

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday, 4 July 2016 at the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall.

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey
Councillor Ms M Collins
Councillor Mrs K Ford
Councillor H Jennings
Councillor B Kerr
Councillor Mrs J Knox
Councillor Ms A Manning
Councillor Mrs J O'Malley
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar
Councillor A Warrington
Councillor Mrs JM Young

PCSO Lauren Davies (Part)

144. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor PP Young and Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe.

145. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

146. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following addition, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No. 137 (b) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 9 May 2016 - add the following third paragraph:

The Council agreed that the payments requested above would be made and the Clerk would provide the cheques for signing as appropriate.

147. CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL

Councillor B Kerr had been co-opted onto the Council and had received the Members' Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest Forms which he had completed, signed and returned.

Councillor Kerr's request for a dispensation (which would expire on 2 May 2019) to approve the budget and the annual precept for the parish on the grounds that without Members being granted this dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the consideration of this item of business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business

as to impede the transaction of the business, and the dispensation was in the interests of persons living in the Council's area was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor B Kerr's completed Declaration of Interest Forms be received.

148. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Applications

The observation on the following planning application was agreed and the Clerk was requested to notify Cheshire West and Chester Council - the Planning Authority of it.

(i) 16/01952/FUL

Proposal: Installation of alarm and bell box and removal of satellite dish.

Location: 2 Fruit Farm Cottages, Long Lane, Saughall, Chester.

"No objections."

(b) Planning Decisions

RESOLVED:

That the following planning decision, made by the planning authority, be noted:

(i) 16/01354/FUL

Proposal: Proposed Construction of 3 detached bungalows on a disused kennels site.

Location: Land at Former Little Creek Kennels, Kingswood Lane, Saughall, Cheshire.

"Refusal."

(c) 122 Hermitage Road, Saughall

It was noted that Councillor Brian Crowe had reported to the Clerk that Cheshire West and Chester Council's Enforcement Team was dealing with this issue and that the building may be the subject of a retrospective planning application.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and kept under review.

149 POLICE/HOME WATCH

(a) PCSO's Report

PCSO Lauren Davies presented her monthly report on policing matters and anti-social behaviour in Saughall as follows:

- There had been a few burglaries in and around the local area.
- Males had been seen acting suspiciously in the 2 Mills area and drugs paraphernalia had been found.
- A motor bike had been set alight on A5117.
- The cable running from the Cricket Club to the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters had been cut.
- Youngsters had been hanging about outside of the Co-op Store.
- Travellers had been sighted at the Red Ensign Garage.
- Parked vehicles causing an obstruction.
- Possible fly tipping by the Egerton Arms Public House.
- Cold callers had been operating in the local area.

Councillor H Jennings raised concerns about the possibility of Travellers gaining access to land by the cycle track. He informed that he had reported a loose post to Sustrans. Although, this was just over the border in Wales, Councillor Jennings asked PCSO Davies if the Police Patrol could keep an eye on this because if the fence disappeared Travellers would be able to gain entry.

PCSO Davies informed that she had spoken to Chris Burnham, West Cheshire's Roads Policing Liaison Officer who had agreed to attend a meeting, during normal office hours, about the Community Speed Watch and to help draw up a plan of action for Saughall.

RESOLVED: That

(1) PCSO Lauren Davies be thanked for her report; and

(2) Councillors A Bailey, Mrs JE Storrar and A Warrington be requested to attend the meeting the PCSO was organising with West Cheshire's Roads Policing Liaison Officer.

(b) Operation Shield

There was no report available on this initiative because of the ongoing staffing issues.

(c) Introduction to the new Police and Crime Commissioner – 14 June 2016

Councillor A Bailey had provided a written report on the proceedings of a meeting he and Councillors Mrs JE Storrar and A Warrington had attended at 5pm on Tuesday, 14 June 2016 in the Cathedral Refectory with David Keane, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

It was noted, amongst other things, that Mr Keane's main aim was to 'listen to the views of the Cheshire public to enable him to formulate the new PCC Plan' which would run from April 2017. After this initial consultation a draft Plan would be the subject of further consultation in September 2016. In order to facilitate this process attendees had been asked to complete a questionnaire.

The Council noted, in particular, that Mr Keane was not happy about the number of Police Stations in the County that were no longer operational and intended to close them. He also intended to move officers into public areas e.g. retail premises instead. Mr Keane was fully supportive of the PCSO initiative and would like to increase the numbers so that every parish had a named individual with a base in the local community, preferably the local School.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be thanked for his informative report.

(d) Home Watch

There had been very few reports of incidents.

(e) Saughall Neighbourhood Management Team

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the Summer Play Scheme would commence on Monday, 8 August 2016 and, so far, 22 children were expected to attend. There were only a few places left now.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her report.

150. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 13 June 2016

RESOLVED: That

the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2016/2017</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	511:80	103010
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	59:10	103011
HMRC	1,250:56	103012
Mr JE Davies (Litter Picking)	72:00	103013

(b) Receipts

RESOLVED

That it be noted that no receipts had been received since the last meeting of the Council.

(c) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

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

151. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL (CWaC) – WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Brian Crowe had provided All Saints Parochial Church Council with £2,500 to assist the Willow Bed car park resurfacing scheme. It was proposed that the Council be invoiced for the work required (£9,500) and that it be reimbursed by the Church. The Council could then claim the vat back.

Concerns were raised about the weeds that were being allowed to grow on the kerbs and footpaths in the village.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council agrees that it will pay the invoice for the work required on the Willow Bed car park and then be reimbursed by the Church;
- (2) Councillor Brian Crowe be requested to make representations to the Principal Authority about weed growth in Saughall and ask for the necessary spraying to be carried out; and
- (3) as Councillor Brian Crowe is not in attendance at the meeting his report be deferred for consideration at the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016.

152. THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL POLICY

The Council was informed that Performance Appraisal was a process that allowed employers and employees to discuss an employee's performance in their job over the past year. It also gave them the chance to discuss their targets for the coming year, along with their training needs. The process also allowed for individuals' contributions to be linked to the Council's plans and initiatives. Presently, the Council had no policy on this.

Councillor Ms M Collins provided each Member of the Council with a proposal for a Statement of Particulars, a 2011 Model Contract (NALC), an ACAS Model Appraisal Form, an Appraisal Procedure and Form and NALC's guidance on how to use the 2011 Model Contract of employment.

Councillor Ms Collins proposed that the Clerk to the Council be re-issued with a Statement of Employment Particulars, modernising the current statement if it could be located and if not a new Statement of Employment Particulars be issued using the NALC 2011 Model, this would include the model job description.

Councillor Ms Collins reported that

“The aim of managing performance is to continuously improve the performance of individuals and that of the organisation. It involves making sure that the performance of employees contributes to the goals of their teams and the business as a whole.”

A regular dialogue between line managers and their employees was at the heart of performance management it must always be a two way process.

ACAS recommended that a performance appraisal process should have three elements:

- (1) regular informal meeting where line managers discuss current work and development
- (2) formal interim meeting to discuss progress against performance plan
- (3) annual appraisal review where the work of the year is discussed and feedback given.

Councillor Ms Collins recommended that the Council adopt a performance appraisal process that mirrored this recommendation. Also, as a starting point, an informal meeting should be organised to discuss current work and agree and document objectives so that the process could be initiated.

The appraisal process should be documented and there were many forms available, Councillor Ms Collins informed that she had found two that she considered suitable for purpose and she was happy to complete a further piece of work with the Chairman to develop a document using the best practice and framework from these documents that would be specific to the Parish Council.

Councillor Ms Collins informed that she was a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and would be happy to advise or coach the Chairman and Vice Chairman in terms of the Performance Review process and best practice if they should need it.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals put forward by Councillor Ms M Collins and detailed above be agreed; and
- (2) Councillor Ms M Collins be thanked for all of the work she has carried out, so far.

153. PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE VILLAGE

Councillor A Warrington informed that he had spoken to the Manager of the Co-op Store and the Co-op's Area Manager about there being an accessible defibrillator located at the store and they intended to take this initiative forward.

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that the All Saints C of E Primary School was willing to order the two defibrillators the Council had agreed it would provide for the Vernon Institute and the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters. This was because schools had access to defibrillators at a discounted price. However, before this could be achieved, it was important to establish exactly which model of defibrillator was required at each venue and whether they were to be located inside or outside of the assigned premises. She was also aware that both the Vernon Institute and the Uniformed Groups were keen for the defibrillators to be installed and were concerned that little progress had been made in respect of their procurement.

Councillor Mrs Ford also informed that the Clerk had been concerned that if the defibrillators were locked away the Council would be unable to guarantee that they would always be available to try to save lives because they would not be accessible at all times for the local community. No risk assessment had been carried out. The Clerk had queried that if a defibrillator, in a custom made box, on the wall outside in the porch of a Public House, worked in Little Neston, why should it not work in Saughall? There were just as many vandals in Neston as in Saughall, if not more! The Clerk was concerned that this proposal may not have been thought through properly and that the Police had not been consulted. She had proposed that the Council look at what had been provided in other villages and consider whether there needed to be different approaches at each of the two venues where it was intended to locate a defibrillator.

The Clerk had emphasised that these matters needed proper consideration as they were important as were the associated risks. The Council could not afford to make a mistake with this important initiative and then wish it had procured a different model later on. The Council should be able to set out the reasons for why it had chosen the models it procured and justify them. It was also important to understand what was available and the pros and cons of each to achieve value for money for the Parish Council. It was not enough to state 'Yes we will have two. Tell the Clerk to order them.' The details involved decisions that were not up to the Clerk.

The Council needed to know exactly what was required, from where and agree delivery addresses. The provider(s) must also be agreeable to providing an invoice.

The Clerk also advised that if the Uniformed Groups were aware of alternative providers who could deliver in time for the Summer Play Scheme they should be encouraged to work with the Council by informing Members of their research findings instead of sitting on the side lines putting pressure on the Council with a timeline that may or may not be achievable. This constituted an excellent example of what was wrong and how the conflict in the Council was

spilling out into the local community. The Clerk's view was that the relationship between the two organisations was extremely poor and very unhealthy. Both parties should be urged to work together in partnership towards achieving the outcomes that they both desired.

Councillor A Warrington was also of the view that the Vernon Institute Management Committee and the Uniformed Groups' Committee should be asked for their views on the type of defibrillator to procure. Councillor Ms M Collins informed that the Hand on Heart Charity would be able to offer advice if it was approached. This Charity may also be able to secure discount from certain suppliers.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Vernon Institute Management Committee and the Uniformed Groups' Committee be requested to work together with the Council on this important initiative and provide their views on the defibrillators that can be procured; and

(2) the Hand on Heart Charity be consulted, if necessary on the type/model of defibrillator to procure for each of the two venues where it is intended to locate a defibrillator.

154. CO-OP STORE - PETITION TO BRING BACK THE ORIGINAL LARGE POST BOX

The Council remained concerned that the pillar box located at the Co-op Store on Church Road had been replaced by a smaller inferior type post box, following the shop's recent refit. This had been allowed to happen despite the original pillar box being included in the planning application approved by the Planning Authority.

The Clerk had written to the Post Office to ask for the pillar box to be reinstated in accordance with the planning approval and to arrange a meeting with an appropriate officer to discuss why this had not happened yet. Unfortunately, there had been no response to the request for a meeting.

Councillor H Jennings proposed that the Clerk write again to the Post Office requesting a meeting with Members and also that it provide a copy of the plans as evidence so that Members could attempt to understand why the pillar box could not be put back into its original position.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write again to the Post Office along the lines set out above.

155. MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL IN SAUGHALL

Councillor H Jennings reported that the mobile phone signal was dreadful in the village. He had done what he could but he was now proposing that the Clerk write to the two mobile service providers to ask them to take action to

address the situation. He informed that he would provide her with the contact details etc.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the mobile service providers urging them to take what steps they can to improve the signal in the Saughall area.

156. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

(a) Project to Develop the Park and Provide New Play Equipment – Consultation Update

At the request of the Council, the Clerk had asked the Landscape Architects, Fiona Huyton and Mary Lavery to provide a suggested timescale based on the average timescale and project stages for a project similar to this, as soon as possible, so that the Council could assign its priorities over the coming months.

Consequently, the Landscape Architects informed that they considered that the overall time frame for bringing the Master Plan forward was likely to take between three and five years, subject to availability of funding.

The deadlines for Landfill funding which could be an option to help finance the play improvements were:

- WREN 2016 funding dates: 8 June or 28 September.
- Veolia 2016 funding dates: 27 May or 26 August.

Members noted that the site was within the location boundaries for both funding streams.

The Landscape Architects also reported that the 'Pavilion', cricket pitch, Multi-Use Games Area and ponds were already in place, so in this respect, the Council was already well on the way to achieving the end vision. However, further development of the ponds was considered to be an ongoing process, working with local community groups and organisations to achieve reviewed management objectives.

In terms of the phasing of future works, the Landscape Architects envisaged the following:

Phase 1a (completed by June 2017, subject to funding): Play area, path to ponds, landscape planting to proposed car park area and tree planting. The next likely windows of opportunity for Landfill funding were in September/October, with confirmation of award in December/January. This would involve applications to Veolia and WREN and would require some match funding by the Parish Council and, in the case of WREN, payment of a third party contribution to release any of its funding. There could also be an application to the Woodland Trust in respect of a community woodland planting grant. Scheme production information would be produced after

confirmation of funding, followed by tender invitation, appointment of contractor, pre-start and works on site.

Phase 1b (completed by September 2017, subject to funding): Re-located car park. A planning application may be required due to the change of use from a play area, and this element of the works was likely to require financial input from the Parish Council, unless other funding sources could be found, such as crowd funding. Crowd funding may also be applicable for other areas of the scheme.

These works would then be followed by two further phases in respect of the boules court and also the multi-use track. Funding for the boules court may be possible from existing avenues of green infrastructure funding but the Parish Council may need to investigate alternative funding sources from the likes of the sport's governing body, Sport England, or Lottery for example and it was likely to take a minimum of 12 – 18 months to bring forward from initiation to completion. It was understood that the Parish Council was working with a representative from the local community to bring forward the multi-use track/path, so the Landscape Architects were unable to advise on likely timescales on this element of the scheme. They suggested that the Parish Council checked with the individual where the funding for this element of the project was coming from and what any match funding requirements there were.

Indicative time scales had been given, assuming that the existing 'Pavilion' would be renovated rather than replaced. However, should the Parish Council decide to replace the Pavilion, as originally envisaged, then the Landscape Architects would recommend a review of the timescales, to enable programming of works to ensure Health and Safety of Contractors and the general public on site.

Members questioned the rationale of moving the swing park and noted why this had been proposed e.g. that the children would benefit from all being together in a large area of the Park with their play equipment. This would also be safer as the area proposed was away from the road. It was noted that this proposal was in accordance with the findings of the consultation exercise that had been carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to invite the Landscape Architects to offer dates on which to hold a workshop, as soon as possible, to make any modifications before the Council formally endorses the Master Plan.

(b) Other Funding Sources

RESOLVED:

That this item of business will continue to be included on the agenda for meetings of the Council.

(c) Play Equipment to be Retained

Following receipt of the latest Play Equipment Inspection Report for the Golden Jubilee Park the Council had noted that some of the equipment needed attention and there was a risk associated with not doing so quickly. It had requested the Clerk to ask the Landscape Architects whether it was proposed to retain any of the equipment that required repair as it did not see the point in repairing equipment that would be scrapped very soon afterwards. The Clerk had told the Landscape Architects that she had already asked a company to carry out the repairs necessary to the fixings of the Aerial Runway as it was known that that would be retained.

The Landscape Architects had responded informing that It was worth retaining and refurbishing both sets of swings, as re-use of these items could help to manage the capital budget for play improvements, retaining a traditional play feature, whilst allowing for expenditure on additional items of play equipment, thereby maximising play value.

In respect of the junior multi-play unit, the Landscape Architects suggested that options for refurbishment or replacement be put to the community during the consultation stage.

Other play equipment items would not be considered for retention.

RESOLVED:

That the response from the Landscape Architects be noted.

(d) Proposal to Provide Shower and Changing Facilities

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that she had requested an invitation for herself and Councillor A Warrington to attend the Uniformed Groups' next Committee meeting scheduled for 15 September 2016 to discuss this proposal. They intended to provide a briefing paper which would be presented, in the first instance, to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016 for comment.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed approach be noted.

(e) Proposal from Mr Evans (Go Right Cycling) to assist (by attracting external funding from Sports England) the provision of a new perimeter path around the Park for joint use of pedestrians and cyclists

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be kept on the agenda.

(f) Maintenance

(i) Field Committee

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported on the proceedings of the Field Committee which had taken place on 21 June 2016 and considered a list of work required to make the playground safe and more appealing in accordance with the recent Play Equipment Inspection Report. She highlighted the outstanding safety issues with the Multi-Use Games Area (the bolts on the yellow boards were protruding). The Clerk informed that she would inform the contractor, Carl Mottershead of Leisure Services (Cheshire) Ltd and request that he carry out the work necessary to remedy the situation.

Councillor Mrs Young also informed:

- that the Cricket Club was behind schedule with the grass cutting because of the recent inclement weather.
- she had received quotations for the work required in the swing park (£550 + Vat) and for the work required in the far field as agreed by the Tree Warden (£950 + Vat). The quotation in the sum of £950 + Vat included the removal of the mounds of soil. However, the preference was to leave them in situ but strim them. This variation would be reflected in a revised quotation.

The next meeting of the Field Committee would be held on Wednesday, 6 July 2016 in order to enable Members to obtain quotes for any work required.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report of the Field Committee be received; and

(2) the quotation and revised quotation (reflecting the revised arrangements in relation to the mounds of soil) detailed above be accepted and the work commissioned as soon as practicable.

(ii) 'Safe Places for Local Wildlife' Project'

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that this Project was going ahead as quickly as possible and there had been many donations of tools etc. to assist it.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(iii) Multi-Use Games Area – Weekly Inspections

Mr Alan Dymond of Morral Play Services Ltd had informed that he was able to provide an appropriate half day training session for Members at

a cost of £249:95 + Vat. The Clerk has asked him to supply possible dates for an early evening session.

RESOLVED:

That possible dates on which to hold the requested training session be awaited from Mr Dymond.

(iv) Drainage Work carried out in the Car Park

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the drainage work recently carried out seemed to have remedied the situation in the car park.

RESOLVED:

That the Council will continue to monitor the drainage of the car park.

(v) Arrangements to keep the Golden Jubilee Park Secure

Councillor A Bailey reported that he had received reports of Gypsies and Travellers being in the local area. Therefore, it was important to ensure that the Park was secure at all times so that they could not gain access and set up camp. The field gate had been removed some time ago but in the last month or so he had obtained a quotation to continue the fencing and put in new double gates which he had arranged to be sent to the Clerk. He proposed that this quotation be considered.

RESOLVED:

That the security of the Golden Jubilee Park be included on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016.

157. HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Serious Drainage Issues

The Council was informed of the email response dated 4 May 2016 from Steve Robinson, Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council to the Clerk's letter of 8 April 2016. He had informed as follows:

'Long Lane

As you know the Council has been aware of the flooding issue in Long Lane and have been carrying out extensive investigations on the locations of the drainage system in the area. This has been a long process as it involves a number of landowners and residents that have responsibility for a particular section of ditch or sewer that takes surface water from Long Lane. A restriction was located in the drainage system as it leaves Long Lane at Ashcroft. Work was carried out last week to establish the extent of the problem and to establish what further work was required. It has been established that tree roots have caused damage to the drain and we aim to

remove this tree and replace a short section of the drainage system that is damaged. Work commenced w/c 25 April 2016; meanwhile the team are working on a longer term solution and are reviewing the options to help alleviate the flooding on Long Lane.

Willow Hey

With regard to the flooding issue on the housing development in Willow Hey, our officers have recently been liaising with the developer Morris Homes and also Welsh Water to getting this matter resolved. Officers are due to speak with the landowner to see if we can gain access to the field to carry out some trial holes to see if there are any existing historical drainage connections. Depending on what is found, we may need to consider other more substantive design options.

Please be absolutely assured that we are taking these matters seriously, and that we are working to solve these problems as soon as is practicably possible and my officers will continue to update the Parish Council on progress.'

RESOLVED:

That Mr Robinson's responses be noted and these situations continue to be monitored.

(b) Speeding Traffic

It had been agreed that the PCSO and Members would meet with West Cheshire's Roads Policing Liaison Officer, Chris Burnham to draw up a strategy for Saughall. (Minute No. 49(a) refers.)

It was reported that a resident of Whaley Court had been hit by a wing mirror whilst walking on the path on Hermitage Road. It was also reported that other people had also been struck in this way.

Councillor A Bailey proposed that the Council gather as much evidence together as it can and then go back to the Highways Authority and ask it to take appropriate action. This was a public safety issue that must be pursued and addressed for the people of Saughall.

Councillor H Jennings informed that he would put up some posters asking people who had been hit by wing mirrors at or near the junction of Church Road and Hermitage Road to come forward. An appeal would also be put on Twitter and Facebook.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be included on the agenda for further discussion for the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016.

(c) Parking on Grass Verges and Footpaths

It was reported that there had been little or no improvement. So long as vehicles were not causing an obstruction there was little that could be done when people left them on verges and footpaths.

RESOLVED:

That parking of vehicles on grass verges and footpaths continue to be monitored.

(d) Drop Kerbs

Councillor Mrs J Knox informed that PCSO Lauren Davies was going to undertake a leaflet drop asking motorists not to park across dropped kerbs.

Councillor Ms M Collins requested that the end of Darlington Crescent be included in this leaflet drop.

RESOLVED:

That the situation with parking over drop kerbs continue to be monitored.

(e) A Pedestrian Crossing for Hermitage Road

Cheshire West and Chester Council had carried out an assessment to measure the level of conflict between vehicles and pedestrians based on a count of both. Members considered the results provided by the Principal Authority that had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That this item be no longer be included on agendas for Council meetings.

158. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

(a) Morris Homes Development – Willow Hey
(Minute No. 157(a) refers.)

(b) Former Pear Tree Farm Site

There was no progress to report.

159. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND ALLOTMENTS

(a) Footpath Warden's Report

Councillor A Bailey informed that he was trying to get Cheshire West and Chester Council to trim the footpaths. There were a lot of nettles growing currently. It did not appear to have the resources to carry out this work. Councillor Bailey informed that he had sprayed some of the paths but he could not spray them all as there was approximately ten miles of them.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be thanked for his report.

(b) Safety of Horses and Cyclists on the Old Railway Bridge over the Cycle Track

Councillor H Jennings informed that the embankment sides were the responsibility of Sustrans so a path could be put in using the existing field gate. A response was awaited from Sustrans' Engineers. Any progress would be reported at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor H Jennings be thanked for his report.

(c) Allotments

Councillor A Bailey informed that there was no progress to report in respect of this initiative. He was awaiting a response from the Greyhound Inn.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be thanked for his report.

160. JAPANESE KNOTWOOD

There was no progress to report on this problem.

161. VILLAGE AESTHETICS

(a) Footpath Map Refurbishment

It was reported that Councillor A Bailey was still working on a revised Footpath Map.

(b) A Proposal to Provide More Christmas Lights in 2016

So far no one had come forward offering to help pay for additional Christmas Lights. This item would remain on the agenda in the hope that people may wish to financially assist this project.

(c) Wild Flowers, Hanging Baskets and Flower Tubs

It was agreed that this initiative would not be pursued at the present time and would not appear on future Council agendas.

162. PARISH PLAN AND ACTION LIST

RESOLVED:

That work will not commence on the Parish Plan and Action List until all the work required on the Council's Business Plan has been completed.

163. THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS PLAN

Councillor A Bailey informed that the Council's Business Plan Action Group was in the process of restructuring the Business Plan. It had been working on an Executive Summary and was now working through the Action Plan. It had assigned eight priorities identified by local people.

Once the document was considered 'workable' it would be presented to the Council for approval and would then be lodged on its website.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Bailey be thanked for his report.

164. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

It was reported that the Local Council Awards Scheme Working Group would meet in a couple of weeks' time and a report on progress would be provided for the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the Local Council Award Scheme be included on the agenda for the Council meeting scheduled for 1 August 2016 when the Working Group would be in the position to provide a report.

165. HONARARY FREEMAN OR FREEWOMAN OF THE PARISH

RESOLVED:

That this item of business will not be included on the Council's agenda for the time being.

166. VILLAGE EVENTS

(a) Music in the Park – Saturday, 11 June 2016

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that local groups had benefited from the event by over £1,200. The finance report in respect of this year's event would be presented to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016.

Councillor Mrs Young asked the Council to confirm the status of the Committee who was responsible for making the arrangements for this event each year.

(b) Music in the Park – Saturday, 10 June 2017

Councillor Mrs Young reported that the Music in the Park Committee was proposing, provisionally, to hold the community event next year on Saturday, 10 June 2017. Plans were in hand to encourage the youth of the village to become involved by holding monthly meetings and it was hoped to have some home grown talent providing the entertainment in future.

RESOLVED: That

(1) it be confirmed that the Music in the Park Committee is a Committee of this Council and consequently, has its full support; and

(2) Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her reports.

167. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

(a) Youth Club

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Youth Club was closed at present but it was hoped that it would be able to reopen in September 2016. It was also hoped that attendance would be promoted via the local School.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her report.

(b) Vernon Institute Management Committee

Councillor Mrs J Knox reported that she needed to correct the amount she had reported had been raised at the Table Tennis Quiz last month. They had raised over £800 which had been split 50/50 between the Vernon Institute and the Table Tennis Club.

Councillor Mrs Knox also raised concerns over the cost of the road closure for the recent Rose Queen Parade and the implications it had for the parade when the Christmas Lights were switched on.

Councillor Mrs Knox also informed of the parking issues at the Vernon Institute where staff from Chestnut House Nursery were parking without an arrangement or making any payment.

Finally, Councillor Knox informed that a young band that had played at the Music in the Park event had been invited to play at Hoole Christmas Lights Switch On.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs J Knox be thanked for her report.

168. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) "Hop on Hop Off" Parish Surgery Bus

The Council considered a proposal put forward by Councillor Mrs K Ford and detailed in emails between herself and Keith Anglesea of Arriva for a "Hop on Hop off Parish Surgery on a Bus".

The bus would park at the Doctor's Surgery on a Saturday morning and Councillors would come on board and invite local people to join them. This initiative could promote the bus service, engage with local people and link in with the PCSO.

RESOLVED:

That this initiative be taken forward on the proposed date of Saturday, 23 July 2016 and a report on its proceedings be made to the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 1 August 2016.

169. MEMBERS' TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to book Members on Training Courses as follows:

- Management and Meetings Training Session held at 2pm on Wednesday, 13 July 2016 in Northwich.

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs K Ford and Howard Jennings.

- The Council and the Community on Thursday, 6 October 2016 (Evening) in Middlewich.

Councillors H Jennings and Ms A Manning.

170. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

To note Outside Body meetings coming up and to agree representation:

- NALC's Councillor Horizons (free) event in London on Saturday, 9 July 2016.

The Council noted that NALC had invited Councillor Mrs K Ford to attend and was covering her travel costs.

171. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

The Council noted the content of the following communication that had been received:

- Email dated 8 June 2016 (attached) from Bob Salisbury regarding the Vernon Institute Quiz.

No other communications had been received that could not await the next meeting on Monday, 1 August 2016.

172. CIRCULARS

The Council noted the detail of the following Circular that had been received:

- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Museums, Exhibitions & Events – June – September 2016.