

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUGHALL AND SHOTWICK PARK PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday, 9 March 2020 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 B Kerr  
Councillor Mrs L Rutter  
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
Councillor A Warrington  
Councillor Mrs JM Young  
Councillor PP Young

Prior to the commencement of the meeting **Councillor Mrs JM Young** provided the Council with a short briefing on the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency as she had attended a meeting, earlier in the day, where she had received information. Councillor Mrs Young informed that if anyone was worried that they may have the symptoms of the Coronavirus they must not go to any Medical Centre/Doctor's Surgery. They must telephone 111. They would then be questioned and if it was considered necessary, they would be sent to the Countess of Chester Hospital for the appropriate test.

**160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs R Lowe  
Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Simon Eardley  
Dave Glavin, Internal Auditor  
PCSO Wendy Leason

Unfortunately, Councillor M Johnson had not been informed of the revised date for this meeting and so was not in attendance.

**161. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**162. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That subject to the following amendment the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute No. 157 - Parish Council Surgeries

Resolution (2) replace 4 April with 22 February.

163. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the work she had carried out and the actions she had taken since she had published the agenda for the meeting of the Council scheduled for 2 March 2020 (Postponed to 9 March 2020) on 13 February 2020.

RESOLVED: That

That the contents of the Clerk's report be noted.

164. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL – WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Simon Eardley had sent a written report to the Council and Members were very impressed with the detail of it and with Councillor Eardley's proactive approach. The following matters had been highlighted:

**School Transport**

The Cheshire West and Chester Council's Cabinet had considered the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee into School Transport, particularly in rural areas, at its meeting on 5 February 2020. It had focused ultimately on four recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, namely:

**Recommendation one:**

Consult on the introduction of a new "Frozen Transport Zones" across the Borough which designate areas as being eligible for transport including scenarios which may include both the nearest school and the catchment school where they are different.

**Recommendation two:**

Allow officer discretion to award Home to School Transport where families are equidistant to more than one school by 0.100 miles as calculated by the Council's GIS mapping system and to consider awarding Home to School Transport at stage one appeal where there is no public transport serving the area and there is an existing School Transport arrangement in place.

It was noted that the detailed wording for this recommendation still needed to be finalised and agreed.

**Recommendation three:**

Procure an interactive Transport System whereby parents will be able to see which school/s they would be eligible for transport to in order to make informed preferences for a school place.

**Recommendation four:**

Procure a system with a Common Application Form whereby parents can make one application for a school place which will then be used to determine and notify eligibility for home to school transport.

Councillor Eardley expressed his gratitude to Councillor Mrs JM Young for mustering support for the meeting of the Cabinet, indeed actual remarks had been made in person by Michelle Collins. Councillor Eardley provided the Council with the comments he had submitted which were read out at the meeting by one of his colleagues as he had been unable to be present at the meeting himself.

The Parish Council was informed that the Cabinet had approved three of the four recommendations and agreed to implement them, namely 2, 3 and 4. It agreed that further work would be carried out around recommendation 1 to explore the wider issues, including public transport development. An update would be provided within 12 months.

Councillor Eardley was disappointed that the Cabinet did not wholly implement the recommendations and that there would be a delay of up to 12 months, not least because the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Taskforce was very thorough and clear in the making of all of its recommendations. He had requested to be part of the further group considering these matters, if possible, and was very keen to see any additional position reviewed and hopefully implemented much more quickly than was currently being suggested.

In the meantime, Councillor Eardley had suggested to Councillor Mrs JM Young that an approach be made to the Cabinet Members for Environment (including overall Strategic Transport) and Education to respond to the specific points there were for Saughall around catchment areas and School Admissions Policy. This would continue to be pursued going forward.

**Drainage Issues - Willow Hey**

Councillor Eardley reported that his Council had commissioned the company 'Atkins' to undertake an extensive survey to, hopefully, identify possible solutions for the ongoing issues in this location. The report had now been received and was being digested by officers. (Their comments are listed below.) Councillor Eardley had since responded informing that once the officers had considered the report in detail, it would be a good idea to resume the regular catch-up meeting between Chris Matheson MP and interested parties. He intended to press for this as timely as possible.

'We have received the report from Atkins, and I'm working through it before forwarding on. Now that the weather has calmed down a little, I am hoping to have the time to read and digest the report fully over the next few days.

We haven't received any flooding complaints or concerns from the residents of Willow Hey and Fairholme Close during the recent storms so I am hoping that the temporary measures put in place have worked in terms of protecting the properties from flood risk.'

### **Drainage issues - Hermitage Road**

Councillor Eardley informed that he was assisting residents affected by drainage/flooding issues on Hermitage Road, near the bus stop known as 'The Peg'. The substantial amounts of water running off the neighbouring fields were overwhelming the drain at this point and covering the road when particularly heavy. The ditch that ran alongside the lane leading to two houses in this area was also filling up and then proceeding to flood the (walled) garden of one of the properties. It was quite unacceptable and several suggestions for possible solutions had been made.

The matter had been referred to Maria Roberts, Flood Risk Engineer, for investigation/action. Councillor Eardley hoped to be able to report back positively on this soon.

### **Drainage issues - The Ridings / Thornberry Close**

Councillor Eardley reported that he had been approached by residents in Thornberry Close regarding drainage/flooding matters in that road and was liaising with Cheshire West and Chester Council accordingly around this matter. Fortuitously, he had also met a gentleman who lived on The Ridings during a canvassing session with John Dwyer (the former Police and Crime Commissioner) on Friday, 21 February 2020. The gentleman concerned had taken the opportunity to show him some of the drainage and flooding issues being experienced to the rear of his property.

Councillor Eardley had passed on extensive correspondence that had already taken place on this issue from last October and also attached various photographs he had taken whilst on site, notably the extensively flooded public right of way (which he understood often extended down the whole of the footpath leading to it, over The Ridings footpath and into the road - as well into residential gardens. The footpath showed the signs of the mud etc. left from the flooding.

Whilst appreciating that the heavy rain of late was a significant factor in this situation, Councillor Eardley believed that it could not be solely down to that. He wondered whether the vegetation growth on the boundary of the houses was causing issues (it was certainly causing problems to some garden fences). Comments had also been made about the lack of a ditch (there had been one previously he believed) and perhaps any existing piping in the area not being enough to deal with the volume of water.

This matter now sat with Maria Roberts, the Principal Authority's Flood Risk Engineer, for further investigation/action.

### **Shotwick Park Project**

Councillor Eardley had arranged for Lex Greensill's team to meet with the Cheshire West and Chester Council's Cabinet Members with responsibility for the Environment and Finance on Monday, 23 March 2020 to brief them on the proposals which had now been formally submitted. He continued to have several conversations around this subject with officers, including the Chief Executive and had had a catch-up with Lex and Mike Challinor on Saturday, 29 February 2020. Councillor Eardley was optimistic that progress could be made, and he hoped this could be done in a timely fashion.

### **Long Lane - Road Condition**

Whilst some work has been done to remedy some of the potholes on Long Lane, Councillor Eardley was disappointed that he did not have any further news (as anticipated at the last meeting) from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highways Officers regarding the plan for the overall defective road surface following past contractual works. Councillor Eardley undertook to pursue this again and keep colleagues informed.

### **Pavements in Saughall**

Cheshire West and Chester Council had decided, owing to the extensive Virgin Media activity in the village last year, to postpone planned 'slurry treatment' works to the pavements across the village. Now that Virgin Media had completed their activity, Councillor Eardley had asked the Officer in charge to confirm that the village would be in the plan for the next Financial Year. He had not received an indication either way yet but would keep the Parish Council informed. Councillor Eardley was clear that this work should now be prioritised.

### **Cheshire West and Chester Council Tax**

At the Cheshire West and Chester Council meeting on Thursday, 20 February 2020, the budget and council tax for the forthcoming year had been agreed. Although amendments had been proposed to both the budget and the level of council tax to be set, these had been defeated by the ruling administration. Councillor Eardley had voted against the 3.99% overall council tax increase and felt obliged to also vote against the overall Cheshire West and Chester Council's budget which he did not believe was necessary to set an increase in council tax at this level when alternatives had been possible in the interests of taxpayers. That case he informed ultimately didn't win through!

### **Overgrown Hedge - Long Lane, Saughall**

Councillor Eardley had taken up the matter of the overgrown hedge obscuring a speed limit sign outside 1 Fruit Farm Cottage, Long Lane. The Highways team had written to the owners asking them to cut back their hedge.

## **Walking and Cycling Consultation**

This had been discussed briefly at the last Parish Council meeting. Councillor Eardley had provided the Council with a copy of the submission he had subsequently made as part of this exercise.

## **Pear Tree Farm - Rats**

Concerns had been expressed by Parish Councillors regarding a vermin infestation at this site. Regulatory Services had taken the matter forward and agreed to attend, inspect and bait the offending site as part of the contractual arrangement they had with United Utilities. If this concern remained Members were asked to inform Councillor Eardley who would take the matter up again.

## **Fire Engines - Chester**

A query had been raised at the last meeting of the Parish Council regarding the fire engines in Chester. Councillor Eardley had received the following response:

‘The simple answer to the question is that the situation in Chester is pretty much as it was before the fire station was demolished. There is a temporary fire station at the rear of the site (the word ‘temporary’ doesn’t entirely do it justice as it has been used for over 12 months. It is substantial).

The fire appliance and the specialist aerial ladder platform are both housed in the temporary fire station, so the operational response is not affected. The boat has been moved to Powey Lane for the duration of the build as there was insufficient room to retain it in Chester.’

## **Contact Details Poster**

Councillor Eardley was grateful for the opportunity to be able to have his contact details poster on display within Parish Council noticeboards. On the subject of accessibility and availability, he would be willing to engage in an occasional joint ‘surgery’ with representatives of the Parish Council, if it was considered to be of value.

## **Community Litter Pick - 15 March 2020**

Councillor Eardley was delighted to be working with Saughall Rotary Club and Chester and District Friends of the Earth on a community litter pick event in the village on Sunday, 15 March 2020. Sessions at 10.30am and 1pm would work from the Uniform Groups’ Headquarters as it was hoped to cover the whole village. A Cheshire West and Chester Council produced poster would soon be available to promote the event. All equipment would be provided together with refreshments. Parish Councillors were requested to spread the word and encourage volunteers.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Simon Eardley be thanked for his excellent report.

165. POLICE REPORT

Councillor A Bailey reported that no Police Report had been received. He had seen PCSO Wendy Leason in the village and she had promised to send it to him, but he had still not received it. Councillor Bailey informed that he intended to chase the report up with the PCSO.

Councillor Bailey confirmed that PC Rob Brown would be retiring in April 2020 and that he intended to pay him a visit before he left to present him with a card and token gift, paid for from his Chairman's Allowance.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

166. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

(a) Business

Councillor A Bailey reported that the Working Group had met on Wednesday 4 March 2020. Matters discussed had included the following:

**Auditor Support Training Event**

This had been the second training event attended by Dave Glavin. The Working Group had thanked him for his attendance at these important events which helped him to advise the Council in his capacity of Internal Auditor.

It had been noted by the Working Group that the financial information received on a monthly basis from the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) was exceptional clear and detailed and to be commended. However, it had discussed where the Council could reinforce this already robust financial control system and the following points had been beneficial in these areas:

- The Internal Auditor conducts a half-yearly reconciliation of budget against YTD expenditure with the RFO and Chair prior to being presented to the Council.
- The Internal Auditor should have a Letter of Engagement (included in Minutes of a Council meeting) defining term and expectations.
- All expenditure should have supporting documentation – including Petty Cash. This matter had been included in his previous Reports and was more essential now that paid cheques were not returned.

**{The Council does not have any petty cash!}**

- Any “advance payments” should be signed for until such time as full reconciliation of expenditure was submitted.
- It was proposed that the Chairman sign off the Bank Reconciliation page each month at the meeting.
- Approved Minutes should be signed by the Chair at the bottom of each page, and numbered, in addition to being signed off overall (only the final page was signed at present).
- Financial Regulations should be reviewed every three years – last carried out Oct 2019 but **October 2012** was recorded on the web site.

### **Protocol for marking the death of Senior National Figure**

Although the Council had already approved the policy that it would have a fully stocked box with all necessary items to run a Book of Condolence within the Parish, the Working Group discussed how widely the actual ‘Protocol’ should be circulated as it was deemed to be ‘Confidential’ and not for public distribution.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Working Group’s report be received;
- (2) the recommendations detailed in the Internal Auditor’s report be approved; and
- (3) the Protocol for marking the death of Senior National Figure be kept by the Chairman/ Vice Chairman and Clerk only.

#### (b) Golden Jubilee Park

Councillor Mrs JM Young reported that the Working Group had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

The Council proceeded to discuss the following matters:

#### (i) BMX Track

Alan Dymond, the Project Manager had been requested to provide advice on the condition of the track. He had informed that the track in its current state was safe to use. Mr Dymond had reported that the gaps within the track, especially on the three main central mounds had not visibly widened since his last visit last year. He did not advise closure of the track as he did not believe that the cracks were creating an increased hazard and risk. As the Council was not aware of any incidents due to the cracks, he guessed that they were not creating a hazard to the users

RESOLVED:

That Mr Dymond’s advice be noted.

(ii) CCTV Equipment

It was reported that the Uniformed Groups' permission would need to be sought regarding the siting of the CCTV equipment.

Members considered the draft CCTV Policy prepared by Councillor A Warrington and noted that the equipment would be ordered once it had been agreed

RESOLVED: That

- (1) permission of the Uniformed Groups' be sought regarding the positioning of the CCTV equipment;
- (2) the CCTV Policy be approved with the retention period not to exceed 12 months and an annual review be carried out each year in September; and
- (3) the order for the CCTV equipment be placed with Chester Security Services.

(iii) Six Month Trial Period for Dog Walkers

Concerns were raised about dog fouling in the Park.

RESOLVED:

That the decision to allow dog walking in the Golden Jubilee Park for a six-month trial period be reviewed at the next meeting.

(iv) Litter in the Park

Jack Thomas had complained of a build-up of litter in the Park, but Members had not been able to locate it.

It was reported that Cheshire West and Chester Council's Streetscene Team was not putting the lids of the bins by the Park on properly and litter was escaping.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk be requested to ask Mr Thomas exactly where the litter is so that it can be removed; and
- (2) the Principal Authority be requested to address the problem with the bin lids.

(c) Communications and Marketing

It was noted that the Working Group had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

(d) Highways

Further to Minute No. 151 (d), Councillor B Kerr reported that the Working Group had made progress with the extension of the 30 MPH limit and the replacement of roundels and sought authority to contribute £2,285 (50% of the cost). If agreed, Councillor Kerr was hopeful that the work would be completed by the summer.

The Highways Authority, if the Parish Council agreed would install two vehicle activated signs during the 2020/21 Financial Year on Long Lane and on Hermitage Road, Little Saughall as the speeds recorded during the requested traffic surveys had met Cheshire West and Chester Council's criteria. The other locations (Hermitage Road at the Peg and Seahill Road) could be part funded by the Parish Council in the 2021/22 Financial Year.

Councillor Kerr also informed that Cheshire West and Chester Council had been requested to implement a Traffic Prevention Order to stop parking down Church Road and the Highway Officers wanted to meet to discuss the details

RESOLVED: That

(1) Councillor Kerr be thanked for his progress report;

(2) approval be given to the proposal that this Council will contribute £2,285, 50% of the cost of the extension of the 30 MPH limit (replacement roundels): and

(3) consideration be given to the funding of further vehicle activated signs when the Council sets its 2021/22 Budget.

167. 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) 20/00415/TPO  
Proposal: Rowan (T13) fell and remove dying/diseased tree as in unsafe location next to car park and communal footpath.  
Location: Car Park Area between Flats 50-64 and House 48 Parkway, Saughall.

'No objections.'

- (ii) 20/00120/LBC  
Proposal: Replace existing window with bi-fold door.  
Location: 11 Shotwick Park, Seahill Road Saughall.

'No objections.'

- (iii) 20/00656/FUL  
Proposal: Erection of two dwellings and garages.  
Location: Levens Farm, Parkgate Road, Saughall.

'No objections.'

(b) Planning Decisions

RESOLVED:

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

- (i) 19/04241/FUL  
Proposal: Single storey side extension.  
Location: Astbury Cottage North, Parkgate Road, Saughall.

"Approval."

- (ii) 19/03069/FUL  
Proposal: Change of use of land for the siting of caravans and associated infrastructure work.  
Location: Ash House Farm, Parkgate Road, Saughall.

"Approval."

- (iii) 19/03946/FUL  
Proposal: First floor extension to rear.  
Location: The Welwyns, Kingswood Lane, Saughall.

"Refusal."

(iv) 18/00756/FUL

Proposal: Residential development of 28 dwellings, public open space and associated infrastructure – amendment to application 16/01489/FUL.

Location: Pear Tree Farm, 185 Hermitage Road, Saughall.

“Approval.”

(v) 19/01463/FUL

Proposal: Barn conversion into one dwelling and erection of garage.

Location: Land at Hey House, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall.

“Approval.”

(vi) 19/02399/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of garage and erection of two storey side extension.

Location: 1 Greenway, Saughall.

“Approval.”

(vii) 19/04463/FUL

Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension.

Location: 24 The Ridings, Saughall.

“Approval.”

(c) 17/00394/FUL

Proposal: Erection of two, two storey apartment blocks one with four, one-bedroom apartments and one with two, one bedroom apartments (all affordable units)

Location: Church Road, Saughall

Members requested that the Clerk ask Nick Smith, the Planning Manager at Cheshire West and Chester Council if the Parish Council was entitled to any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies in respect of the above successful Sanctuary Housing Planning Application.

**{Daniel Lockwood, CIL and S106 Monitoring Officer responded informing that this permission had been granted before Cheshire West implemented CIL, so no CIL funds were due from this development.}**

## 168. ACCOUNTS

(a) HSBC UK – Online Customer Information Review

The HSBC Bank had written to the Clerk because it wanted to update and confirm the Council’s details as part of its commitment to combat fraud and

financial crime. Consequently, the bank signatories were asked to add their signature to a form completed by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to return the completed documentation to the bank as soon as possible.

(b) Payments made since the meeting of the Council held on 3 February 2020

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

<u>Financial Year 2019/2020</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>
University of Chester (Website Hosting)	144.00	200238
Mr JE Davies (Litter Picking in February 2020)	131.20	200239
The Vernon Institute (Parish Council Budget Meeting)	15.20	200240
Mrs S Hudspeth (Salary – March 2020)	708.75	200241
Mrs S Hudspeth (Expenses)	50.11	200242
HM Revenue and Customs	701.05	200243
Vernon Institute	60.80	200244
(Hire of Small Hall 6 January to 9 March 2020)		
Mr D Glavin (Mileage – Training Event)	3.30	200245

(c) Receipts

RESOLVED

That it be noted that no receipts have been received.

(d) Cash to Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED:

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

169. SAUGHALL HOUSING SURVEY

Councillor A Bailey informed that Cheshire Community Action had still to provide its final report.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be requested to contact John Heselwood, Policy and Development Manager at Cheshire Community Action to ascertain when the Council can expect to receive his final Housing Survey Report.

170. SAUGHALL MATTERS

(a) VE DAY 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 8 to 10 May 2020

**Marking VE Day Permanently – Planting Five Oak Trees**

It was reported that Councillor M Johnson was having difficulty finding English Oak Trees. It was suggested that Councillor Johnson approach the Tree Warden, Helen Cake-Bread for advice and if she was unable to point him in the right direction, Lex Greensill's Garden Designer may be able to help.

**Itinerary for the Anniversary Weekend**

Councillor Mrs K Evans reported on arrangements being put in place to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day in Saughall. This included details of the service at the War Memorial, the words of the National Toast to the Heroes of World War II, plans for a street party and a sing-a-long and the entertainment that had been booked.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the reports be received; and

(2) Councillor M Johnson be requested to seek advice on where to procure the English Oak Trees in the first instance, from the Tree Warden and then, if necessary, from Lex Greensill's Garden Designer.

(b) Operation London Bridge

Councillor A Bailey reported that the Clerk was putting together a box of items that were needed in order to run a Book of Condolence.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(c) Vernon Institute Clock Tower – LED Lighting Upgrade

Councillor PP Young informed that it was still unclear when the proposed upgrade would be carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

- (d) The Planting of Trees on the Grassed Amenity Areas (Saughall Hey and the Ridings Estate)

Councillor A Bailey reported that this proposal was the subject of a consultation exercise which would be carried out via the Parish Council Newsletter and he would discuss this with Anna Manning, the Newsletter Editor.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

- (e) Possible Saughall Event – Small Family Orientated Non-Animal Circus

The Parish Council had received a request from the owner of the Circus, James Town to accommodate it in the Golden Jubilee Park. Members discussed this and it was

RESOLVED: That

(1) there is no room and no infrastructure in the Golden Jubilee Park to support this request; and

(2) the Clerk be requested to respond to James Town accordingly.

- (f) Closed Graveyard, Hermitage Road, Saughall

Councillor A Bailey informed that he had met with Claire Barlow at Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the dangers and obstructions in the closed graveyard. It was reported that an elderly lady had tripped on the rough ground and discarded branches, on Remembrance Sunday. Fortunately, she had not injured herself as she had not hit the ground. The site needed to be tidied up.

Ms Barlow had a plot map of the graveyard and had agreed to carry out the necessary maintenance works and both a gravestone and a tree survey, during April 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

## 171. PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

- (a) The Last Surgery

Councillors A Warrington and Mrs JM Young had presided over the Parish Surgery that had been held on Saturday, 22 February 2020 (World

Thinking Day) in the Uniformed Group's Headquarters on Fiddlers Lane, Saughall. It was reported that issues raised had included:

- Uneven pavements on Meadows Lane and the upper part of Church Road.
- When there would be an update on the Shotwick Park Re-wilding Project and if a leaflet or public note could be provided for local residents.
- £57 raised from the mile of pennies.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

(b) The Next Surgery

RESOLVED:

That Councillor PP Young be requested to preside at the next Parish Council Surgery to be held on the morning of Saturday, 4 April 2020 outside of the Co-op Store and bring a report on its proceedings to the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, 6 April 2020.

172. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S PARISH CONFERENCE FROM 5.30PM – 9.00PM ON TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2020 AT THE DOUBLE TREE HILTON, CHESTER

Councillors A Bailey and Mrs JE Storrar had attended this event. It had been a good meeting with approximately 95 attendees. It was reported that it had provided an excellent opportunity to network with:

- Roger Jones, Chairman of Mollington Parish Council who has been invited to the next Council meeting on 6 April 2020.
- Roger Goulding, Cheshire West and Chester Council's Team Leader (Green Infrastructure) Total Environment, Place Strategy regarding the Shotwick Park Project.
- Anne-Marie Powell from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Your Streets Team regarding clearing the closed graveyard on Hermitage Road, Saughall.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Community Wardens regarding the 'Pink Poo Campaign' on Facebook.

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Leader, Councillor Louise Gittins (also Vice Chairman of Transport for the North) had been in attendance at the Conference and had talked about a recent consultation exercise called Play Your Part. Councillor Gittins had congratulated everyone who had got involved to make the Borough 'Greener, Fairer and Stronger'.

It had been reported that Cheshire West and Chester Council's priorities for the next four years were:

- (1) Climate Change Emergency
- (2) The Economy
- (3) Support of Children
- (4) Adult Healthcare
- (5) Better Neighbourhoods
- (6) Effective Empowerment

It had been highlighted that Cheshire West and Chester Council has had a 60% funding gap since 2009.

The theme of the Conference had been to celebrate the excellent support and partnership of and with Town and Parish Councils. The response to the digital Council Portal had been well received and meant that all complaints/enquiries were now properly logged and dealt with by the appropriate departments. An App would be launched for Councillors use in the summer and it had been flagged up that there would be more Town and Parish Council involvement in the future. It had also been noted that there would be a new 'Rural Strategy Group' formed across Cheshire during 2021. The possibility of transferring some Cheshire West and Chester Council's assets to town and Parish Councils had also been mentioned.

John Heselwood from Cheshire Community Action had attended the Conference to discuss community led housing projects.

Councillor Pat Kynaston from Neston Town Council had also spoken at the Conference regarding taking over a Cheshire West and Chester Council's asset, Neston Charter Market and the ups and downs of the process. She had been mostly complimentary to the Principal Authority in respect of its support and ongoing management.

RESOLVED:

- (1) Members be thanked for their informative report; and
- (2) the details of 'the Pink Poo Campaign' to be shared on Facebook with those who have been complaining about the amount of dog mess around the village.

#### 173. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

RESOLVED:

That the following communications be noted, and the Clerk be requested to respond as appropriate:

- An email dated 2 March 2020 from Sara Morley asking if the Council wants Avenue Services to cut the grass around the Parish.  
The Council has no budget for this work.
- Cheshire Rural Touring Arts – Spring 2020.