

GUILDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 15 April 2002.

Chairman: Councillor D Hughes.

Apologies: County Councillor J E Burke, City Councillor B J Bailey, City Councillor J R Boughton.

Present: Councillors Arditti, Armitage, Astbury, Fisher, Hughes, Paterson, Whitehouse

1. Public speaking time.

Mrs K Foreman, The Old School House, Guilden Sutton Lane addressed the council with respect to the proposal to install a basketball net on the parish playing field and proposed an alternative location within the field. Members of the council responded.

2. Procedural matters.

(i) Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of the council held on Monday 18 March 2002 were proposed by Councillor Paterson seconded by Councillor Arditti and agreed.

(ii) Councillor Gartland had been thanked for his substantial period of service to the council and the community. Notices of the vacancy had been sought from the City Council. It was understood that Mr Gartland would continue for the time being as Parish Tree Warden.

3. Planning

(i) New applications.

02/00509/FUL single storey rear extension 2 Guilden Sutton Lane CH3 7EY for Mrs Wilson. Further inquiries would be made by Councillor Hughes.

(ii) Decision notices.

02/00194/FUL alterations and extensions, Halfway, Hare Lane CH3 7ED for Mr S McEwan.

(iii) Current Matters.

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

00/00541/FUL two storey side extension at 11 Fox Cover for Mr. D Hancock.

00/00577/FUL, (amended) two storey extension at Heathfield, Guilden Sutton Lane for Mr. P. White.

00/00932/FUL, rear extension and extension/modification to front study at 5 Guilden Green for Mr. I Armstrong. **Cllr Arditti.**

00/01110/FUL, two storey rear extension and conservatory at Fieldway, Hare Lane for Mr R Bellamy.

Cllr Fisher.

00/01151/FUL, (amended details) two storey side extension at Frogmore Cottage, Church Lane for Mr R Parkinson. **Cllr Whitehouse.**

01/00133/FUL, two story extension and rear conservatory at 3 Heath Bank for Mrs M Higginson.

01/00454/FUL single storey side extension at 12 Fox Cover for Mr K Mohring. **Cllr Fisher.**

01/00551/FUL, use of roof space as habitable accommodation and insertion of new roof lights at The Paddock, Church Lane CH3 7EW.

01/00738/FUL, raise workshop roof on part of unit 3, Guilden Sutton Yard, Guilden Sutton Lane for A Wilding (Chester) Ltd.

01/00781/FUL, utility room extension at 8 Porters Croft for Mr and Mrs D Provan.

01/00920/FUL, extension to roof of proposed loft conversion at

54 Guilden Sutton Lane, CH3 7EY for Mr Palmer.

01/00940/FUL, two storey extension and addition of pitched roof to garage at 9 Fox Cover, CH3 7HH for Mrs E Johnson.

01/01302/FUL replace flat roof with pitched at Highfield, Wicker Lane, CH3 7EL for Mr D Matthews. **Cllr Whitehouse.**

01/01376/FUL, (amended) alterations at 87 Oaklands, Guilden Sutton, CH3 7HG for J Richardson.

02/00136/FUL, Relocation and extension of existing 22.5 metre tower to extend the height to 30.0 metres, Dee Valley Water Reservoir, Guilden Sutton Lane for Orange PC Ltd and Hutchison 3G Limited. The decision notice was awaited.

02/00243/FUL, kitchen extension, pitched roof and new front entrance canopy at 43 Oaklands for Mr M Davies. The planning authority had been informed there would be no objection to the amended proposal although there were concerns about the plans as submitted with respect to the arches to the front elevation which did not respect the vernacular of the estate at a prominent position on the main distributor road. The Clerk understood that any amendment to the proposal had yet to reach the case officer. The question as to access to the rear of the property following the construction of the proposal was a matter to be considered by building control officers.

(iv) General (a) Planning Green Paper. The Clerk confirmed a response had been forwarded through Mrs C M Russell MP which supported the retention of local plans and the role of parish councils as a statutory consultee. The view had been expressed that structure plans should continue, that planning committees should consider all applications where the recommendation of the case officer differed from that of the ward member or the parish council and that parish councils were best placed to consult the local community and to provide unbiased impartial advice.

(b) Cheshire Planning Forum. Councillors Armitage and Hughes had attended the forum held on Friday 22 March, 2002. Councillor Hughes reported.

4. Parish Car Park.

(i) Improvements. The Clerk reported he had been informed by the Group Scout Leader that infill planting had been carried out. Action: City Council Parks and Open Spaces Manager to be contacted as to costings and future maintenance for which a 10 per cent retention was proposed.

5. Leisure services.

(i) Playing field.

(a) Provision for youth. The council discussed the proposal by Mrs K Foreman, The Old School House, Guilden Sutton Lane that the proposed location for the basketball net should be reconsidered to move the net further away from her property. Councillor Arditti pointed out that all options had previously been considered. It was proposed by Councillor Armitage, seconded by Councillor Whitehouse and agreed by 6 votes to 0 that subject to any further views put forward by members and to the advice of the contractor with respect to the proposed location, the net should be installed at the rear of the field. It was accepted that the council had fallen below its normal standard of consultation and the chairman was hopeful of an improved relationship with the occupiers. The Clerk reported the receipt by letter dated 27 March 2002 of copy correspondence from the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils further to the approach by Mr and Mrs Foreman. Councillor Arditti confirmed that a site meeting would be held with the contractor prior to the installation of the net. Action: Correspondence noted, Mr and Mrs Foreman to be informed prior to work commencing.

(ii) Play Area.

(a) Safety inspections. The Clerk would pursue the new responsibilities within the City Council and the opportunity for members to attend a safety inspection .

(b) Improvement scheme. Councillor Arditti reported it was hoped the contractor would be on site at the end of April or early May

(c) Graffiti. The City Council was being requested to remove graffiti from the play house.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Parish Footpaths Group. Councillor Hughes reported.

(iv) Grounds maintenance - 2002 contract. It was agreed a site meeting should be held with the contractor, to be attended by Councillors Hughes and Whitehouse, on Saturday 27 April, 2002 at 10:00 am. It was agreed the additional hours to be funded for the lengthsman should be applied initially to Guilden Sutton Lane and the access from Hill Top Road to the primary school, play area and village hall.

(v) Landscaping, Fox Cover. The council was disappointed that some damage had occurred to the landscaping of the verge adjoining the steps from Fox Cover to Church Lane. Action: Refer to City Council Parks and Open Spaces Manager.

6. Public transport.

(i) Maintenance of rural TIP. Action was awaited by the County Transport Co-ordination Service to rectify the disappointing condition of the rural transport information point on the Village Hall car park .

(ii) Promotional fares. The Clerk had informed Chester City Transport that the council would be anxious to offer local publicity for the promotional fares scheme if the appropriate information could be made available.

(iii) Timetable information. Councillor Armitage referred to the possibility of a parish transport grant being available towards the production of a leaflet giving information of fares and timetables applicable to services within the parish. Action: Clerk to pursue.

7. Highways.

(i) Major schemes:

(a) Chester Deeside Transport System. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) Provision of cycle way. There was nothing further to report at this stage

(ii) Local matters:

(a) Wicker Lane. County Councillor J E Burke and the District Maintenance Engineer were being thanked for their assistance in securing the resurfacing recently carried out to a substantial length of Wicker Lane.

(b) Direction signs to Village Hall. Estimates for the provision of this scheme were awaited. These would be reviewed on receipt together with the possible availability of grants. Action: Clerk to progress.

(c) Footways and dropped kerbs, Arrowcroft Road. It was not known what action had been taken by the District Maintenance Engineer following the site meeting held on 7 December, 2001.

(d) Request for crossing, Guilden Sutton Lane/Hoole Lane. A response was awaited from the Area Traffic and Transportation Engineer as to the council's support for this request.

(e) Cinder Lane. The Clerk confirmed the path did not now appear to be obstructed. Action : District Maintenance Engineer to be informed of the poor condition of the surface.

(f) Parking on verges, Arrowcroft Road. It was not known at this stage what action had been taken by the District Maintenance Engineer. The Clerk confirmed that an inspection had revealed instances of vehicles parking wholly or partly on the grass verges. A possible solution involving the use of plastic mesh to strengthen the verge was discussed. Action: Issue to be raised by Councillor Paterson with District Maintenance Engineer

(g) Footway, Guilden Sutton Lane. The response of the District Maintenance Engineer was awaited as to the concerns raised by Councillor Astbury.

(h) Hazard, Oaklands. Councillor Armitage referred to a marked tripping hazard in the footway in the vicinity of 8 Oaklands which, it was believed, had contributed to a fall. Action: Refer to District Maintenance Engineer.

(i) A41, approach to Guilden Sutton Lane. It was agreed the provision of red and white slow markings in the vicinity of the blind summit when approaching the Guilden Sutton Lane junction on the A 41 from Vicars Cross would be pursued with the Area Traffic and Transportation engineer.

(iii) Strategic. (a) 2001/2002 Winter gritting routes. A response was awaited from the highway authority as to the omission of Guilden Sutton Lane between the A 41 and the A 55.

(iv) Street lighting. There were no reported faults.

8. Finance

(i) Income

Bank of Scotland Interest (March) £ 15.82

Chester City Council Precept £10,300.00

(ii) Payments

Mrs R Mort Playing field rent April - June 2002 £ 137.50

Devaprint Newsletters 87/88 £ 40.00

Chester Standard Newsletter Distribution £ 16.74 (VAT £2.49)

Gresty Lengthsman duties 30/10/01 - 25/03/02 £ 431.81 (VAT £64.31)

CATPCs Practitioners Guide £ 9.45*

Audit seminar fee £ 5.00

Chester City Council Business rates £ 278.17

Clerk salary January - March 2002 £ 675.00

Photocopies (March) 160 at 5p £ 8.00

Mileage (March) 20 miles at 40p £ 8.00

* replaces payment of £11.95 approved at the March meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Astbury Seconded by Councillor Arditti and agreed.

(iii) Balances (March) £11,271.84

(iv) External audit. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 27 March 2002 from Chester City Council of a guidance note relating to the new arrangements.

9. Environment services.

(i) Amenity cleansing. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Dog fouling. The Clerk reported it was now unlikely that Local Panel funding would be available for the provision of bins for the reception of canine faeces. The City Council had confirmed the council's outstanding request for the provision of a bin in the hollows. It was understood the installation would now include a mounting pole.

(iii) Lengthsman. The appointed contractor had been advised of the council's preference for the rota to operate on a Monday to enable closer supervision.

10. Trees and hedges

(i) Trees, Heath Bank. Action: The position was to be discussed by the Clerk with the City Council Tree Officer.

(ii) Sycamore, war memorial. Action: The extent of the work which might be required was to be discussed by the Clerk with the City Council Tree Officer.

(iii) Ash adjoining parish car park. This was being pursued by The Clerk.

(iv) Trees adjoining Footpath No. 2. Advice was to be sought from the Tree Officer as to the approach from a neighbouring occupier with respect to the possible pruning of trees in an adjoining private garden.

(v) Protected trees. The Clerk reported the receipt of an updated list of protected trees within the parish.

(vi) Tree planting. At the suggestion of the chairman, the council would revisit previous proposals put forward by Mr Henderson for

further tree planting in the parish.

11. Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils/NALC.

(i) Chester Area Meeting 3 April, 2002. Councillor Armitage reported on the view of the meeting as to the proposal by Chester City Council to replace the present system of local panels with a smaller number of area committees which would have enhanced powers and budgets. The Area Meeting had been unanimous that the areas covered by each committee should remain the same as at present and that there should therefore be nine committees, each representing a wholly parished or wholly unparished area. Concerns had been expressed that the functions to be delegated to area committees were similar to those proposed to be made available to quality parish councils. It had been thought the City Council should defer the introduction of area committees until the powers and functions of quality parish councils had been determined. It was agreed the parish council should support the response agreed by the Area Meeting.

12. Chester City Council

(i) Standards/code of conduct. The chairman reminded members of the importance of completing the necessary declarations.

(iii) Area committees. See minute 11 above

13. Cheshire County Council

There were no action items to report

14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Village Design Statement project. Details were awaited of the workshop with observer villages to be arranged in April.

(ii) Cheshire Best Kept Village competition. Mrs Kirk was being informed of the position.

15. CPRE. Correspondence was referred to Councillor Whitehouse

16. Health. The Clerk informed the council there were no matters to report.

17. Policing. There were no action items to report.

18. Newsletter. A further note requesting residents to inspect their boundary hedges and take appropriate action would be included in a future issue of the Newsletter.

19. H M The Queen Golden Jubilee. (i) Visit to Cheshire. The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation, by letter dated 28 March 2002, from the Lord Lieutenant for the council to nominate a representative to attend H M The Queen's Golden Jubilee visit to Cheshire to take place on 24 July 2002. Action: To be confirmed at the annual meeting (ii) Cheshire Thanksgiving Service. The Clerk reported a Cheshire Thanksgiving Service was to be held in Chester Cathedral on Sunday 2 June 2002 at 3.00pm. Everyone was welcome to join the service on the day but those with tickets, to be applied for by 22 May, 2002, would be guaranteed a seat.

20. Memorial Garden. Further efforts were being made to locate the missing finger post arm. The Clerk reported that discussions with a contractor or had suggested that a replica might be possible.

21. Bulb planting. Councillor Fisher would pursue the supply of bulbs by Mr Gresty.

22. IT. Councillor Fisher reported on the satisfactory progress of the council's website.

23. Primary school. Councillor Fisher reported.

24. Village Hall car park. The Clerk confirmed that a strengthened sign had been erected.

25. Surgery. Councillor Whitehouse reported on the surgery held on Saturday 6 April 2002. No visitors had been received. Further publicity would be arranged which would highlight the times between which members would be available.

26. Categorisation of parish councils. Further details were being sought by the Clerk from Mrs C M Russell MP

27. Induction of the Reverend Mark Hart. The chairman was to attend the induction of the Reverend Mark Hart in St Peter's,

Plemstall on Tuesday 16 April, 2002 in succession to the Rev Canon J A Malbon. Action: Letter of welcome to be sent to the Reverend Hart and family.

28. Annual Parish Meeting. The arrangements for the annual parish meeting were agreed. Members would speak to subjects as previously minuted.

29. HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The Clerk reported an ecumenical service of thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother would take place in Chester Cathedral on Sunday 28 April at 3:30pm.

30. Recognition. Councillor Paterson suggested two further letters of recognition should be sent to members of the community. This was agreed.

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public due to a possible disclosure of exempt information

31. Enforcement.

(a) A response was awaited as to the enforcement matter concerning the use of land adjoining a private property.

(b) The Clerk reported further as to a complaint concerning the disposal of waste on land in the parish.

(c) The Clerk reported further on a matter raised by a member.