

# **Guilden Sutton Parish Council Newsletter**

**February 2012, no 147**

*A Quality Council promoting democracy and community engagement*

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## **Participatory budgeting.....**

**New to you? It's a public  
bidding process which could  
see you gain a grant towards  
your favourite project in the  
village. Find out more at the  
Council's drop in on  
Tuesday February 28 at  
7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

## Council's budget 2012/13

For 2012/13 the Council has again frozen the total budget at £18,764 with a precept of £16,423.

The precept is equivalent to 49p per week for an average band D parish in the village.

Individual items have varied little from the current year although an allocation of £500 has been made for possible participatory budgeting grants. Figures in brackets are an item no longer included in the budget.

Approved budget 2012/13

<b>Salaries</b>	<b>5725</b>
<b>Post/tp</b>	<b>200</b>
Postage	150
Telephone	50
<b>Clerk's mileage</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Printing</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Stationery/equipment</b>	<b>205</b>
<i>Inc agreed expenses</i>	<i>156</i>
<b>Subscriptions</b>	<b>525</b>
ChALC sub	375
CPRE	30
Ch Community Action	50
Md Ch Ftpth Soc	10
BTCV	0
Cty Playing Fields Assn	20
CLT	40

<b>Administration</b>	<b>1055</b>
Audit fees	225
Clerk's gratuity	185
Room hire	20
Members expenses	125
Member training	500
QPC	(550)
Clerk's qualification	(500)
<b>Grants</b>	<b>1500</b>
St John's PCC	250
Holiday Club grant	200
Events	1000
Footpath Group	50
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Services</b>	<b>7560</b>
Insurance	1050
Parish car park rates	645
Gnds maintenance	1500
Lengthsman	1500
Playing field rent	640
Memorial garden	50
Play Area capital	1000
Bulbs	100
Public seat	150
Web site	50
Shelter cleaning	75
CCTV maintenance	250
Christmas	50
Parish Plan	Met by grant
Participatory budgeting	500
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>944</b>
	<b>18764</b>

The budget is financed as follows:

Precept	16423
VAT recovered	100
Interest	25
Lengthsman grant	w/d
Withdrawn	
Principal authority grant	???
Graveyard grant	250
Reserves	1966
	<b>18764</b>

## Dog fouling

Alas, an all too frequent subject in this newsletter but one which has again been drawn to the Council's attention.

The most recent legal advice available from Cheshire West and Chester Council (which is under review) is that The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 applies to the whole of Chester district. This makes it an offence not to remove, straight away, any faeces deposited by your dog where the Act is in force. It applies to all land open to the air that has public access, whether or not warning signs are displayed. There are exceptions such as roads and adjacent footpaths where the speed limit is over 40mph.

This offence carries a maximum penalty of £1,000. An offender may be given the option of paying a £50 fixed penalty notice within 14 days to avoid prosecution and a subsequent criminal record, if found guilty.

It is important when cleaning up after your dog to dispose of the poop-scoop bag correctly by either using a

dog waste or litter bin or taking it home and placing it, suitably wrapped, in your own refuse bin. Do not dump the bag in a hedge or elsewhere as this is littering which carries the same penalty as dog fouling.

The borough council asks residents to report any incident of dog fouling, or if they see dog fouling taking place.

## Risky manoeuvre

Another recurring topic is the small number of motorists who persist in double parking in the gap in the central reservation at the top of Guilden Sutton Lane.

Those who have experienced this will be only too aware it can hinder views towards traffic approaching over the railway bridge from Vicars Cross where forward visibility of the junction is limited and the speed limit is 70mph.

The Area Highways Manager is considering measures to reduce incidents involving this manoeuvre which will include strengthening the white hatch markings. This is supported by ward councillor Stuart Parker.

The Council has been advised that parking on these markings is an offence.

It continues to press for a 50 mph limit on this stretch of road. p3

## **Village improvements.**

Councillors continue to seek grants and other support for improvements in the village and are pleased to report that work costing more than £2,500 can go ahead thanks to their efforts.

Chester Villages ward members Cllrs Margaret and Stuart Parker have kindly agreed to fund two projects totalling £1,320 from their Members Budgets. The first, at the war memorial, will see the refurbishment of the historic fingerpost sign, which has been repaired by Deva Forge of Hoole Village following a finger dropping off and the repainting of the period 'School Lane' street nameplate.

The second involves a similar refurbishment of the Church Lane fingerpost, the wooden direction sign at the junction of School Lane and Belle Vue Lane and the Council's main noticeboard on Summerfield Road. Local signwriter John Carswell will be carrying out both projects.

In addition, Streetscene officers at the borough council have kindly agreed to provide three 'Guilden Sutton' planters to brighten up our approaches. These will be located at the reservoir on Guilden Sutton Lane, close to the bus stop on Station Lane and in the verge close to the junction of Wicker Lane and Cinder Lane. The verge closer to the A51 was not suitable on safety grounds.

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**Information.** The Council's e mail address is [info@guildensutton.org.uk](mailto:info@guildensutton.org.uk) and its web site is at [www.guildensutton.org.uk](http://www.guildensutton.org.uk) The web site includes a blog of current issues.

### **Future meetings:**

Future meetings of the Council are due to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Mondays 5 March, 2 April, 14 May, 11 June, 16 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December 2012. All meetings include public speaking time and residents are welcome to attend and address the Council. A monthly surgery is also held, normally on the first Saturday, at the Summerfield Road shops at 10am.

### **Contacts**

Councillors Jane Hughes (Chairman) 300863, Imogen Brown 300812, Alan Davis 303022, Danny Fisher 301398, Derek Hughes 300185, Bill Moulton 348473, Trisha Paterson 300307 and Mike Roberts 300684. The Clerk is David Norbury, 1 Orchard Croft, Guilden Sutton, CHESTER, CH3 7SL, 300783.

Mr Brian Lewin 301501 is the Rights of Way Warden. The Parish Tree Wardens are Cllr Brown 300812 and Mr Alan Young, 301558. Cllr Jane Hughes deals with recycling issues. Cllr Moulton 348473 is the Local Bus User Contact. p4