

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday, 2 December 2019 at the Vernon Institute, Church Road, Saughall**

**In attendance:**

- Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)**
- Councillor Mrs K Evans**
- Councillor DF Holman**
- Councillor H Jennings**
- Councillor M Johnson**
- Councillor B Kerr**
- Councillor Mrs R Lowe**
- Councillor Mrs L Rutter**
- Councillor Mrs JE Storrar**
- Councillor A Warrington**
- Councillor Mrs JM Young**
- Councillor PP Young**
- Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Simon Eardley**

1. No apologies for Absence
2. No Declarations of interest
3. A special meeting had been called to discuss the papers sent in relation to the awarding of Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewoman of the Parish of Saughall & Shotwick Park and to make a decision whether to take to the next full council meeting in January 2020.

Alan Bailey opened the meeting referring to the document circulated with the agenda on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Alan gave the history to the "freemen" status and described the procedure that would need to be followed if Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council wanted to exercise their powers and confer the title of Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewoman on a person within the area.

Costs and budgetary provision were outlined and costs for a Freedom Scroll in a frame was outlined at a current cost of £855.

**Comments on the scheme were requested to start the discussion and the following comments were noted:**

Councillor Mrs K Evans: Not in favour of singling anybody out for recognition.

Councillor DF Holman: Very much in favour of recognition at all levels, the pleasure to receive an award is fantastic. Needs to be undertaken with a modicum of restraint, don't think that the titles appropriate for the village.

Councillor H Jennings: Points about divisiveness are well made, nobody has ever asked during Parish Council surgery for any recognition. May look self-indulgent due to it not being a priority for people in the village. Does it need to be a scroll?

Councillor M Johnson: Not in favour, money could be used elsewhere?

Councillor B Kerr: Understand the point that this could be seen as divisive, principle should be considered and share the views about the costs.

Councillor Mrs R Lowe: Agreed with points made already.

Councillor Mrs L Rutter: Felt it was hard to single somebody out, if somebody on the Parish Council was chosen it could be perceived poorly by others.

Councillor Mrs JE Storrar: As presented with the costs, against the idea but would be happy to see people recognised in a modest way.

Councillor A Warrington: Commendable idea but cost feels prohibitive for the certificate and asked could the scroll or certificate be created in house?

Councillor Mrs JM Young: Not in favour of singling people out for recognition.

Councillor PP Young: Good idea, people would be worthy, cost could be brought down but in principle agreed.

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Simon Eardley: Recognition is a good thing in principle, but agreed that cost is high.

Councillor A Bailey thanked all for comments and further asked if the cost was taken out of the equation would this sway anybody's thinking? For the motion to be carried he informed the meeting that it needed to be passed by two thirds of the council. He also went on to say that other villages are undertaking this process and stated that there is no other title that can be used, the name of the award cannot be changed.

After a full discussion the Chairman put the full motion, as circulated, to the Council this was seconded by Councillor P Young.

Councillor Jennings then put an amendment to the motion, that the section of the motion headed 'Cost and Budgetary provisions' be excluded and a cheaper alternative found, seconded by Councillor Kerr.

The Chairman put the amendment first, this was lost, the un-amended motion was then put to the Council, this was also lost.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.40pm

**Date of next ordinary Council meeting:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.