure it could mean that the insurance is invalidated.

(b) Home Watch

Councillor H Jennings informed that he had not been contact over the Home Watch in the last month and so had nothing to report.

(c) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported on the Team's recent activities. It had held a very successful Quiz Evening in December 2014. It had made £600 as a result which would be evenly distributed between the Sports and Community Use Building project fund and the summer Play Scheme.

It was noted that the community seat on order in memory of the late Councillor Ian Humphrey had not yet been delivered.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young's report be received.

7. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Council noted that on 3 December 2014 the Clerk had received information in respect of how the results of the Community Governance Review impacted on the Parish Council from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Senior Manager – Partnerships and Development.

The decision made in respect of the community governance review of Saughall and Shotwick Park would result in the dissolution of the Council and the creation of a new one. As such, whilst the new Council would come into being from 1 April 2015, it would have no Councillors elected or appointed to it until the date of the local elections in May. In order to ensure that any urgent business was able to be transacted, it had been agreed by Cheshire West and Chester Council that serving parish councillors would be invited to act as its representatives on the new Parish Council during this interim period and that this information be included in the Reorganisation Orders. In addition, the decision for Saughall and Shotwick Park included at least one boundary change between the parish and a neighbouring one and it was therefore important that the detail of any associated transfers that need to be made was captured so that they were also incorporated in the Reorganisation Orders.

In order to facilitate this, the Clerk was asked to complete a form and return it as soon as possible. The completed form should include the names of the nominees for the transitional period and the detail of any land and property; funds and balances; and maintenance (or other) responsibilities to be transferred as a result of the boundary changes. The number of interim representatives could not exceed the number of Councillors to be elected or appointed to the new Council.

The Council noted that there was an expectation that any land or property contained within a transferring area would transfer to the new parish. It was therefore important that this information was captured in order to enable any neighbouring councils which may inherit ownership or maintenance responsibilities from 1st April 2015 to factor this in to their budget considerations.

There was also an expectation that where a boundary change would result in the transfer of a significant number of electors from one parish to another, a proportionate amount of the funds or balances held by their current Parish Council should also transfer to the new one. Where appropriate, this should ideally be negotiated locally.

It was noted that in the case of Saughall and Shotwick Park the old Council's land, property and funds would transfer to the new Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the information provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council's Senior Manager – Partnerships and Development be noted;
- (2) the twelve CWaC's interim representatives be the Members of this Council with the exceptions of Councillor RK Shukla and newly Co-opted Councillor A Errington;
- (3) the Clerk be requested to complete the form and return it to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Senior Manager – Partnerships and Development;
- (4) a final meeting of the Council be held at 7:30pm on Monday, 30 March 2015 in the Uniformed Groups' Head Quarters, Fiddlers Lane Saughall to consider any business requiring a decision before it is dissolved the following day; and
- (5) an informal meeting be held between representatives of the Council and representatives of Puddington and District Council to discuss boundary change issues etc.

8. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S WARD MEMBER'S REPORT AND OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Councillor Brian Crowe informed that the new bus shelter on the Ridings would be repaired sometime this month and that he was monitoring the situation in Kingswood Lane and would carry out a check in the spring once the building work had been completed.

He referred to the list of outstanding issues (Minute No. 242 refers) and informed that these matters had all been raised by him and were being progressed by Cheshire West and Chester Council officers.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Brian Crowe be thanked for his report.

9. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S GRANT ARRANGEMENTS

(a) New Homes Bonus Community Fund 2014/15

The Council considered the content of a letter dated 4 December 2014 from the Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) Councillor Mike Jones. Councillor Jones informed that the Council was now eligible for its next instalment of New Homes Bonus grants from the Council's Community Fund to the value of £10,228 for financial year 2014/15.

This grant allocation had been directly determined by the level of housing growth in Saughall and Shotwick Park in the period October 2010 to October 2013. It reflected CWaC's commitment to transfer 20% of the New Homes Bonus grant it received from Central Government directly onto the Council for investment in the local community in recognition of the local

impact of increased levels of housing. The use of the grant was at the Council's discretion for any additional expenditure above its usual level. Councillor Jones suggested that the Council may wish to consider using it to support a major project in the local area or to support the development of the aspirations contained in the Parish Plan.

Councillor Jones anticipated being able to pay the Council further grant allocations from this Fund in future years. However, as the final allocation would be dependent on the level of housing growth in the local area and was subject to Central Government decisions on New Homes Bonus grant payable to CWaC Councillor Jones was unable to confirm any specific amounts at this stage. The ongoing Community Governance Review may also affect future allocations and the Council would be advised of any impact in due course.

It was expected that the amounts which may be available in future years would be in the region of £10,228. This was indicative at this stage and confirmation of the actual amounts payable for the upcoming financial year would be provided in due course.

In order to understand the outputs generated for the residents of CWaC from this valuable source of funding Councillor Jones had requested that some information on the outputs delivered with the allocation paid to the Council in 2013/14 be supplied on a form enclosed for the purpose.

RESOLVED:

- (1) the contents of the letter dated 4 December 2014 be received; and
- (2) the Clerk be requested to supply the information requested on the form provided after the Budget Council meeting has taken place on 12 January 2015.

(b) Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) Grant to Local Councils 2015/16

The Council considered the content of a letter dated 8 December 2014 from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Senior Manager – Revenues and Benefits, Jerry Faulkner. The letter reminded Members that the national replacement of Council Tax Benefit with a new locally determined Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 2013/14 had potential to impact adversely on the Council's precept and therefore on local council tax charges to residents. In the spirit of localism and in order to mitigate this negative local impact, in 2013/14 and 2014/15 CWaC had voluntarily passed on some of its CTRS grant funding to help local councils to reduce their precepts. This new grant had helped to ensure that they were not impacted financially by the introduction of CTRS.

Mr Faulkner was pleased to inform the Council that CWaC had, again, decided to maintain this new voluntary CTRS grant support to local councils in 2015/16. It was however important for the Council to note that the source of this funding was now part of CWaC's overall grant settlement from Central Government, which would be reduced again significantly for

2015/16 compared to 2014/15. In view of this, the amount of funding that CWaC had available to pass on had unfortunately also reduced. The local government annual settlement was yet to be confirmed by Central Government but current estimates were that the reduction for the CWaC area would be in the region of 13% so the Council should, therefore, anticipate 2015/16 CTRS grant funding from CWaC at around 87% of the amount received for 2014/15.

Mr Faulkner informed the Council that he would be writing again shortly to formally request its 2015/16 precept and also to notify it of both its final CTRS grant allocation and local area tax-base for 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

That the content of this letter be noted with satisfaction.

10. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Field Committee Meeting

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that there had not been a Field Committee meeting scheduled. It was also reported that mole activity had been spotted in the Park again.

(b) The Proposal to build a Sports and Community Use Building

Councillor DF Holman informed that a funding application had been made to Active Sports. Members had received the email address to vote on line in order to put the project forward for a £5,000 funding package and they were urged to do so and inform others of this process too.

Councillor Mrs D Whitton proposed that all organisations in the village be alerted to this process and urged to encourage their members to vote on line for funding for this community facility project.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and Councillor Mrs D Whitton's proposal be agreed.

(c) Multi Use Games Unit (MUGA)

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed the Council that the opening of the MUGA on Saturday, 13 December 2014 had gone very well. It had been opened by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Chester. Also in attendance had been the Deputy Lady Mayoress, Councillor Mike Jones, Leader of CWaC, Steven Moseley MP, Richard Smith from WREN, Denise Heayns from CWaC's Rural Support Funding Programme and Mr Brian Huxley from Saughall Cricket Club.

The Vice-Chair of the Council, Councillor DF Holman had spoken very well and had highlighted how the MUGA was only the start of the Council's

plans to create a real 'community hub' in the Golden Jubilee Park and had detailed the Council's other ongoing projects and funding requirements in respect of the Sports and Community Use Building and the refurbishment of the Swing Park.

Councillor Mrs K Ford thanked Councillor Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs Holman who had managed the kitchen and ensured the guests were refreshed.

Councillor Mr K Ford reported that the contractor intended to return to re-seed the surfaces around the MUGA in the spring and make good the ground that had been disturbed by the machinery. He had requested that the Council retain the pile of top soil which was in the car park for this purpose. £650 would be held back when paying the final invoice in respect of the work still to be done.

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that one of the chicane entrances had been temporarily closed with a fencing panel because of the mud and to stop it being transferred to the MUGA. This would be removed in due course and tarmac would be put down where the mud was currently. Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that she had a padlock for the MUGA and if the double gates were to be locked, key holders would need to be identified.

FCC Environment would refund £1,305.48 third party funding to the Council as the total grant required from WREN had reduced. A press release had been worked on and would be ready to go out later in the week.

The Clerk now had the WREN claim forms and they would be filled in and sent off once the final invoice had been received from the contractor.

Councillor Mrs K Ford told the Council that those Members who had been to look at the MUGA may have noticed post holes for tennis nets and a decision would need to be made about procuring some nets and their storage. Members thought that perhaps they could be stored by the Uniformed Groups or the Cricket Club when not in use.

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed the Council that she felt incredibly lucky and proud to have been involved in the MUGA project. It had been a long two years and she was pleased that the MUGA had now been officially opened. It had not been an easy journey as there had been opposition to the project and sadly some of it had been from within the Council.

Councillor Mrs K Ford thanked everyone who had been involved in the MUGA project for their contributions and informed that she was privileged to have worked with Councillors A Warrington and DF Holman on the project as they had provided sound advice and guidance. She also thanked the Clerk for her contributions.

Councillor DF Holman also provided the Council with a very positive report on the MUGA opening, informing that it had been a 'great occasion' and that the guests had been extremely supportive of Saughall and had

informed that they also had funding available for other projects that were currently being pursued in the village.

Councillor Mrs D Whitton expressed her dissatisfaction at the lack of young people in attendance at the MUGA opening and her disappointment at the photographs that had been put on Twitter. She was of the view that it had been an exclusive event with dignitaries and Parish Councillors in attendance, rather than an inclusive one. She asked that her comments and the fact that she was not happy be recorded in the Minutes.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar informed that it was unfortunate that some people had been unable to attend the MUGA Opening. Councillor Mrs K Ford reminded Councillor Mrs D Whitton that she had not been in attendance herself at the Opening and that she, as a Parish Councillor, could have issued invitations to those she considered should have been at the opening rather than leaving it to other Members.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports be received;
 - (b) it be noted that the Clerk had arranged insurance cover for the MUGA with Came and Co at a cost of £119:89 and that it would be reviewed in 2015 before the annual insurance payment was made;
 - (c) consideration would be given to whether to purchase tennis nets at the Council's Budget Meeting and consideration be given on how they could be managed at the Council's meeting on 2 February 2015; and
 - (d) the Parish Council's Newsletter be used to encourage parishioners to form Clubs e.g. tennis and use the MUGA facility.
- (d) Future Development of the Park and the Proposal to fund the refurbishment of the Swing Park etc.

RESOLVED:

That this proposal be discussed along with other Council priorities at the Budget Council meeting on 12 January 2015.

- (e) Possible Expansion of the Golden Jubilee Park

The Clerk reported that she had written to a land owner with the Council's agreed offer for the land she owned jointly with another but unfortunately she had not received a response.

Councillor RA Storrar queried how many Members of the Council had walked around the boundaries of the peice of land for which the offer had been made. He was of the view that advice from a land agent could be the appropriate way forward before any purchase was made.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Clerk's report be noted; and

(2) all Members of the Council be invited to walk around the boundaries of the land the Council wishes to purchase at 10:30am on Saturday, 31 January 2015.

11. MORRIS HOMES - PROPOSED PLAY AREA

Councillor Mrs D Whitton informed that the residents still did not want a play area but there was no progress to report yet.

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the road grids were currently under a layer of temporary tarmac on people's drives and it was noted that the kerbs had not been dropped in Willow Hey.

RESOLVED:

That the works being carried out on site will continue to be monitored.

12. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Councillor RA Storrar reported that Fiddlers Lane had dangerous broken edges. There were also drainage issues as water had flowed across the road from the Golden Jubilee Park when the snow, that had fallen on Boxing Day, had melted. An inspection of the drains was required.

RESOLVED:

That the issues identified by Councillor RA Storrar that require the attention of Officers of CWaC be reported to Councillor Brian Crowe.

13. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED:

That a report on youth activities be deferred until Councillor Mrs J Edwards was in attendance at a meeting.

14. VERNON INSTITUTE – TRUSTEES AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VIMC)

It was noted that the VIMC had not met in December 2014.

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the December 2014 Council meeting had not been tweeted as expected. It was noted that this had been because it had been held in the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters and not the Vernon Institute. However, Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that there were some tweets about people's perspectives of that meeting that she would forward to Members.

The Chairman provided the Council with a report on issues she had been involved in during December 2014. This included the following:

- On 18 December a young man had been apprehended in the back garden of 208 Hermitage Road.
- Also, on 18 December someone with a truck had toured the village trying to sell garden benches.
- Problems with tipping in Kingswood Lane.
- A Diary meeting had been arranged and would take place at 6pm on Wednesday, 21 January 2015 to put together a Diary for all 31 organisations in the village.
- Tim Humphrey had asked when the bench in memory of his father which was on order would be put in the Golden Jubilee Park.
- A new village group 'Soup and Pudding Club' was meeting on the second Monday of each month at All Saints Church at a cost of £3 each. Volunteers were running it. The Council was asked to make a donation of £25.
- The post box at the top of Long Lane was inaccessible because of brambles.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Chairman be thanked for her very informative report; and

(2) a donation of £25 be made to the Soup and Pudding Club once it has opened a bank account.

16. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) Parish Council Surgery held Saturday, 29 November 2014

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that no Parish Council Surgery had been held.

(b) Date of Next Parish Council Surgery

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Knox be requested to hold the next Parish Council Surgery between 10 and 10:45am on Saturday, 31 January 2015 outside of the Co-op Stores.

17. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 2 December 2014

Councillor Mrs K Ford drew attention to the payments made to Mr JC Baker. It was noted that he had provided quotes and been commissioned to carry out various work at different times.

Mr Baker had provided materials and carried out tree work at a total cost of £900, fencing work at a total cost of £3,330 and levelling in the car park at a total cost of £540.

Councillor Mrs K Ford had regard to Standing Order No. 75 on Contracts and enquired whether the Clerk had given at least three weeks public notice of it. The Clerk informed that she had not given this notice.

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2014/2015</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Mr JC Baker (Works in Park)	200:00	102840
Broker Network Ltd (MUGA insurance)	119:89	102841
Mr DF Holman (MUGA opening refreshments)	94:02	102842
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	493:32	102843
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	35:00	102844
HM Revenues and Customs	1,204:29	102845
Mr JE Davies (Litter Picking)	63:00	102846
Mrs JE Storrar (Parking at an event (Minute No. 19 refers.))	5:60	102847

(b) Receipts

Cheshire West and Chester Council's New Homes Bonus Grant £10,228.

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the cash to bank reconciliation sheet and the bank statement from 25 October to 24 November 2014 be noted.

18. MEMBERS' TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

No Member Training Requirements were identified.

19. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council received a report on Cheshire West and Chester Council's Partnership Network Event which had been held on Tuesday, 16 December 2014 (am) at Chester Town Hall from Councillors Mrs K Ford, Mrs JE Storrar, RA Storrar and Mrs JM Young.

It was noted that there had been some good public speakers and the future of public services had been under discussion - planning for 2020. It was also noted that as the General Election was in May and this whole matter would become, very much, 'a political football' over the next few months. On the whole, it was agreed that it had been a good event but there had been difficulties experienced in seeing the screen.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

20. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The Clerk had received an email dated 1 January 2015 informing that the Chester Marathon would be held on Sunday, 17 May 2015 from Active Leisure Limited's Race Director, Andy White. It informed that the route would be the same as last year and runners would once again pass through the local area.

The Chester Half Marathon was always a popular and successful local event, raising funds for local and national charities and boosting the local economy. Runners appreciated the support they received from local communities, and residents were thanked for their ongoing help.

The planning and operation of the event would comply with the Health and Safety Executive Event Safety Guide and the Home Office Guidance for the Safety of Small and Sporting Events. To ensure the safety of runners, spectators and members of the public, the race would as usual take place on closed roads. During the road closure diversions would be in place. Roads would only be closed for the minimum period necessary to ensure safety. As small a footprint as possible would be created to minimise disruption to residents and businesses, and to work with local communities to help them to benefit from the event.

The Clerk had also received a consultation on redesigning Podiatry Services in West Cheshire. Views were being gathered between 8 December 2014 and 1 March 2015.

21. CIRCULARS

No circulars had been received.