

GUILDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 26 July, 1999.

Chairman: Councillor D Fisher.

Present: Councillors Astbury, Arditti, Armitage, Fisher, Gartland, Hughes, Patten, Whitehouse.

In attendance: City Councillor B J Bailey, City Councillor J R Boughton, Inspector R Ardern, Cheshire Constabulary.

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 21 June, 1999 were proposed by Councillor Gartland, seconded by Councillor Astbury and agreed.

18. Policing matters (ii) Visit by Inspector Ardern. The Chairman extended a welcome to Inspector Ardern. It was agreed this agenda item should be brought forward to enable Inspector Ardern to return to his duties. Inspector Ardern referred to the appointment of a new Divisional Commander and to his belief there would be no change in the commitment to the policing of the rural area. It was noted the Mickle Trafford police house was being used on a more regular basis by rural officers and residents were being encouraged to contact this office if the matter was not serious. PC Pye was to retire shortly and it was intended there should be a smooth handover. It was thought that any problems with youths were not as serious as they had been in the recent past as there had been a reduction in the number of reports. Fifteen telephone calls had been received in the previous six months, one quarter, for comparison, of the total arising in Mickle Trafford. Inspector Ardern provided an overview of crime statistics within the parish during the same period which included four burglaries dwelling, eight burglaries other, three thefts of vehicles, two thefts from vehicles, two incidents of vandalism and five other incidents. He referred to the crime and disorder audit and to the strategy of the Police working in partnership with a wide range of other organisations to deal with problems as they arose. It was noted that the nominated officer, Inspector Clapham, would visit at a future date on request to discuss this initiative.

In response to Councillor Gartland, Inspector Ardern referred to the merger of the Chester and Ellesmere Port and Neston divisions and to the need for the police to respond to budget reductions over a three year period. He commented on the position with respect to drug use and indicated it was intended to hold a further drugs awareness forum.

Inspector Ardern assured Councillor Armitage the Police aimed to match staffing with anticipated requirements and gave details of the numbers of officers available for duty within the Chester division which included 15 officers in the rural area.

He informed Councillor Hughes of the intention of the crime and disorder strategy to reduce problems caused by youths in the rural area.

City Councillor B J Bailey referred to the work of the Community Safety Partnership which it was noted worked towards crime prevention rather than crime solving. City Councillor J R Boughton referred to the retirement of PC Pye and asked to be informed. Inspector Ardern indicated the possibility of rural beats being coterminous with ward boundaries was under consideration.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ardern for his attendance.

2. Planning.

(i) New applications.

99/00701/FUL, extension and alterations at 66 Oaklands for Mr and Mrs J Croft. Councillor Armitage reported. There was no objection to the proposal although concern as to the proximity of the proposed new access to the public highway with the junction with The Vetches. 99/00 032

A further reservation affected the pitch of the roof to the porch and existing garage at first floor level, which it was intended to continue over the extended lounge, which was steeper than the pitch proposed for the new double garage. This would give an awkward detail at the join which needed careful consideration and conditioning. Ideally the Council would wish to see the existing pitched roof to the porch and garage replaced to the same pitch as the main roof and that proposed for the double

garage. This response was agreed.

The Clerk confirmed the applicants had been informed of the Council's proposed response.

99/00724/FUL, first floor extension to dwelling and front porch alterations at The School House, Guilden Sutton Lane for Mr and Mrs Foreman. The Chairman reported there was no objection to the proposal so far as it affected the rear of the property. The alterations to the front porch represented a significant forward extension but this was in keeping and given the absence of a building line was acceptable. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

99/00772/FUL, first floor bedroom extension at 5 Cathcart Green for Mr and Mrs D Potter. Further inquiries would be made by Councillor Whitehouse. It was noted there was a joint wall with no 7 Cathcart Green, the occupiers of which would be consulted.

99/00829/FUL, dining room, family room and bedroom at 17 Oaklands for Mr and Mrs A Rixon. Further enquiries would be made by Councillor Armitage.

(ii) Decision notices.

97/01146/S73, extension of period of time on previous planning permission ref. 6/25443 for erection of circular underground reservoir. The Clerk reported he had obtained a copy of this approval not previously received. It was noted permission was conditioned to include a detailed landscaping scheme, an archaeological watching brief as the site lay within an area where there may be features of archaeological interest, screening, a site survey to establish habitats, species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the nature conservation value of the site, working hours, access arrangements and safeguarding of the Black Poplar identified by the Parish Council. These extensive and helpful conditions were welcomed.

98/00589/FUL, installation of telecommunications radio tower, equipment cabin etc. for Cellnet at Dee Valley water reservoir, Guilden Sutton Lane. It was noted this proposal had been refused as being contrary to policies DENV 77 and DENV 91 of the draft Chester District Local Plan as to visual obtrusiveness and unacceptable impact on visual amenity and on Green Belt grounds. This was welcomed.

99/00499/FUL, amendments to approved barn conversion details, unit 1, The Steadings, Wicker Lane for Kilmorey Estates. It was noted this approval was conditioned to ensure a satisfactory standard of development and satisfactory drainage..

99/00582/FUL, first floor extension over garage for bedroom at 2 The Vetches for Mr and Mrs A Arditti. Approval.

(iii) Current applications.

95/01046/FUL, COU of redundant farm buildings to 8 no dwellings, swimming pool, tennis court, garages, driveway and improvements to the highway at The Byatts, (now The Steadings), Wicker Lane for Kilmorey Estates. With respect to the proposed improvement to Wicker Lane at the entrance to the development, Members' wish for an Oak at this location to be protected and for the hedge line at the original entrance to Highfield to be reinstated was being pursued.

95/01052/FUL, alterations to dwelling and COU to form garden at The Bungalow, Church Lane for Mrs. C Jones. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the proposed improvement to the remaining area of open space adjoining the footway from Church Lane to Fox Cover. This would be pursued following the erection of the permanent fencing to the application site.

98/00445/COU, change of use of land to incorporate a new vehicular access road to segregate car park from yard at Topaz Hair Cosmetics, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

98/00729/FUL, creation of foot/cycleway Mickle Trafford - Dee Marsh junction for Sustrans. Councillor Armitage indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage. See also minute 6 (i) beneath.

98/00989/OUT, demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new dwelling at Woodcote, Wicker Lane for Mr J Cox. The detailed application for the development of the site was awaited.

98/01297/FUL, extension to front elevation at 3 The Hall, Station Lane for Mr and Mrs D McIver, amended application. Councillor Gartland was being afforded a sight of the plans.

98/01353/FUL, dormer bungalow with detached garage for residential - disabled use at Wood Farm for Mr P Gresty. (amended application). The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

99/00086/FUL, demolition of kitchen, new kitchen/diner, replacement of flat roof by pitched at 8 Moorcroft Crescent for Mr and Mrs A Wright.

99/00181/COU, change of use of agricultural land to holiday park for 120 touring caravans and 60 tents at Rose Manor Farm, Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford for Fordent Properties. The decision notice was awaited.

99/00275/FUL, two storey extension at 28 Guilden Sutton Lane for Mr and Mrs Webster. The decision notice was awaited.

99/00499/FUL, amendments to approved barn conversion details, unit 1, The Steadings, Wicker Lane for Kilmorey Estates. No objection had been raised although the attention of the planning authority had been drawn to the continuing need to protect the adjoining public footpath. A Site meeting had been sought in order to provide an overview of the progress of the development and of the amendments to the original proposal. The applicants had been complimented on the high standard of the plans.

99/00641/ADV, free standing signs at Vicars Cross Golf Club. No objection had been raised although the Council's wish for the sign proposed for the golf club boundary at the junction of the A51 and Wicker Lane to be repositioned at a distance 30 metres further from the junction in order to avoid the impression the club could be accessed from Wicker Lane had been indicated to the planning authority. The Clerk reported that a similar response had been made by Christleton Parish Council. It was understood permission would be conditioned to include a requirements for the final positioning of the sign to be agreed with the planning authority. Christleton parish council were being informed of the Council's view.

(iv) General:

(a) Parish Planning Forum. The Clerk reported the City Council had yet to come forward with a date for the intended forum to

deal with the Local Plan although the Area Meeting would wish this to take place prior to the impending public inquiry.

(b) Consultation with property owners. The advice of the Development Control Officer had been sought as to the policy of the planning authority with respect to their consultations with property owners where these were not the occupiers of a property affected by a planning proposal. Where the applicant was not the owner, it was necessary for a certificate to be provided indicating the owner had been informed. In the case of a property affected by a proposal and occupied by a tenant, the owner would be consulted if the occupier made the planning authority aware of the owner and his whereabouts. Otherwise, there would be an assumption that a tenant would refer the consultation or was authorised to make comments.

The Chairman expressed reserve as to the possible detriment to the owner's interests in this situation. Members accepted the planning authority would face a difficulty in tracing the owner in every case but Councillor Hughes believed the Parish Council should include this aspect in their consultation procedures. This was agreed. 99/00 034

(c) planning co-ordination. Members considered a helpful paper prepared by Councillor Patten rehearsing difficulties which could arise with the larger, more complex application sites where consideration of a current application would benefit from access to as much detail as possible relating to the previous planning history. The Council accepted the thrust of the suggestions put forward by Councillor Patten and considered the best means by which this could be achieved, having regard to the fact the definitive files containing all the publicly available documentation relating to a particular site were held by the planning authority and available for inspection.

The Clerk said he was grateful for the impetus for review initiated by Councillor Patten and reminded Members of previous practice. This had included the bundling of papers relating to sites identified by Councillor Patten although these had been placed in storage as successive applications ceased to be active and the need for reference diminished. He suggested, bearing in mind the small numbers involved, that comprehensive files could be established for any future such schemes, which would be available for consultation. Retrospective files could also be created over a period of time for the majority of the sites referred to by Councillor Patten. This was agreed. The Chairman

referred to the value of greater opportunity being taken to scrutinise files held by the planning authority as a contribution towards building a greater knowledge of particular applications. This was noted. Efforts would also be made to try to ensure continuity when allocating applications to Members for consultation.

(v) Strategic Planning.

(a) Chester District Local Plan. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 7 July, 1999, of an acknowledgement of the Council's representations in respect of proposed changes to the draft Local Plan. The Council had also received the minutes of the pre inquiry meeting held on 30 June, 1999.

The Clerk reported he had reviewed recent correspondence and there was a need for the Council to reach decision as to a number of aspects to which a timetable attached. It was agreed the Council would wish to appear at the inquiry and submit further evidence in respect of three sites within the parish to which it was proposed DENV 19 protection would not apply. An accompanied site meeting would be requested in respect of the site identified. It was further agreed the Council would wish to withdraw their objection to the DTR 05 policy relating to a cycle trail along the Longster Trail subject to confirmation this proposal would not proceed. It was noted a response as to participation was required by 31 July, 1999 and further evidence by 1 September, 1999.

(b) Cheshire 2011 draft modifications. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 14 July, 1999, of confirmation that the County Council had adopted the plan in its final form.

(c) Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Dee Estuary Strategy newsletter no 4, February 1999. The Clerk reported the receipt of this informative newsletter which was referred to Councillor Gartland.

3. Parish Car Park.

(i) Business Rates. Advice had been sought from the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils. The County Secretary had confirmed the charge was legal but was seeking anecdotal

advice from other councils through Local Council Review.

4. Leisure Services.

(i) Playing field.

The notice prohibiting the playing of golf and the exercising of dogs was being replaced. Further to the comment by Councillor Hughes at the previous meeting, the grounds maintenance contractor had been thanked for the improvement in the amount of litter on the field.

(ii) Play Area.

(a) Safety inspections. Members had considered the report and risk assessment prepared by RoSPA following an inspection on 21 May, 1999 and the Chairman and Councillor Hughes had made site visits. Following a report by Councillor Hughes and consideration of the recommendations made by the inspector, it was agreed that action would be taken to deal with the projecting bolt thread at the base of the public seat, to secure maintenance of the safety surfacing by the contractor by raking or rotovating and to secure the base of the spring koala bear. It was noted the firework damage to the slide had been reported to be in a satisfactory condition by the City Council.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a satisfactory safety inspection dated 1 June, 1999, from the City Council.

(b) Safety surfacing. The Clerk had obtained details from the North of England Zoological Society as to the supplier of the material used within their play area and was contacting the company concerned. Advice had been sought from David Hayns, Chester City Council, as to the likely grant position. This had revealed that grants for 1999/00 had been allocated and that new bids would be invited for June, 2000.

(c) Nuisance. The current level of nuisance had been considered by Inspector Ardern.

(d) Possible transfer. The possibility of the transfer of responsibility for the play area to the City Council would be raised at a future visit to the Parish by an executive director to discuss the corporate plan. This had again be raised with Mr Jones by the Clerk and a response was awaited.

(e) Public seat. The provision of a further public seat in the play area was revisited. Councillor Hughes reiterated the wish of the Community Association to offer a seat to the parish. This was welcomed and would be incorporated in the proposed improvement referred to beneath.

(f) proposed improvement. The advice of RoSPA had been sought as to the acceptability or otherwise of post and rail boundary fencing. Costings for replacement fencing would be pursued on receipt of this advice. Mrs Beresford had been informed of the Council's decision to proceed with stage one of the intended works at an estimated cost of £10 subject to an additional cost of £50 if equipment hire became necessary which would require separate approval by the Council. Mrs Beresford had been thanked for her interest.

Councillor Hughes inquired as to the possibility of a working party for 7.00pm on Friday 30 July to carry out this work. A sufficiency of Members indicated their availability.

It was noted the Headteacher had arranged for the height of the hedging on the school side of the boundary fencing to be reduced and Mr Spencer would be thanked for this work. Members considered the necessity for retaining internal hedging on the left and side and rear boundaries of the play area which, if removed, would offer increased space and reduce problems of weeding and litter picking. It was agreed this should be pursued at a later stage together with the presently planted area being restored to the same level as the safety surfacing.

Apart from stage one of the proposed improvement, the objective would also be to secure the provision of two public seats in the verge facing the play area which would be planted with cherries as discussed with the City Council in Autumn 1998. A sign prohibiting dogs within the play area would also be sought.

(g) inspection rota. The Clerk had circulated an inspection rota for the play area, playing field and parish car park for the forthcoming 12 month period.

(h) play site management. Councillor Hughes referred to guidelines for the management of play sites. It was noted that most of the requirements were already met by the council.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Parish Paths Partnership. The County Council had been thanked for their support to the parish through the Parish Paths Partnership scheme which had formally ceased on 31 May, 1999 although councils would continue to receive support from the Public Rights of Way Unit and the Countryside Management Service.

(b) Footpath no 2. The Clerk reported he had contacted the dog warden as to the provision of bins on this path in view of persistent fouling. It had been proposed that subject to the Council's agreement, a bin would be provided adjacent to the kissing gate at the hollows. This was agreed. It was noted the Council had been requested to install the necessary fixing post. This would be progressed by the Clerk.

(iv) Pond Life Project. Councillor Gartland reported he had visited the landowner who had advised the Council of a recent incident affecting a pond on his property.

(v) Grounds Maintenance.

The grounds maintenance contractor had been asked to attend to weeds within the play area.

(vi) Public seats. See (iii) above.

5. Public Transport.

(i) Services: general.

(a) Sunday Service to Guilden Sutton. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the future of this service.

(b) Punctuality. Councillor Mrs Astbury, Local Bus User Contact, indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage. The Clerk was ascertaining the position as to the possibility of reproducing a copy of the current timetable in the newsletter.

Councillor Arditti referred to the introduction by the County Council of a new service from Ince to Chester Business Park via Guilden Sutton, Green Lane, Vicars Cross and the Chester

Southerly bypass, providing two peak hour services in the morning and evening peak periods. He had been disappointed as to the lack of timetable information available in connection with this service. The Clerk had obtained a copy of a report indicating the annual subsidy in support of the service was £30,394. This was noted.

Councillor Armitage indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage as to his request to the County Transportation Service to arrange through ticketing by the operator, Chester City Transport, which would enable passengers from Guilden Sutton to transfer to the 10 and 11 services on Green Lane to provide additional services to and from the City Centre.

The Clerk reported he had reproduced the timetable for the service in the newsletter.

(c) Service reductions. City Councillor J R Boughton indicated the replacement of the C39 from Mickle Trafford to Chester via Hoole Road remained a live issue and it was hoped the service would resume in the Autumn. A grant was being sought by a prospective operator to run the service. This was noted.

(d) The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 20 July, 1999 of information relating to the introduction of a new C56 Sunday service from Chester to Wrexham via Waverton and Farndon utilising rural bus service grant. This was noted,

(ii) Bus Shelters. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee. The Clerk reported the receipt of the minutes for the meeting of the committee held on Tuesday 18 May, 1999. It was noted the next meeting of the committee would now be held on Monday 27 September, 1999 at 6.30pm at County Hall.

(iv) Community car scheme and dial a ride service. This City Council report had been considered by Councillor Astbury.

(v) A better role for bus travel. This report dealing with a Government proposal had been considered by Councillor Astbury.

6. Highways.

(i) Major schemes: Chester Deeside Transport System, phase one consultation. The Clerk had collated a substantial bundle of documents which was referred for information to Councillor Armitage.

(ii) Local matters.

(a) A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. Members were noting the number of instances of more than one vehicle seeking to cross at any one time in order to enable an assessment of the scale of the problem.

(b) Road surface, Guilden Sutton Lane. It was noted that a similar egress of water had now been reported on the Belle Vue Lane road bridge which did not carry a water main. Further investigations would be made by the Clerk who would advise the highway authority.

(c) Chevron signs, The Byatts. The fixing of the requested chevron signs was awaited.

(d) fencing, Cinder Lane. A response was awaited from the landowner as to the deteriorating condition of the fencing adjoining the fieldside footway in Cinder Lane.

(e) cobbles, Church Lane. It was not thought the promised reinstatement of the cobbles adjoining the churchyard had yet taken place.

(f) traffic conditions, Wicker Lane. City Councillor J R Boughton indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the traffic count on Wicker Lane.

(g) Highways and Transportation Local Committee for Chester. The Clerk reported the receipt of the agenda for the meeting of this committee which had taken place on 15 July, 1999.

(h) The deterioration in the condition of the carriageway markings in Wicker Lane between Cinder Lane the School Lane was being brought to the attention of the District Engineer.

(i) School Lane closure. The Clerk visited the history of this proposal by Transco, which had arisen since the previous meeting, to replace a pitted ductile iron main on Guilden Sutton

Lane and School Lane between parish playing field and the foot of Porters Hill. Advance signs warning of delays after 26 July had been displayed without the knowledge of the District Engineer who had been unaware of the proposal due to the withdrawal of Transco from the existing consultation mechanism. It had been understood that frontagers had been informed although inquiries by the Clerk had indicated this was not necessarily the case. Subsequently the intended single carriageway method of working controlled by signals had been found to be inappropriate for Porters Hill where a six week closure had now been requested from 6 September, 1999 although it was hoped the works would be concluded within two weeks. The views of the Council on this closure had been sought by the District Engineer by letter dated 21 July, 1999. The lack of consultation by Transco had been vigorously pursued by City Councillor J R Boughton at the Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee for Chester on 15 July, 1999. It was agreed that no objection would be raised to the closure subject to frontagers being informed and the Council being advised as to hours of working and alternative arrangements for commercial, contract and school bus services operating via School Lane/Wicker Lane/Station Lane. Members would wish to be consulted on the diversion signing scheme and the possibility of signal controlled traffic during non working hours would be raised. The lack of consultation by Transco would be deprecated and a response would be sought. The matter would also be raised with Christine Russell MP.

(j) Belle Vue Lane. The Clerk reported that Hare Lane and Belle Vue Lane were to be surfaced dressed in the near future. He had queried the extent of the work proposed in Belle Vue Lane, indicated by the markings and had been advised by the District Engineer that these would cover the whole length of the lane from Hare Lane to The Orchards including the section previously identified as particularly likely to benefit from treatment. This was welcomed.

(k) potholing, slip road A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk reported he had drawn the potholing at this junction to the attention of the District Engineer. The position would be monitored although there was difficulty in carrying out remedials whilst maintaining access for traffic. 99/00 038

(iii) Street lighting. A faulty light on Oaklands would be brought to the attention of the lighting authority.

(iv) Strategic matters.

Cheshire Local Transport Plan: integrated transport strategy for Chester. The Clerk had collated a substantial bundle of documents which was referred for information to Councillor Armitage.

7. Finance:

(i) income.

Bank of Scotland

interest (June) £ 39.31

Wreath donations £ 13.50

Wilding Estates

Best Kept Village donation £ 50.00

(ii) payments.

Chester Standard

newsletter distribution £ 15.28 (including £2.28 VAT)

CATPCs

training seminar £ 10.00

Devaprint

newsletters 58, 59 £ 40.00

Clerk's salary

1.4.99 - 30.6.99 £ 575.00

Chester City Council

2nd half year rates £ 306.00

Clerk's photocopies

(June)

421 @ 5p £ 21.05

Councillor M G Gartland

shrubs (reimbursement) £ 9.40

Proposed by Councillor Gartland

seconded by Councillor Patten

and agreed.

(iii) balances

Bank of Scotland £14,936.55

(iv) Audit.

(a) Internal. The accounts for the period 1.10.98 - 31.12.98 and 1.1.99 - 31.3.99 had been passed by the Clerk to Councillor Hughes for internal audit. Councillor Hughes reported the paperkeeping to be exemplary and submitted a report detailing matters which should be attended to in order to assist the external auditor. This was noted and would be progressed by the Clerk.

(b) External. A response was awaited from the Auditor as to the apportionment of the hours indicated to the work carried out and clarification of the basis of the interim account for the 1997/98 audit. This was being pursued.

The Clerk reminded Members that the 1998/99 audit would commence on 2 August, 1999 with the Clerk or Chairman to attend on 20 August, 1999 at 2.00pm. The Chairman regretted he would be unable to attend.

The Clerk referred to the audit papers previously circulated to each Member and said he was pleased to report that the assistance given by the auditor in the previous year had enabled the accounts to be brought to their present point with greater

expedition. It had not yet been possible to reach a balance, although further work would be done, although the greater confidence which now attached to the figures should enable matters to be reconciled with greater ease. It was agreed the receipts and payments for 1998/99 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as required by the Auditor.

It was agreed that in order to offer greater flexibility, the sum of £1,000 previously earmarked on a provisional basis for the millennium should be vired to a general capital fund.

A copy of the results of the Chester City Council survey of audit fees was being provided to Councillor Armitage.

(v) VAT. The Clerk reported the VAT refund due for 1998/99 amounted to £246.41. This was noted.

8. Access to school.

(a) adjoining 17 Hill Top Road. It was noted that as requested additional safety fencing had installed by the City Council following the completion of the improvement work to the verge adjoining the safety barrier. City Councillor J R Boughton reported the verge would be re-seeded and the whole area cut in due course.

(b) rear of Village Hall. The City Council were being requested to progress the planting of cherries to the rear of the Village Hall opposite the play area as previously discussed together with the request from Councillor Hughes that the hedge to the rear of the Village Hall should be maintained prior to any planting.

9. Environment services:

(i) amenity cleansing. The Clerk reported on the purchase of the bag holders suggested by Henderson Horticultural Services. It was noted that the supplier's discount would enable 10 holders to be purchased for £64, compared with the suggested seven holders for £52, the cost of which would be offset by the generous donation from Wilding Estates. It was agreed that 10 holders should be purchased.

(ii) dog fouling. (a) Heath Bank. Councillor Mrs Astbury indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Church Lane. It was noted that appropriate advisory notices had been

displayed. (c) Footpath no 2. See minute 4 (iii) (b) above.

(iii) lengthsman. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) sewers. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

10. Trees and hedges.

(i) access adjoining Hill Top Road. See minute 8 above.

(ii) Cheshire Landscape Trust. Councillor Gartland indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Oaklands, basal growth. The need for basal growth on trees in the verge of School Lane, which obstructed the view of emerging traffic from Oaklands, to be trimmed had been referred to the District Engineer.

(iv) Boundary hedge. The Clerk reported the complainant in respect of the re-planting of a boundary hedge within the parish was receiving an appropriate response. 99/00 040

11. Cheshire Association of Parish Councils.

(i) Local Council Review July, 1999. Received and circulated.

(ii) Clerks and Councils Direct, July 1999. Received and noted.

(iii) NALC constitution. The Clerk reported further on details of the proposed new NALC constitution under which individual councils would cease to be members of the national association by drawing attention to remarks by the retiring Chief Executive in the July issue of Local Council Review. Councillor Armitage believed it was not clear that at present individual councils were members of the national association although he accepted that in some quarters the proposed changes had given rise to comment.

(iv) Chairman, Chester Area Meeting.

The Clerk reported that at the annual meeting of the Chester Area Meeting Councillor Armitage had been re-elected as chairman with himself as honorary secretary. Members were

pleased to welcome these appointments.

(v) Newsletter no 70. Received and circulated.

(vi) A note from the County Secretary seeking views as to the need for rural housing within the parish was received and noted.

(vii) Annual meeting. It was noted that motions for the annual meeting should reach the County Office by 24 August, 1999. It was agreed the Council's delegates would be confirmed at the September meeting.

(viii) Local Council's Charter. A note from the County Secretary seeking views as to the operation of the charter was received and noted. It was further noted that parishes were to be invited to attend site meetings of the Environment Planning and Operations sub committee. This was welcomed.

(ix) Contact with the County Office. A note from the County Secretary indicating that contact should normally be through the Clerk, Chairman or a named individual, was received and noted.

(x) Local Council Administration. It was agreed that the current issue of this handbook would be purchased.

(xi) Cheltenham and Gloucester College of HE. Details of courses available to parish councils were received and noted,

12. Chester City Council.

(i) Talking Computers Roadshow. The Clerk reported he had visited this roadshow on Monday 5 July, 1999 and was pleased to be able to say the staff had received an encouraging number of visitors.

(ii) Local Panels. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 16 July, 1999 of an invitation to the Council to be represented at a local panel meeting to be held at Duddon War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on 9 September, 1999. It was agreed that two representatives would attend, to be confirmed at the September meeting.

(iii) Council meeting 12 July 1999. The agenda and reports for this meeting were received and referred to Councillor Gartland.

(iv) economic development statement 1999/2000. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 29 June, 1999, of this consultation draft which was noted.

(v) Visit by Executive Director. See minute 4 (ii) (d) above.

(vi) Past Uncovered Summer 1999. Copies of this newsletter were received and noted.

(vii) New Ways of Working. The Clerk reported the receipt of this information pack detailing the new ways of working adopted by the City Council.

13. Cheshire County Council.

(i) Annual conference. The Clerk would circulate the notes of this conference to Councillors Armitage and Gartland.

(ii) Mobile library hours, reduction. A meeting had been requested with the Divisional Librarian to review the position. The Clerk reported the request had been provisionally accepted for Monday 2 August 1999 although figures would be produced to show there had been no issues between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on the two visits in June and only three between 5.00pm and 6.00pm. In view of this, it was agreed a meeting was not necessary although confirmation of the figures would be requested in writing together with an indication of the views expressed by borrowers when advised of the reduction in hours.

(ii) The Clerk revisited the Best Value Performance Plan, received by letter dated 16 June, 1999 and reminded Members of the opportunity to comment by 31 October, 1999.

(iii) Chester Matters no 8. Received and noted.

(iv) Cheshire Environment no 59 June 1999. Received and noted.

14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Cheshire Best Kept Village competition. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

15. CPRE.

- (i) Traffic matters. The Council's response to this survey on traffic matters had been forwarded.
- (ii) Cheshire branch newsletter Summer 1999. Received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.
- (iii) County Planning Group. Details of this new group were received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.
- (iv) Charter for country lanes. A copy of this charter was received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.
- (v) Household growth. A note on household growth was received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.
- (v) Campaign. Details of a campaign in support of CPRE were received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.

16. Health.

Nothing to report.

17. Policing matters.

(i) Nuisance.

This had been dealt with by Inspector Ardern.

(ii) Chester Police Forum. The Clerk reminded Members that the next meeting would now be held on Monday 2 August 1999 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

(iii) Cheshire Police Authority/Cheshire Constabulary annual report 1998/99.

The Clerk reported he had obtained a draft copy of these reports which were referred to Councillor Patten.

18. Newsletter.

The Clerk circulated copies of the most recent newsletter and reported a further issue would appear before the end of the recess.

19. Millennium Celebrations.

(i) Parish. An appropriate response was being made by the Chairman to the Headteacher in respect of the entry submitted by pupils to mark the millennium within the village.

(ii) City Council.

(a) Millennium Projects and Village Enhancements. City Councillor J R Boughton had advised the Council that regrettably funding would not be available from the City Council during 1999/2000 to enable the intended refurbishment of the fingerposts in the parish to proceed. City Councillor Boughton would be thanked for his efforts.

(b) Update. An update pack was received and referred to Councillor Armitage.

(iii) National.

The Clerk indicated there was nothing to report.

20. Memorial Garden.

Councillor Gartland reported the planting scheme which had been prepared utilising container grown shrubs had now been completed. The adjoining occupier would be thanked for his kind offer to tend the planting.

21. Bulb planting.

This would be revisited during the Autumn.

22. Periodic Electoral Review.

(i) Chester. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to progress with the proposed meeting between Christleton, Littleton and Guilden Sutton to discuss boundary issues.

(ii) Cheshire. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

23. Web site.

The Chairman reported further. An interim site had been established at "guildensuttonpc.freeseve.co.uk". The Chairman was thanked for his assistance in this matter.

24. Involvement of youth.

An appropriate note inviting youth groups to request the attendance of Parish Council representatives would appear in a future issue of the newsletter.

25. Parking: Arrowcroft Road.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

26. Primary school.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

27. Electricity works, Heath Bank.

Further to the complaint by Councillor Astbury, the Clerk reported that the requested reinstatement had been carried out extremely promptly following a call to the company.

28. Chester CVS/Chester Volunteer Bureau newsletter no 13, summer 1999.

Received and noted.

29. Chester Volunteer Bureau news supplement no 7, summer 1999.

Received and noted.

30. The late Mr David Hughes.

Councillor Astbury reported she had attended the funeral on Friday 23 July, 1999 of the funeral at St. John's Church of the late Mr David Hughes, father of former Councillor Mr Peter W Hughes. Councillor Astbury was thanked for her attendance.

31. Inter village quiz.

Details of the 1999 inter village quiz to be held at Tattenhall on 18 September, 1999 were received and would be referred to Mr Christmas.

MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Armitage, seconded by Councillor Hughes and agreed that the press and public should be excluded for the discussion of the following items on the grounds of the likely disclosure of exempt information.

32. Occupancy of property, planning condition.

The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

33. Enforcement action - industrial premises.

The Clerk reported that a further response had been received from an adjoining occupier, by letter dated 19 July, 1999, enclosing a reply from the Environment Agency detailing action they had requested as a result of an inspection following an incident on 2 June, 1999. It was noted a further inspection was to be carried out in September. A copy of the letter would be provided to Councillor Gartland.

34. Sale of Land

The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

35. Provision of recreational facilities.

The Clerk reported he had responded with respect to the proposed meeting to discuss the possible development of facilities within the parish which would also be available for community use. A reply was awaited. The relevant planning policies had been ascertained from the planning authority.

36. Personal injuries.

A Member understood an incident had arisen involving personal injury. Further details would be sought and the Council's insurers

informed. Members were also aware of personal injuries allegedly arising when crossing private land. These would be brought to the attention of the owner.

37. Meadow Farm.

It was noted that Meadow Farm was to be auctioned in the near future. Members visited the possibility of acquiring an appropriate area for use as a parish playing field. Details would be sought from the agents and the grant position investigated by the Clerk.