

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday, 1 August 2016 at the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall.

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

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Brian Crowe (Part)
PCSO Lauren Davies (Part)
Mr Dave Glavin, Internal Auditor
PCSO Joanne Pendrey (Part)

173. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ms M Collins and Councillor Mrs J Knox.

174. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

175. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 August 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

176. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Applications

The observations on the following planning applications were agreed and the Clerk was requested to notify Cheshire West and Chester Council - the Planning Authority of them.

(i) 16/02743/FUL

Proposal: Construction of a 40 x 20 outdoor horse riding ménage.
Location: 76 Hermitage Road, Saughall, Chester.

“No objections.”

(ii) 16/02631/FUL

Proposal: Replacement conservatory (removal of existing conservatory).
Location: 1 Shotwick Park, Seahill Road, Saughall, Chester.

“No objections.”

(iii) 16/02631/LBC

Proposal: Replacement conservatory (removal of existing conservatory).
Location: 1 Shotwick Park, Seahill Road, Saughall, Chester.

“No objections.”

(b) Planning Decisions

RESOLVED:

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

(i) 16/01952/LBC

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

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

‘Approval’

(c) 122 Hermitage Road, Saughall

The Enforcement Officer, Keith Sharp had informed the Clerk that he had visited the property and found a temporary structure without foundations. The owners had claimed, therefore, that it did not require planning permission. The owners had been very helpful and had informed that they would like to keep the structure for up to five years. Mr Sharp had requested further information.

Mr Sharp understood that a planning application would be submitted for temporary planning permission to retain the structure for the temporary period. If the owners did not make the application the Enforcement Officer would consider taking formal Enforcement action.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and continue to be kept under review.

(d) Consultation – Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule

The Council was informed that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was a planning charge on new housing and retail development that could be used by Local Authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area.

If CIL was introduced, it would only apply to new housing and retail development that was granted planning permission after CIL was adopted.

Members noted that following consultation on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule earlier this year, Cheshire West and Chester Council had now produced a Draft Charging Schedule for the proposed introduction of CIL. This set out the level of CIL charge which was considered to be viable in different parts of the borough. A Regulation 123 list had also been prepared setting out the potential infrastructure types and projects to be funded through CIL.

Following the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule consultation (January – March 2016) a summary of all comments received and the Council's responses was available to view by following this link: <http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/file/4041692>

Comments had been invited on the Draft Charging Schedule and accompanying documents by 5pm on Friday, 19 August 2016. The accompanying documents included economic evidence supporting the proposed charging level and documents explaining what discretionary relief from the levy would be allowed.

A copy of the draft charging schedule and a statement of the representations procedure had been made available online at consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/other/cil/dcs.

RESOLVED:

That the details of the consultation be noted.

177 POLICE/HOME WATCH

(a) Meeting with Inspector Paul Loughlin about Policing Issues in Saughall

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that she had spoken to Inspector Paul Loughlin, who had responsibilities for beat management for the rural ward, earlier in the day. They had discussed nuisance youth activity in the Golden Jubilee Park. The Inspector had given Councillor Mrs K Ford his contact details and had requested a meeting with Members about Policing in Saughall. The Inspector had also requested that, in future, if Members had staffing concerns they should be directed to him. He had agreed to attend a future Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report and the Inspector's requests be agreed; and

(2) Councillors Mrs K Ford, H Jennings, Ms A Manning, Mrs JE Storrar and Mrs JM Young will represent the Council at a meeting with Inspector Paul Loughlin on the morning of Wednesday, 10 August 2016 at a venue to be agreed.

(b) PCSO's Report

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

- The cricket wicket covers had been damaged. She had spoken to people about it at the Parish Council Surgery on the Bus. Passing Police attention had been arranged.
- There had been incidents on the MUGA and reports received about balls being kicked against the railings.
- There were issues with the alley way by Wain Court. The Police were patrolling when they could.
- Following the parking issues reported on the corner of Vernon Close and by the Sub Station, there had been a leaflet drop. However, it had not made much difference. A vehicle had had an advisory ticket placed on it.
- Sheep had been loose in the village.
- There had been anti-social behaviour on Parkgate Road.
- A young boy had been knocked off his bike. The Police had had a follow up visit.
- There was an issue with a van parking in Parkway.
- There had been three drive offs from the Red Ensign Garage. The number plates had been covered and the Police had advised the Garage that if this was the case in future – they should not release the pumps.
- There had been a road traffic accident on Fiddlers Lane (minor bump).
- The Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been in use on Hermitage Road earlier in the day and there were plans made to use it again. Eight vehicles had been caught going over 30 mph in the time the SID was in use.
- This week was Saughall's 'Street a Week' and numerous things had been planned.

Councillor PP Young informed that tools had been stolen from a car parked at the Vernon Institute. PCSO Davies confirmed that this incident had been reported to the Police.

Councillor A Warrington reported that the sockets that were used for the flag pole (at The Ridings Primary School) were still in situ in Willow Hey and a child could get his/her foot trapped. The Clerk agreed to ask Cheshire West and Chester Council's Area Highways Manager, Kieran Collins to arrange their removal as soon as possible.

There were goal posts on the land at Willow Hey that had been earmarked as a play area. Councillor Brian Crowe agreed to keep PCSO Davies informed about any developments in respect of the ownership and PCSO Davies agreed to speak to Morris Homes.

RESOLVED:

That PCSO Lauren Davies be thanked for her report.

(c) Operation Shield

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

(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 run from Monday, 8 to Friday, 12 August 2016 and 24 children were expected to attend. There would be two paid Leaders.

Activities at the Play Scheme would include:

- Arts and Crafts.
- Baking and decorating cupcakes.
- A Treasure Hut.
- A visit from Chester Zoo.
- Lots of Games.
- Fashion Show.

The income the Team had received for marshalling during the Chester Half Marathon was being used to subsidise the Scheme. Income generated by the Team by looking after the water station was assisting the Junior Cricket.

The Management Team would be marshalling during the Christmas Lights Switch-On scheduled for 7 December 2016 and it was also involved in arranging a Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz to raise funds on 9 December 2016.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her report.

178. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 4 July 2016

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2016/2017</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
University of Chester (Newsletter Printing)	532:00	103014
Mr D Holman (Mileage for Newsletter delivery to Standard)	6:82	103015
NWN Media (Newsletter delivery)	39:19	103016
Cheshire Association of Local Councils	90:00	103017

(Management of Meetings Training) Cheshire Association of Local Councils (Council and Community Training)	60:00	103018
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary)	511:80	103019
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	64:07	103020
Mr JE Davies (Litter Picking)	72:00	103021
Joe Turner (Landscaping Services)	550:00	103022
SUGS (HQ rental)	90:00	103023
Vernon Institute (Small Hall rental)	100:00	103024
Mr H Jennings (Lock for gate)	14:99	103025

(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.

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

Councillor Brian Crowe reported as follows:

Consultation - Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule
(Minute No. 176(d) refers)

Saughall was in the Chester area and therefore, there was no CIL. It did not apply. If Saughall had been included in the rural area it still would not be eligible to receive funding through the CIL. Councillor Crowe agreed to carry out further checks on this matter.

Housing Development - Former Pear Tree Farm Site
(Minute 187(b) refers)

The Pear Tree site was work in progress. The developer was still in talks with the Planning Authority.

Japanese Knotweed
(Minute No. 189 refers.)

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Environmental Health Officers had informed that the Japanese Knotweed had now been treated. They had not been able to find any problems regarding noise and smells at the property in Fiddlers Lane even though local residents had reported them.

Grass Cutting behind Parkway

This matter would be chased up.

Flooding in Long Lane

(Minute No. 186(a) refers.)

The flooding issues on Long Lane would hopefully be resolved once the crops were in.

Flooding on Willow Hey (Morris Homes Development)

Three land owners were involved and one was not being as co-operative as they could be. Cheshire West and Chester Council was well aware of its responsibilities. (The Clerk had written to its Chief Executive Steve Robinson on 8 April 2016 reminding him of them.)

Church Road

Church Road had been assessed and met the criteria for a 20mph speed zone. Work on this would be carried out during 2017.

Roadside Hedges

Some roadside hedges were very overgrown and were obscuring the view of motorists and making it difficult to walk on the footpaths, particularly with prams and pushchairs. They were the land owner's responsibility to maintain and they should be reminded of this fact. The Principal Authority would only get involved as a last resort.

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that Cheshire West and Chester Council had used too much weed killer again when weed spraying. The Clerk would write to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Area Highways Manager, Kieran Collins to complain.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar requested Councillor Crowe to ask Streetscene to de-litter Fiddlers Lane. She informed that there were a number of potholes on the Lane that needed to be filled in and the edges required attention. The Clerk would write to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Area Highways Manager, Kieran Collins requesting that this work be carried out.

Councillor A Warrington was concerned about the state of the hedges that were maintained by Cheshire West and Chester Council, by the old Baptist Cemetery. It was still in use as people had relations in the Cemetery. The hedge had been cut in the spring but needed trimming again as it was very overgrown. The Clerk would write to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Area Highways Manager, Kieran Collins requesting that the hedge be maintained properly.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be noted; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to write to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Area Highways Manager, Kieran Collins asking that he ensures Streetscene takes the necessary action as detailed above.

180. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL'S STAR COUNCIL AWARDS AND COUNCIL OF THE WEEK

It was reported that words of encouragement had been prepared and submitted by Councillor Mrs K Ford in an attempt to encourage other Town and Parish Councils to enter for the Star Council Awards and to put themselves forward to be 'Council of the Week'.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the submission to the National Association of Local Councils be noted.

181. THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL POLICY

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be deferred until the next meeting of the Council when Councillor Ms M Collins will be in attendance.

182. PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE VILLAGE

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the Uniformed Groups had carried out their own research, looking at the various defibrillators available on the market. As a result their preferred defibrillator option was an IPAD SP1 SEMI AUTOMATIC AED that could be ordered from St John Cymru – Wales and that it was a model that would be kept inside. Therefore, it would be located within the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters on Fiddlers Lane. They preferred to keep the defibrillator inside because of concerns about vandalism.

Councillor PP Young informed that the Vernon Institute Management Committee would be happy with the same model of defibrillator and it would also be kept inside the Vernon Institute building on Church Road.

The Clerk raised concerns that the two defibrillators that the Council were proposing to procure for village use would not be accessible to the public at all times. She had seen other defibrillators in the local area e.g. Blacon mounted on outside walls, in secure boxes with instructions on how to open them in an emergency. The Clerk was, particularly, concerned about the risk the Council would be taking if it paid for and located a defibrillator in a Park, were there were a number of sporting facilities and lots of sports and recreational activities going on. If there was to be an emergency and the defibrillator was required it would not be accessible if the Uniformed Groups' Headquarters was not in use. She considered that if the Council took this approach it would

be taking a serious risk that may result in tragedy and consequent reputational damage for the Council.

If the Council was to take such action it could result in someone dying who could have been saved if the defibrillator had not been locked away. The Clerk advised that Members discuss this matter with the Police and carry out a risk assessment before making a decision.

The Clerk informed that she was sufficiently concerned by what the Council was proposing to do that she intended to record her concerns and her advice in the Minutes of the meeting.

Councillor B Kerr was of the view that the Council should identify premises in the village that were accessible to the public for the most hours each day e.g. the local Greyhound Inn or the Co-op Store and make arrangements to locate the defibrillators there.

Councillor Mrs JM Young raised concerns over the possibility of delaying the purchase of the defibrillators when the Council had been told exactly which defibrillators to procure for the premises it had already agreed would house them.

Councillor A Warrington informed he would check whether the Co-op Store still intended to procure its own defibrillator. Members considered that, if a defibrillator was also available at the Co-op Store, the risks the Clerk had highlighted would be diminished.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to procure, as soon as possible, two IPAD SP1 SEMI AUTOMATIC AED defibrillators from St John Cymru – Wales in the sum of £1,900 plus vat (£2,280).

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

The Clerk had received a letter dated 15 July 2016 from Michael Hogg, Public Affairs Manager for the Royal Mail Group. He informed that all possibilities for replacing the post box in front of the Co-op Store had been explored. However, due to underground cables there were no suitable locations.

Mr Hogg went on to say that the new post box on the wall at the Co-op Store was easily accessible and was only a few meters from the site of the original post box. The post box was emptied three times a day. He trusted that residents would be happy with this outcome.

It was noted that the Royal Mail Group's Plant Collection Manager, Jeanette Donovan had also emailed the Clerk and its content was along similar lines.

Members were not happy that this new post box was approximately one foot higher than the original box. Consequently, residents in wheel chairs were unable to reach it and there had been a number of complaints about it.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write back to the Royal Mail Group requesting that it makes arrangements to lower the post box so disabled people can use it, as soon as possible.

184. MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL IN SAUGHALL

Councillor H Jennings reported that he had telephoned Ofcom, the communications regulator, about the poor mobile phone signal and constant loss in service. After extensive discussion it had confirmed that it had no mechanism in place to represent a large group in an area like Saughall, therefore, it was unable to offer assistance.

Members were aware that many villages and areas in Cheshire and other counties too, were mobile phone signal deserts. There were serious difficulties in receiving a signal. It was considered that customers who were resident in such areas should have discounted tariffs or the providers should improve the signal. Consequently, this matter could be the subject of a Notice of Motion from this Council for the Cheshire Association of Local Council's Annual Conference, in the autumn 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley MP (and send copies to Christian Matheson MP, Ofcom and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils) urging her to take appropriate steps to improve the signal in the Saughall area.

185. GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK

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

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Other Funding Sources

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(c) Play Equipment to be retained

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

(d) Proposal to Provide Shower and Changing Facilities

The Council was informed that the Uniformed Groups did not want to discuss this proposal. The Secretary to the Uniformed Groups' Committee had informed Members on 6 July 2016 that it had discussed it at length at a meeting in January 2016 and it had been agreed, unanimously, that it did not wish to pursue this any further.

The Council also noted that the Secretary to the Uniformed Groups' Committee had informed on 7 July 2016 that:

'In the absence of information about the item you have asked us to add to our agenda, despite our request for it on two occasions and our attendance at the Parish Council meeting, we regret that we are unable to include the item on the agenda at our September meeting.'

RESOLVED:

That the situation be noted.

(e) Memory Walk – Saturday, 20 August 2016

The Council noted the content of an email sent to the Clerk by a lady called Becky who asked permission to use the Golden Jubilee Park as the venue for a Memory Walk to raise money for the Alzheimer Society. She informed that she had registered with the Society to organise her own walk as it was something very close to her heart and that of a number of others in the village. She intended that the walk would be open to the public and may turn into a fun day for the whole village, as a community.

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that Saughall Cricket Club was playing a cricket match that afternoon and if the walk was not over by 12 noon there would be conflict.

Members expressed their support for the proposed Memory Walk and considered that the Cricket Club and the organiser of the Memory Walk could work around each other (possibly the Memory Walk could begin earlier than the proposed time of 10am) so that both events could be accommodated in the Golden Jubilee Park on 20 August 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to reply to Becky informing her that permission has been granted for the Memory Walk to be held in the Golden Jubilee Park so long as it is over by 12:30pm to allow the Cricket Club time to put up its nets and side screens before its match in the afternoon.

- (f) 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

Members considered that Paul Evans needed to be involved in the proposed Workshop to be held at 6pm on Monday, 5 September 2016, immediately before the next Council meeting in the Vernon Institute. It was important to discuss the perimeter path and appropriate funding streams available before the Master Plan for the Golden Jubilee Park was finalised.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to invite Mr Evans of Go-Right Cycling to attend the proposed Workshop on Monday, 5 September 2016.

- (g) Maintenance

- (i) Field Inspection Group Meeting

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported on the proceedings of the Field Inspection Group's meeting which had taken place at 9am on 6 July 2016. She informed that:

- The gate in the car park had dropped and required attention.
- The Cricket Club was behind with the grass cutting.
- The goal posts were wobbly.
- The aerial runway needed a new seat. {The Clerk had asked Massey and Harris to carry out the work required and agreed to chase them up again.}
- The posts behind the pond were wobbly.
- The back gate needed attention.
- There was a need for a litter bin by the pond and it was considered that the Co-op may provide the funding to provide one.
- There had been a big disagreement over the front gate.
- The work in the swing park had been completed and the bench had two new slats to make it even.
- It was recommended that the edges were strimmed once a month.
- A new post had been erected at the front entrance and the existing gate re-hung. It had been noted that the gate to land adjoining the Park was constantly being left open by the landowners. Some considered that this could be a threat and the PCSO would contact the landowners about it.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted at this time.

- (ii) Park Security – Field Gates and Fencing

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that Members had carried out the work needed and re-hung the gate for free.

Members were asked to give consideration to whether they wanted the gate locked. Councillor H Jennings had purchased a lock for this purpose and it was agreed that he would be reimbursed the cost of it and would lock the gate open, in the meantime.

It was considered that a height restrictor above the gate could act as a deterrent for Gypsies and Travellers.

RESOLVED:

That some quotations be obtained for a height restrictor for the field gate.

(iii) Multi-Use Games Area

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to chase up the Contractor again (Carl Mottershead of Leisure Services (Cheshire) Ltd) regarding the work require on the Multi-Use Games Area (the bolts on the yellow boards were protruding).

(iv) Rabbits

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported on the rabbit problem in the Golden Jubilee Park and an effective control that could be used.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) an agreement be entered into with a particular contractor at a cost of £10 in order to control the number of rabbits in the Golden Jubilee Park; and
- (2) Councillor Mrs K Ford be requested to liaise with local residents and the Police on the arrangements made and ensure the contractor provides the Clerk with the relevant documentation.

(v) Quotations

There were no quotations to discuss currently.

(vi) 'Safe Places for Local Wildlife' Project

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that this Project was now underway.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(vii) 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 had asked him to supply possible dates for an early evening session. She informed that he had not got back to her yet but that she would remind him.

RESOLVED:

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

(viii) Drainage Work carried out in the Car Park

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the drainage work, carried out earlier in the year, had remedied the situation in the car park.

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be removed from future Council meeting agendas.

186. HIGHWAY ISSUES

(a) Flooding on Long Lane

This matter had been covered during Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) - Ward Councillor's Report. (Minute No. 179 refers.)

(b) Speeding Traffic

Further to Minute No. 157(b) Councillor H Jennings had produced 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.

Councillor A Warrington considered that it may be appropriate to ask Cheshire West and Chester Streetscene to remove the steps in front of the old Post Office.

RESOLVED:

That the evidence gathering be commenced and the Council will await any response to the poster campaign before agreeing its next steps.

(c) Parking on Grass Verges and Footpaths

RESOLVED:

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

(d) Drop Kerbs

RESOLVED:

That motorists parking over drop kerbs is unacceptable and will continue to be monitored.

(e) Transport Meeting

Councillor Mrs K Ford reported that she had attended a confidential meeting during the previous week. Commercial reasons prevented her from discussing its proceedings currently.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

187. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

(a) Morris Homes Development – Willow Hey

This matter had been covered during Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) - Ward Councillor's Report. (Minute No. 179 refers.)

(b) Former Pear Tree Farm Site

This matter had been covered during Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) - Ward Councillor's Report. (Minute No. 179 refers.)

188. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND ALLOTMENTS

(a) Footpath Warden's Report

Councillor A Bailey informed that he had shared a contract with the Clerk under section 30. The purpose was to make all permissive footpaths public rights of way and, therefore, the responsibility of Cheshire West and Chester Council to maintain. Currently, permissive footpaths were the Cheshire County Farms' responsibility to maintain. Councillor Bailey hoped that, by the autumn, all the footpaths in Saughall and Shotwick Park would be designated public rights of way (PROW). If the agreement was signed, they would then require work to bring them up to PROW standard e.g. removal of barbed wire, minimum path width of two meters etc.

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 he had no progress to report.

(c) Allotments

Councillor A Bailey informed that there was no progress to report in respect of this initiative.

189. JAPANESE KNOTWEED

This matter had been covered during Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) - Ward Councillor's Report. (Minute No. 179 refers.)

190. VILLAGE AESTHETICS

(a) Footpath Map Refurbishment

Councillor A Bailey reported that there would be no progress to report on this initiative until there has been progress made with the public footpaths contract etc. (Minute No. 188(a) refers.)

RESOLVED:

That the situation be noted.

(b) More Christmas Lights in 2016?

So far no one had offered to contribute to the cost of additional Christmas Lights. This item would remain on the agenda in the hope that people may wish to financially assist this project that can be match funded by the Council.

(c) Wild Flowers, Hanging Baskets and Flower Tubs

Councillor Ms A Manning reported that she was prepared to put a proposal forward for tubs of flowers.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ms A Manning be requested to put a proposal forward for tubs of flowers at the next meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 5 September 2016.

191. THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS PLAN

RESOLVED:

That this item of business be deferred until the meeting of the Council scheduled for 3 October 2016 to accommodate a major review and rewrite of the Council's Business Plan.

192. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

RESOLVED:

That the Local Council Award Scheme be included on the agenda for the Council meeting scheduled for 5 September 2016 when the Working Group will be in the position to provide a report.

193. VILLAGE EVENTS

(a) 'Music in the Park' 2016 – Accounts

Councillor Mrs JM Young informed that the 2016 'Music in the Park' event had made a £1,000 loss.

RESOLVED:

That the £1,000 loss made on the 2016 'Music in the Park' event be noted.

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

Councillor Mrs Young reported that the Music in the Park Working Group would hold talks with the Saughall Rotary Club on the possibility of arranging a joint event in 2017. There was a proposal to hold a Food Festival in the day time, a musical event in the evening and a Children's Event over the weekend as well.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her report.

(c) Remembrance Sunday – 13 November 2016

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that initial discussions had taken place about the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. This year the Church service would be held at the Methodist Church and there would need to be a blanket road closure that day. Councillor Mrs Ford intended to liaise with the Police on the road closure.

Councillor A Warrington reported that he had received a telephone call from Mrs Bellis, a volunteer with the War Memorial Trust who wanted to carry out a survey of the War Memorial at 10:45am on Thursday, 18 August 2016.

Councillor H Jennings informed that he intended to explore with the relevant Groups, World War One Enactments.

Councillor A Bailey reported that on 11 October 2016 the Vicar at the All Saints Church would be retiring on ill health grounds. It was intended that a new Vicar for the Church would be selected and would take up the position in March/April 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

194. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

(a) Youth Club

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Youth Club was closed at present but would re-open in September 2016. It would be providing an item for the next Parish Council Newsletter to advertise its activities and try to attract attendees.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs JM Young be thanked for her report.

(b) Vernon Institute Management Committee

It was reported that the Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremony would be held on the evening of Wednesday, 7 December 2016. Initial discussions had taken place about the arrangements and it was thought that there may not be a road closure this year.

Councillor H Jennings informed that the Vernon Institute Management Committee was about to purchase a projector and screen to be used on the premises. This would be of particular interest to the Parish Council during its Budget Meeting in January 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received.

195. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

(a) "Hop On Hop Off" Parish Surgery Bus – Saturday, 23 July 2016

Councillor H Jennings reported on the proceedings of the Parish Surgery on an Arriva Bus. It had gone very well on the Arriva Bus with three Members of the Council in attendance. Issues discussed had included:

- Safety issues at the T Junction – Long Lane and the A540.
- Fiddlers Lane - pot holes.
- Long Lane - pot holes and flooding.
- Concerns over and complaints about the availability of appointments at the Doctor's Surgery.
- The poor mobile phone signal.
- Gates open on the field in Hermitage Road at The Ridings junction.
- Grass cutting not carried out properly.

Councillor Mrs K Ford informed that the Doctor's Surgery had introduced a new appointments system where patients could book online. Councillor B

Kerr concurred but informed that you still had to book the appointment at 8am. This presented difficulties as everyone was trying to access the system at the same time.

Members considered other venue options for holding Parish Council Surgeries e.g. Stage Coach Bus and the Churches.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports on proceedings at the Parish Surgery be noted;
- (2) the Clerk be requested to invite Stage Coach to provide a bus on which to hold the next Parish Council Surgery from 10 to 11:30am on Saturday, 27 August 2016 outside the Doctor's Surgery on Church Road; and
- (3) the City Walls Surgery's Practice Manager be requested to revisit the appointments system and provide advice on how to make Doctor's appointments which will then be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

196. MEMBERS' TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

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

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs K Ford and Howard Jennings had attended this event and reported that the venue used for the training was very odd. They had learnt that meetings of Members could be held e.g. constituted as a Working Group but if it was constituted as a Committee, the Clerk had to be in attendance.

When asked what best described their Council, all three Members of this Council had responded with the words 'War and Peace'!

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on the proceedings of the training event be received; and
 - (2) the Field Committee and Music in the Park Committee be referred to as Working Groups in future.
- (b) Training Session coming up

It was noted that the following training session was coming up:

- Chairmanship Advanced – The afternoon of Wednesday, 28 September 2016 in Congleton.
Councillor H Jennings was to attend.

197. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Meetings Held

It was noted that the National Association of Local Council's Councillor Horizons (free) event had been held in London on Saturday, 9 July 2016.

Councillor Mrs K Ford had attended this event and reported that it had gone well. It had been bespoke training. She had discussed her Council career and shared ideas which had been well received.

(b) Meetings Coming Up

Cheshire Association of Local Councils' Chester Area Meeting on Wednesday, 3 August 2016

Councillors A Bailey, Mrs K Ford and A Warrington were to attend.

198. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

No other communications had been received that could not await the next meeting on Monday, 5 September 2016.

199. CIRCULARS

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

- Chester Zoo – Wildlife Champions.

200. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

201. ALL SAINTS CHURCH – WILLOW BED CAR PARK

Further to Minute No. 151 of the last meeting of the Council held on 4 July 2016, the Clerk informed Members that she was unable to implement resolution (1) due to legal reasons.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and the Church's Treasurer be informed.

202. COMPLAINTS ABOUT COUNCILLORS AND THE CLERK

Councillor Mrs K Ford referred to the Members' Code of Conduct and to inappropriate emails which had been circulated too widely in recent times. She reminded Members that there were processes to deal with grievances and unhappiness.

RESOLVED:

That, in future, Members will have regard to the Code of Conduct and behave in a professional manner.

203. NUCLEAR SUBMARINE RADIOACTIVE WASTE

It was reported that the Capenhurst site had been selected by the Department for Defence to store steel containers from redundant vessels.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.