

## GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 7 February, 2000.

Chairman: Councillor D Fisher.

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

In attendance: City Councillor B J Bailey, City Councillor J R Boughton.

### 1. Minutes.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 10 January 2000 were proposed by Councillor Gartland, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Astbury and agreed.

### 2. Planning.

#### (i) New applications.

00/00123/COU, cross country course and change of use of barns at Milton Brook Lodge, Barrow Lane, Great Barrow for Mr. R Allwood. The Council had been consulted as the application site, but not the proposal, extended into Guilden Sutton Parish. It was agreed no observations should be made.

#### (ii) Decision notices.

99/01225/FUL, extension to provide granny flat and alterations to front elevation to provide pitched roof over porch/study at 48 Oaklands for Mr and Mrs West. Councillor Armitage. Approval. It was noted the approval was conditioned to the occupation and enjoyment of the main house.

99/01258/FUL, alteration (replacement windows) at 14 Middlecroft for Mr and Mrs R Beith. Councillor Whitehouse. Approval.

99/01336/FUL use of granny flat as letting accommodation at The Lodge, School Lane for Mr and Mrs B Blake. The Chairman.

Refusal. It was noted the proposal had been refused as being detrimental to highway safety.

99/01355/FUL, first floor bedroom extension at Croft Cottage, Church Lane for Mr A Paterson. Councillor Hughes. Approval. See also beneath.

(iii) Current applications.

95/01046/FUL, COU of redundant farm buildings to 8 no dwellings, tennis court, garages, driveway and improvements to the highway at The Byatts, (now The Steadings), Wicker Lane for Kilmorey Estates. Councillors Armitage and Arditti had attended the site meeting on Saturday 29 January, 2000 to discuss amendments to the original proposals. Councillor Arditti believed the development to be very impressive in keeping with the style of the original agricultural buildings. It was noted that in line with best practice, the architect had submitted all amendments and modifications sought by individual purchasers. Councillor Mrs. Patten regretted the more attractive aspects of the original proposal had not proceeded. The Chairman's wish that the architect should be thanked for the opportunity to visit was agreed.

95/01052/FUL, alterations to dwelling and COU to form garden at The Bungalow, Church Lane for Mrs. C Jones. The proposed improvement to the remaining area of open space adjoining the footway from Church Lane to Fox Cover was to be pursued following the erection of the permanent fencing to the application site.

97/01146/S73, extension of period of time on previous planning permission ref. 6/25443 for erection of circular underground reservoir.

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 enforcement officer had been requested to make a further visit given the time which had elapsed since the previous visit in February, 1999.

98/00589/FUL, installation of telecommunications radio tower, equipment cabin etc. for Cellnet at Dee Valley water reservoir, Guilden Sutton Lane.

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

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.

99/00701/FUL, extension and alterations at 66 Oaklands for Mr and Mrs J Croft.

99/00772/FUL, first floor bedroom extension at 5 Cathcart Green for Mr and Mrs D Potter.

99/00829/FUL, dining room, family room and bedroom at 17 Oaklands for Mr and Mrs A Rixon.

99/00900/FUL, two storey side extension at 5 Woodcroft for Mr and Mrs Rahmani-Torkaman.

99/00958/FUL approval of reserved matters for erection of bungalow and detached garage at Woodcote, Wicker Lane for Mr and Mrs J Dernie.

99/01031/FUL extension for disabled use at Wood Farm for Mr P Gresty.

99/01128/FUL, extension to general purpose stockyard at Meadow Lea Farm, Station Lane, Mickle Trafford for Graham's Agricultural. A response had been received from the planning authority as to Members' belief that the present and any future applications should have the benefit of a traffic impact statement together with this Council's concerns with respect to the effect upon the Parish of this and the existing agricultural contracting operation on Wicker Lane.

The Development Control Manager had no objection to so consulting the Council and had rehearsed the appropriate Local Plan policy together with the position of the highway authority, which had been approached separately by this Council, as to traffic impact assessments. An offer to visit the Council would be accepted.

It was noted a goods vehicle operator's licence for two vehicles was being sought by the applicant. The Chairman reported he had been approached by an adjoining occupier seeking assistance. This would be referred to the Clerk of Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council which authority would be supported in any concerns they may wish to raise. The Clerk would forward a copy of the papers relating to a relevant previous application within Guilden Sutton.

99/01337/COU, storage of 50 no caravans (partly retrospective) at Bankfield Farm, Plemstall Lane for Mr. A Bailey. The Clerk had obtained a copy of the planning officer's report which recommended approval.

99/01355/FUL, first floor bedroom extension at Croft Cottage, Church Lane for Mr A Paterson. An explanation had been sought from the highway authority as to the requirement for the provision of an adequate number of off street parking spaces. Councillor Hughes referred to the Council's decision in respect of the application. The subsequent effect upon the planning process should the Council formally agree to object to a proposal, as distinct from expressing concern, was rehearsed and would be revisited in consideration of future applications where Members might feel the proposal should be referred to the Planning Board for determination.

Alterations and extensions to unit 3, Wilding Business Estate, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Council had again thanked the company for the consultation and whilst welcoming the continuing improvement to the estate had expressed their reserve as to the adequacy of the parking provision and traffic management arrangements.

99/01458/FUL, erection of conservatory and conversion of flat roof to pitched at Tall Trees (formerly The New House), Church Lane for Mr. D Bennion. No objection had been raised subject to the proposed pitched roof being in keeping.

Proposed new kiln, Castle Cement, Padeswood, Flintshire. A balanced response had been made with the Council minded to object pending assurances as to the methods of control and monitoring of discharges to atmosphere.

City Councillor B J Bailey welcomed the Council's response and suggested there was no reason to believe the operation of the new kiln would give rise to any hazard. He referred to on going inquiries being made as to emissions from kilns elsewhere using the same type of fuel.

Councillor Armitage pointed out the Environment Agency had not yet given their approval to the method of operation of the kiln.

(iv) planning: general. Following the concern expressed by the Chairman at the previous meeting as to the increasing likelihood of a greater number of non contentious proposals which were within policy being determined by officers under delegated powers, City Councillor J R Boughton stressed he had not wished to imply there would be any change in the right of Parishes to make representations. This was welcomed.

(v) Strategic Planning.

(a) Chester District Local Plan. Issues surrounding an area of land proposed for inclusion within policy DENV 19 had been referred to the Development Control Manager in view of the fact the Inspector had queried the position should they remain unresolved. Inquiries were being made as to the process of discovery relating to representations made by other parties in relation to proposals in Guilden Sutton.

(b) Cheshire 2011. A copy of the explanatory memorandum and written statement had been received and was referred to Councillor Armitage.

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

(d) Dee Estuary Strategy newsletters. The Clerk had obtained a set of issues for Councillor Gartland and sufficient copies for each Member of the most recent issues.

3. Parish Car Park.

Business Rates. A response had been received from City Councillor G Proctor as to the question of double rating and the need for a change in City Council policy to remove the burden placed on Parishes. This supported the Council's views and was welcomed as was his offer to have the issue readdressed under the City Council's new ways of working debate at an appropriate time. He would also be thanked for his assistance in ascertaining if there was any method of alleviating the position faced by the Parish with respect to business rates.

City Councillor Boughton indicated his support for change. It was agreed the Ward Members would be requested to pursue the matter.

On behalf of the Community Association, Councillor Hughes intimated the Association would be pleased to discuss the possible transfer of the car park, with appropriate funding arrangements, in order to attract discretionary rate relief. The Clerk reported on the outcome of a discussion with the Rev. Canon J A Malbon which was noted.

#### 4. Leisure Services.

(i) Playing field. The notice prohibiting the playing of golf and the exercising of dogs was being replaced. The Clerk reported the present contractor had drawn his attention to surface damage arising from mole activity which would require remedial action prior to any cutting. The advice of the contractor as to appropriate remedials would be sought. Should urgent action be necessary, it was agreed the Chairman and Vice Chairman should give the necessary approval should this be appropriate.

#### (ii) Play Area.

(a) Safety inspections. The Clerk reported the receipt of satisfactory safety reports from the City Council dated 5 January, 2000 and 24 January, 2000. These were noted.

The possible need for locking nuts on the sprung item of equipment was being pursued as was a quotation for a replacement litter bin within the play area on the basis this Council would service the bin.

(b) Safety surfacing. The Clerk had made further enquiries to identify alternative sources of bark and other safety surfacing

materials. Replies were awaited.

(c) Possible transfer. A response received from City Councillor G Proctor as to the question of double rating and the need for a change in City Council policy to remove the burden placed on Parishes had been considered above.

(d) Proposed improvement. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 24 January, 2000, of advice from RoSPA as to their view with respect to the acceptability or otherwise of post and rail boundary fencing. This was noted and would be referred to Mrs. Beresford. Costings for replacement fencing would be considered in due course should this be thought to be an option. The possibility of further development of the play area, including the provision of additional equipment and an extension of the safety surfacing as previously discussed was being pursued as the basis for an application should sources of funding be identified. City Councillor J R Boughton would be approached as to possible advice which may be available from the City Council.

(e) The possibility of pre school groups meeting in the Village Hall becoming involved in ownership of responsibility for day to day maintenance and improvements to the play area had been raised with the organisations concerned.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Parish Footpaths Group. Councillor Hughes reported.

(b) Footpath no 2. A missing rail adjoining the kissing gate at the hollows would be drawn to the attention of the Parish Paths Warden.

(iv) Pond Life Project. Councillor Gartland indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(v) Grounds Maintenance. Tenders for 2000 had been invited by the Clerk who had extended the list to include other apparently suitable contractors not previously approached.

(vi) Public seats. Details were being sought by the Clerk. It was confirmed the Council were minded to provide an additional two no seats in the vicinity of the play area with the support of the Community Association and the Millennium Group. The Chairman referred to benches as an alternative.

The Clerk drew the Council's attention to promotional literature received referring to suitable seating for teenagers. This was noted.

Separate estimates would be sought for the maintenance of the existing seats and if necessary for the parish notice board.

## 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.

(c) Ince/Elton - Chester Business Park. 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. See also (iii) beneath.

(d) Complaint. Further to the complaint that on 6 December, 1999 a regular bus user within the Parish had been refused the opportunity to alight at her customary stop and notwithstanding her requests had also been carried forward when attempting to alight on the return journey, a response had been received from the Managing Director, Chester City Transport. This was noted. The correspondence would be copied to Councillor Mrs. Astbury.

(ii) Bus Shelters. The County Transport Co-ordination Service had been requested to replace the timetable frames which had been lost with the renewal of bus stop poles within the Parish.

(iii) Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee. The Clerk had obtained a copy of a report indicating the possibility of this committee becoming a sub committee of the Local Joint Committee for Highways and Transportation. Councillor Armitage reported a meeting of the committee on 24 January, 2000 had been encouraged by the use being made of the service from Ince/



Elton to Chester Business Park via Guilden Sutton.

(iv) Cheshire Rural Transport Partnership. The Clerk had obtained a copy of a report detailing this partnership which was noted.

## 6. Highways.

(i) Major schemes: Chester Deeside Transport System. Nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Local matters.

(a) A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. Instances of more than one vehicle seeking to cross at any one time and also of other unauthorised movements, were being diaried by Members to enable an assessment of the scale of the problem.

(b) Road surface, Guilden Sutton Lane. A response was awaited from the District Engineer as to the egress of water onto the carriageway at both the Guilden Sutton Lane and Belle Vue Lane bridges.

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

(d) Fencing, Cinder Lane. The Clerk reported the landowner had been thanked for the comprehensive repairs carried out to the fence adjoining the fieldside footway in Cinder Lane.

(e) School Lane closure. The Clerk reported the receipt of a further letter from Transco in response to the Council's concerns as to the condition in places of parts of Guilden Sutton Lane and School Lane affected by the works. Remedials were promised, some of which had already been carried out. The restoration of the mail box to the previous location adjoining the layby opposite the old school house was being pursued with Royal Mail.

(f) potholing, slip road A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. The District Engineer was being thanked for the resurfacing at this junction.

(g) Old Hall Park. The City Council had been thanked for kindly affixing the additional cul de sac sign to deter motorists from turning left into Old Hall Park in the belief they had reached

Station Lane.

(h) Wicker Lane. Advice from the County Engineer to County Councillor N J Fitton, by letter dated 20 January, 2000, was received and noted as was correspondence referring to a site meeting held on 26 January, 2000 from Councillor Mrs. Patten to Mrs. I Varley of 1 February, 2000, enclosing a report and from Mrs. Varley to County Councillor Fitton of 2 February, 2000. The meeting had also been attended by City Councillor J R Boughton and J Gamlen Esq., Principal Engineer, Cheshire County Council.

Councillor Mrs. Patten concurred with the reserve expressed by Mrs. Varley as to the approach of the highway authority representative. She accepted there were no easy solutions but believed there was a contradiction between the description of the road as a rural lane and acceptance of its suitability for use by HGVs and other non local traffic.

Although the results of the most recent count had been noted, it was thought a further count outside Hillcrest rather than the Vicarage would provide a more representative picture of the use of the road.

City Councillor Boughton would press the highway authority representative to take the actions he had agreed which City Councillor Boughton believed would lead to an improvement.

It was noted the sandstone boundary wall at the junction of Wicker Lane and School Lane had yet to be rebuilt. Councillor Armitage expressed concern as to the potential hazard this represented. An appropriate letter would be sent to the occupier.

(i) Ditch, Belle Vue Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the foul condition and malodorous nature of the ditch on the north side of Belle Vue Lane between Belle Vue Farm and The Orchards. Councillor Hughes enquired as to the present position. The Clerk referred to the investigation by the Environment Agency as to the source, no further details of which were available.

(j) Highways and Transportation LJC for Chester. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(k) Structural Maintenance Rolling Programme 2000-2001. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the proposals

submitted by the District Engineer in Belle Vue Lane, Wicker Lane and Arrowcroft Road for which funding had yet to be allocated.

(l) depression, Oaklands. The District Engineer had advised the depression in the vicinity of the previous major remedials was thought to be a localised failure but would be monitored.

(m) Gullies. The Clerk had reported a number of gullies on School Lane which required cleansing.

(n) Station Lane. Councillor Mrs. Patten reported the Parish speed limit sign in Station Lane had been subject to graffiti. This would be reported to the City Council.

(o) finger post signs. It was agreed that estimates should be sought for the restoration of the finger post signs within the Parish.

(iii) Strategic: Cheshire's local transport plan, consultation document. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Street lighting.

(i) Faults. Councillor Whitehouse reported a continuing fault with the light at 107 Oaklands. This would be reported.

## 7. Finance:

(i) income.

Bank of Scotland

interest (January) £ 27.45

(ii) payments.

Chester Standard

newsletter distribution £ 15.28 (VAT £2.28)

Clerk's photocopies

(January)

323@5p £ 16.15

Clerk's mileage

(January)

20 @ 20p £ 4.00

Proposed by Councillor Gartland

seconded by Councillor Armitage

and agreed.

(iii) balances

Bank of Scotland £9,489.96

(iv) Audit. (a) Internal. The accounts would be presented to Councillor Hughes in due course. (b) External. The Clerk reported the completion of the accounts was being progressed. He referred to the receipt, by letter dated 1 February, 2000 from Chester City Council, of advice from the Audit Commission that Cheshire had been included in a pilot scheme for the self selection of auditors. It was proposed by Councillor Armitage, seconded by Councillor Gartland and agreed that the Council would wish to take part in the pilot.

(v) Budget 2000-2001. The Clerk confirmed a precept of £9,545 had been requested.

(vi) Banking arrangements. The Clerk reported the receipt of details of an account operated by the Yorkshire Bank. These were noted.

8. Access to school.

(i) adjoining 17 Hill Top Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) rear of Village Hall. It was noted the planting of six no cherry

trees on the terms previously agreed had been completed. Councillor Hughes expressed disappointment that it had not been possible to carry out the original intention of involving the community in the planting of the trees and regretted that the adjoining hedge had not been cut prior to planting as had been requested.

The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 15 January, 2000, of advice from the Parks Supervisor as to the future maintenance of the trees, indicating further that it was not anticipated any maintenance would be carried out to the hedge for the foreseeable future. This was noted.

#### 9. Environment services:

(i) amenity cleansing. Observations were being made as to the dumping of garden refuse in the copse adjoining Guilden Sutton Lane, believed to arise from an address outside the parish. City Councillor J R Boughton would furnish the Clerk with details of the agent responsible for the copse. The condition of the litter bin at the Oaklands/Arrowcroft Road stop had improved. A renewed approach would be made to the City Council to remove the remains of a vandalised bale of hay from the dingle. A further request had been made for the outstanding autumn fall on Porters Hill to be cleared.

(ii) dog fouling. The Clerk had sought an estimate for the provision of a fixing post to allow a bin for the reception of canine faeces to be provided adjacent to the kissing gate at the hollows.

Enquiries had been made of the dog warden as to the availability of a sign prohibiting dogs within the play area.

(iii) lengthsman. Nothing to report.

(iv) sewers. Nothing to report.

#### 10. Trees and hedges.

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

(ii) Hedgerow Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The papers for the

proposed survey of hedgerows were being furnished to Councillor Gartland.

(iii) Oak, Arrowcroft Road. Nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) TPOs. The Parish Tree Warden reported he had surveyed the Parish with the Tree Officer. This had included an inspection of existing TPOs and the identification of further suitable trees for inclusion within future TPOs.

(v) hedge, Cinder Lane. It was noted the inside face of the Cinder Lane hedge required cutting. This would be reported.

(vi) overhanging hedges. The Chairman referred to instances of hedges overhanging the footway. An appropriate note would appear in the newsletter.

#### 11. Cheshire Association of Parish Councils.

(i) Newsletter no 73. Received and circulated.

(ii) Buckingham Palace Garden Parties. The Clerk reported the receipt by letter dated 25 January, 2000 of details of the arrangements for the nomination of four persons from Cheshire to attend a Royal Garden Party to be held on 12 July, 2000. Subject to the requirement that a person nominated should not previously have attended one of her Majesty's garden parties, it was agreed that the Chairman of the Council from time to time should be nominated.

(iii) Clerks and Councils Direct January 2000. Received and noted.

(iv) Clerks and Councils Direct Suppliers Guide and Yearbook 2000/2001. Received and noted.

#### 12. Chester City Council.

(i) Local Panel 6. The Clerk reminded Members that this meeting had been postponed to 8 March, 2000. This was noted.

(ii) Proposed transfer of local authority housing. (a) Housing News Transfer Special no 4. Received and noted. (b) proposal and tenancy agreement. Received and noted.

(iii) Consultation Day 22 February 2000. Details of this consultation, to be held at Christleton County High School on 22 February, 2000 were received and noted.

(iv) The Key, issue no 3. Received and referred to Councillor Hughes.

(v) Council agenda 2 February 2000. Received and referred to Councillor Gartland.

(vi) Millennium Lord Mayor's Parade 13 May 2000. Details of this parade were received and noted.

(vii) Chester Archaeology annual review. Received and noted.

### 13. Cheshire County Council.

(i) Mobile library hours, reduction. Confirmation of the user information had been requested in writing together with an indication of the views expressed by borrowers when advised of the reduction in hours and of any subsequent comment. A response had been received, by fax dated 7 February, 2000, which indicated that no comments had been received and that at the end of an initial two month period, usage between 5.00pm and 6.00pm had fallen following an increase.

(ii) Annual conference. The Clerk reminded Members that the date for the 2000 Town and Parish Councils Conference to be held at Northwich Memorial Hall was Wednesday 15 March. This was noted.

(iii) 1999 - 2002 Community Care Plan - update. Received and noted.

(iv) Chester Matters no 13. Received and noted.

### 14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Cheshire Best Kept Village competition. This would be revisited. A suggestion by Councillor Hughes that the shopkeepers in Summerfield Road should be approached with respect to the maintenance of their planters was agreed.

15. CPRE.

Correspondence was received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.

16. Health.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

17. Policing matters.

(i) The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 24 January, 2000, of a response from the Deputy Chief Constable as to the proposal to introduce revised custody arrangements. These were planned for introduction under the private finance initiative in 2003. It was noted that prospective bidders would be responsible for proposing locations although a site in the west of the county was likely.

(ii) City Councillor B J Bailey referred to the forthcoming meeting of Local Panel 6 at which he hoped it would be possible to announce substantial progress as to the policing of the rural area.

18. Newsletter.

The Clerk was pleased to refer to the amount of material which had been available for inclusion in newsletter no 63.

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.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) National.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

20. Memorial Garden.



There was nothing further to report at this stage.

#### 21. Bulb planting.

At the suggestion of Councillor Whitehouse, an inspection would be made of the effect of verge reinstatement works on School Lane where bulbs had previously been planted.

#### 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. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 25 January, 2000, of the Local Government Commission's final recommendations for Cheshire. It was noted the proposals for the rural part of Chester District accorded with the Council's submission.

#### 23. Web site.

The Chairman regretted it had not been possible to arrange an opportunity for those Members who wished to join him in further discussion as to the domain name to be registered. This would be progressed.

#### 24. Involvement of youth.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from a member of a uniformed youth group within the Parish for financial support in connection with a representative visit to Canada. Members expressed their pleasure at her success but noted that very many other similar activities by young people involved fund raising towards the costs involved and a considerable amount of self help. Although the Council was keen to raise its profile amongst young people, it was not thought that a donation to an individual using public funds would be desirable, given the precedent it would set. Members were mindful, however, that their stewardship would not preclude the making of a grant to a uniformed organisation should an appropriate request be made.

#### 25. Parking: Arrowcroft Road.

The incidence of obstruction by vehicles collecting pupils attending out of school clubs was being monitored.

26. Primary school.

The Chairman, in his role as minor authority governor, reported on current matters. It was noted plans for an extension to the number of classrooms was not now to proceed.

27. Future business prospects of sub post offices.

It was noted the Government was making strenuous efforts to gain an understanding that the option of payment of benefits in cash would remain. There had been widespread publicity about the effect in the rural area of possible changes in the payment of benefits together with the possibility of an increase in the numbers of automatic telling machines which it was thought could benefit Guilden Sutton Post Office.

City Councillor B J Bailey reported concerns as to future payment methods were being raised.

28. Dates of future meetings.

Councillor Hughes referred to the fixing of 11 April, 2001 which it was now noted should have been 9 April, 2001. The Hall Booking Secretary would be informed.

29. Outbuildings adjoining footpath no 2.

Further inquiries were being made as to the planning position with respect to these outbuildings.

30. Cheshire Fire Brigade, draft performance plan 2000/2001.

The Clerk reported the receipt of this consultation document to which the Chairman would respond.

31. Communique no 5.

A copy of this briefing note from the North West Shires Policy Unit was received and noted.

32. National Spring Clean 2000.

Details of this campaign were received and noted.

33. Voluntary Voice, issue no 15, Winter 2000.

Received and noted.

34. E G Baker Esq.

The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 18 January, 2000, of an intimation by Mr. E G Baker that he would be taking up residence in Gresford and thanking the Council for their support. This was noted.

#### MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Armitage, seconded by Councillor Gartland 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.

35. Occupancy of property, planning condition.

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

36. Enforcement action - industrial premises.

See 2 (iv) above.

37. Sale of Land

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

38. Provision of recreational facilities.

A response was awaited from the interested party to discuss the proposal on a strict without prejudice basis.

39. Personal injuries.

The incidence of personal injuries allegedly arising when crossing private land was being brought to the attention of the owner.

40. Meadow Lea Farm.

The Council's interest in the area identified for use as a parish playing field was being confirmed to the agent.