

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 8th September, 2003 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall

Chairman: Councillor D Fisher.

Present: Councillors Armitage, Astbury, Fisher, Hughes, Paterson, Proudlove, Young.

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

Public speaking time: There was no public speaking.

1 Apologies. Cllr R Bayton

2 Procedural matters.(i) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 28 July, 2003. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 28 July, 2003 were proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Paterson and agreed as a correct record subject to the replacement of Councillor Paterson by Councillor Proudlove in the minute referring to a visit made to the local planning authority.

(ii) Representatives. The Clerk circulated the following list of appointments and interests available to Members of the Council. He indicated that names shown in parentheses might perhaps continue although there was no reason in many instances why these should not be shadowed. Action: Members to inform the Clerk of their preferences; report to be presented to the October meeting.

Representatives to outside bodies:

Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils, Chester Area Meeting (Cllrs Armitage, Fisher, Hughes.)

Cheshire Community Council Village Halls Forum (Cllr Hughes.)

CPRE. VACANT. (Correspondence to forwarded to Councillor Young in the interim.)

Guilden Sutton Village Hall Management Committee. (Cllr Paterson.)

Chester City Council Gowy North Area Committee. (Cllrs Armitage, Hughes.)

Play Area Group. NEW (Councillors Proudlove and Paterson in the interim.)

Office holders.

Parish Paths Warden. Mr B Lewin.

Parish Tree Warden. Mr M Gartland.

Local Bus User Contact.(Cllr P Astbury.)

Areas of Interest.

Ethics and Standards (Cllr Armitage)

Finance.

Development Control.
Strategic Planning.
Local highways.
Highways and Transportation.
CATPCs (Cllr Armitage)
Chester City Council
Cheshire County Council
Cheshire Community Council
Police/Police Authority
Fire Service/Fire Authority
Health.

(iii) Induction session. The Clerk regretted it had not been possible for him to organise a session during the recess and would progress the matter.

(iv) Action list. The Clerk reported the following actions as at 8 September, 2003.

Procedural:

Local induction for new Members: Clerk to arrange.

Representatives: Initial consideration at this meeting.

Planning:

List of planning applications: Clerk to progress initial list for October meeting.

Visit to planning authority: Development Control Manager thanked.

Parish car park:

Application of growth retardant treatment to boundary strip. Matter progressed by Councillor Hughes.

Leisure:

Playing field: Mole infestation. Completed.

Play area improvement. Bid submitted for Area Committee funding, advice to be sought from City Council external funding re Lottery funding, estimates for replacement slide to be formally referred to the Council's insurers.

Play Area Group membership. For consideration at this meeting.

CCTV signs. Response awaited from City Council CCTV Manager.

Play area: Action re finger trap to entrance gate, hedge pruning near see saw, to be reported by Councillor Proudlove to this meeting. Formal inspections, advice from City Council to be reported by the Clerk to this meeting.

Public footpaths: rights of way improvement plan. Response awaited from Parish Paths

Warden.

Grounds maintenance site meeting 2 August 2003. Councillors Hughes/Paterson to report.

Grounds maintenance specification: Circulated by the Clerk to this meeting.

Landscaping, Fox Cover. Raised with the City Council Parks and Open Spaces Manager and with City Cllr J R Boughton.

Public transport:

Rural TIP. Clerk to report County Council approval for the use of the board for community purposes.

Shelter seating. Progress report from Councillor Proudlove/The Clerk.

Highways:

Direction signs to Village Hall: Affixed.

Lining, Guilden Sutton Lane/A41: Clerk to report.

Wicker Lane: speed review requested.

Finance:

Personal report by internal auditor: Clerk to raise with Internal Auditor.

Environment Services:

Weed growth in gutters: referred to Services Manager.

Dog bin, Guilden Sutton Lane installed.

Alternative type of litter bin, City Council response awaited.

Trees and hedges:

Site meeting, Heath Bank. Councillor Astbury to report.

Felling of beech tree, The Vicarage, confirmation awaited as to replacement.

Hedges, Cinder Lane, referred to district maintenance engineer.

Tree, Summerfield House, Anchor Housing informed of request for trimming.

Hedge, rear of Village Hall, City Council requested to trim.

Hedge, Guilden Sutton Lane, referred to Transport Co-ordination Service.

Cheshire County Council

Draft equestrian strategy. Under consideration by Councillor Proudlove.

Newsletter: to appear Thursday 11 September.

Bulbs: status of order to be confirmed.

Youth survey: Clerk to contact Cllr Arditti, update from County Council.

Fireworks. MP approached, response received.

E mail agendas/minutes, Members to comment.

Garden refuse collection, comments sought from City Council.

Part 2

Possible enforcement issue: superseded by receipt of planning application.

3 Planning:

(i) New applications:

03/01358/FUL tanning salon at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW for Mr S Gregory.

Councillor D Hughes expressed a personal interest in this application as chairman of the Guiden Sutton Community Association which controlled the adjoining car-park.

Cllr Mrs P M Paterson expressed a personal interest in this application as the Council's representative to the Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillor Fisher reported. No objections had been received. Councillor Hughes expressed concern that occupiers in the vicinity may not be happy with clients visiting up to 9.00pm, including at weekends. He referred to wider advertising which had been carried out by the applicant and suggested that occupiers adjoining the car parks of the shops and Village Hall should be consulted. Action: adjoining occupiers to be consulted.

03/01377/TEL, installation of telecommunications apparatus (3 no antennas and 3 no microwave dishes) and equipment cabin at existing Installation at Dee Valley Water Reservoir, Guiden Sutton Lane. The Clerk reported it had come to his notice that a site notice in respect of this application was displayed at the entrance to the reservoir. Further details were being sought from the local planning authority.

(ii) Decision notices:

There were no decision notices to report.

(iii) General.

(i) development, Guiden Sutton Lane. Councillor Hughes asked if extensions and alterations to a property on Guiden Sutton Lane were proceeding in accordance with the approved plans. Councillor Astbury indicated no concern and said the matter was being kept under review.

(iv) Strategic planning.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

4 Parish car park: growth retarding treatment. It was reported the treatment had been applied. A site inspection held with the grounds maintenance contractor on 2 August 2003, attended by Councillors Hughes and Paterson had revealed that loose stones on the boundary wall to the grass banking were urgently in need of re fixing. With the approval of the Chairman, the contractor had been authorised to proceed, including sweeping of the car park, up to a maximum cost of £100. Action: It was proposed by Councillor Astbury, seconded by Councillor Paterson and agreed that the action of the Chairman in agreeing the expenditure should be approved.

5 Leisure Services. (i) Playing Field. The Chairman reported that an inspection had revealed a degree of wear in front of one of the goal posts. Action: advice to be sought from the grounds maintenance contractor. Issues raised by Councillor Bayton following an inspection had been reported to Councillor Hughes and referred to the grounds maintenance contractor. The Clerk reported a proposal by Councillor Bayton that a litter bin should be provided at the entrance to the playing field. Action: defer for further consideration. (ii) Play Area (a) improvement scheme. Councillor Proudlove reported she intended to progress the provision of the previously authorised benching, including the surfacing of the front boundary of the play area and would seek the removal of the slide on health and safety grounds. She recommended that as an interim stage, the multi-purpose unit should be refurbished and repainted, the play house should be removed and replaced with equipment offering greater play value for under-fives and the single sprung item should be up graded. This would involve the Council in the minimum cost pending the larger scale improvements. The actions proposed by Councillor Proudlove were confirmed. The Clerk would progress advice from the insurers, a photographic record would be taken of the slide in situ and at the suggestion of County Councillor Burke, the possibility of an application to WREN for further funding would be considered. (b) damage to slide Councillor Proudlove. The advice of the insurers was awaited as to the contribution the Council could expect. (c) CCTV. The Clerk would make further inquiries as to the provision of appropriate signage. (d) Inspection rota. The Clerk would file completed report forms supplied by Members and present these to each meeting of the Council. The City Council had indicated possible contractors who would be prepared to carry out inspections on a formal basis. (iii) Public Footpaths, Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Clerk would approach Mr Lewin as to the progress he was making with respect to a response. (iv) Grounds Maintenance: meeting with contractor 2 August 2003. Arising from issues which had been raised at the site meeting with respect to the need for urgent or minor items of work, it was agreed that in order to expedite progress, the principle of the contractor being authorised to proceed up to a limit of £150 with the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman should be confirmed with any action taken being confirmed at the next following meeting of the Council. Councillor Hughes would progress a further site meeting. (v) Public Seats. It was agreed in principle that the public seat located within the play area which would be displaced by the proposed benching would be relocated to the grass verge opposite the play area. (vi) Landscaping, Fox Cover. Action: The Parks and Open Spaces Manager would be advised the Council would wish to see action to improve this landscaping by 30 September 2003 (vii) Provision for youth. The Clerk reported his inquiries had suggested initial advice might be available from the County

Council. Interim views of the requirements of young people would be sought by Councillor Young.

6 Public transport. (i) Provision of seats in shelters. Councillor Proudlove reported on the availability of seating. County Councillor Burke referred to a scheme under which a new shelter with seating could be made available by the County Council at a cost to the Parish Council of £1,000. He would arrange for details to be forwarded. An estimate for alternative seating would also be progressed by Councillor Paterson. (ii) proposed subsidised bus service reductions, Guilden Sutton - Christleton County High School. County Councillor Burke reported the school was in discussion with the bus company as to the provision of an alternative parent funded service. The existing service would be retained until the end of December. (iii) rural transport information point. See action list.

7 Highways:

(i) Major schemes. (a) cycleway. Councillor Armitage reported his understanding that funding for the extension of the cycle way to Park Farm had been agreed by the North West Development Agency. He would contact the County Cycling Officer and the highway authority for confirmation.

(ii) local matters: (a) Direction signs to Village Hall. Confirmation will be sought that the signing from Oaklands to Hill Top Road and from Hill Top Road to the Village Hall car park were to specification. (b) local safety scheme, junction A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk reported this scheme was now to be carried out as part of the provision of a footway on the A 41 from Hoole Hall roundabout to Guilden Sutton Lane, currently in progress (c) Request for pedestrian crossing Hoole Lane/Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (d) road markings, approach to parish playing field. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the reinstatement of the former 'slow' marking. (e) Station Lane 'slow' markings. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the outstanding work required to the remaining 'slow marking'. (f) speed of traffic Wicker Lane. A request had been made for the speed limit on the road to be considered by the speed review panel in view of the proposed closure of the A51 for major maintenance. (g) parking, Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (h) equestrian warning signs. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the detailed proposal which had been prepared by Councillor Proudlove and forwarded to the highway authority. (i) village gateways. The possibility of village gateways being provided to deter rat running through the parish had been referred to County Councillor J E Burke.

(iii) strategic: There was nothing to report.

(iv) Lighting. Faults would be reported affecting lights at the rear of the village hall and in the vicinity of 50 Oaklands.

8 Finance:

(i) Income:

Bank of Scotland:

Interest (July)	£	14.33
Interest (Aug)	£	12.89

(ii) Payments	
Oldfield Environmental mole eradication	£ 150.00
CATPCs	
Training	£ 20.00
Cheshire County Council	
Signing scheme	£ 378.16 (includes £56.32 VAT)*
Devaprint	
newsletter No. 97	£ 50.00
Clerk:	£ 8.00

Proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Peterson and agreed.

* Payment agreed but to be withheld pending clarification of the specification of the 2 no signs referred to above.

(iii) Balances:(July) £19,304.74

(Aug) £17,913.21

(iv) Audit matters. The Clerk was finalising the annual return for submission to the external auditor.

9 Environment services: (i) amenity cleansing. The Chairman expressed disquiet at the lack of amenity cleansing in the parish by the City Council. It was hoped this would be pursued by City Councillors Bailey and Boughton. The Clerk reported that Guiden Sutton Lane had recently been scavenged by the City Council. The Clerk reported a request from Mrs Rivers for attention to be given to the steps from Cinder Lane to Church Lane. (ii) dog fouling. The Dog Warden would be thanked for kindly affixing the requested dog bin on Guiden Sutton Lane towards the junction with the A 41 (iii) litter bins. Details of alternative types of litter bin more suitable for the rural area were awaited from the City Council. (iv) lengthsman. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

10 Trees and hedges: (i) site meeting, Heath Bank. Councillor Astbury reported. Work was to be carried out by the district maintenance engineer (ii) felling 1no Beech, The Vicarage. See action list (iii) hedge, Cinder Lane. Councillor Armitage reported the roadside hedge had been cut but the fieldside hedge required attention (iv) tree, Anchor Housing. See action list. (v) hedge, rear Village Hall. See action list. (vi) hedge, Guiden Sutton Lane. See action list. (vii) footways. The Chairman reported a number of footways in the parish were substantially blocked in some places by maturing hedgerows and individual trees. A specific tree on Oaklands would be addressed by County Councillor J E Burke. The condition of footpath no 2 would be referred to the district maintenance engineer.

11 Cheshire Association of Parish Councils/NALC: (i) It was noted the next meeting of the Chester Area Meeting would be held on Wednesday 24 September 2003.

12 Chester City Council: (a) Gowy North Area Committee/grants. The Clerk confirmed that bids had been put forward by the required date in respect of proposed improvements to the children's play area.

13 Cheshire County Council: (a) Draft equestrian strategy consultation. This was being progressed by Councillor Proudlove.

14 Cheshire Community Council. There were no action items to report.

15 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

16 Health. There were no action items to report.

17 Policing. The Chairman referred to the receipt of a complaint from a resident as to the speed of traffic on Guilden Sutton Lane. Action: Advice to be sought from the City Council as to the date of the requested visit by the speed trailer.

18 Newsletter. The Council confirmed its wish that the newsletter should appear monthly where possible. It was agreed the next issue should contain the Council's response to the proposal by Mrs C M Russell MP that part of the civil parish should be transferred to the Eddisbury parliamentary constituency as part of a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. (see below.)

19 Memorial garden. Councillor Armitage indicated his wish to complete the quick thorn hedge at the rear of the memorial garden. Inquiries would be made as to the availability of trees and shrubs from the Cheshire Landscape Trust. It was noted the Chester arm of the finger post was missing and was believed to be in the care of Mr Cronin. Should this be the case, the contractor would be asked carry out repairs as before.

20 Bulb planting. It was agreed that a supply of bulbs should be ordered from the grounds maintenance contractor as in 2002.

21 Parish ICT. Councillor Fisher reported. Those Members who wished to participate responded positively to the circulation of agendas and minutes by e mail.

22 Primary School. Councillor Fisher reported.

23 Fireworks, correspondence per Mrs C M Russell, MP. This was noted and would be copied to the primary school.

24 Parliamentary boundary proposals. The Clerk reported the receipt during the recess of correspondence from the ward members as to a proposal by Mrs C M Russell, MP to transfer Christleton ward to the Eddisbury parliamentary division as part of a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. Mrs Russell referred to the A 55 as being a physical boundary between the urban area of Chester and the rural ward of Christleton. Cllr Armitage believed it would be unacceptable for the parish to be divided between two parliamentary constituencies. An objection would be drafted by the Clerk for approval by the Chairman.

25 Members' information items.

Arrowcroft Road. Councillor Armitage referred to a blocked drain at the junction of Arrowcroft Road and School Lane.

Issue of Agendas. Councillor Armitage said he understood the court had now clarified the description of 'three clear days' which now did not include Saturdays, Sundays or bank holidays. This would mean that agendas should be dispatched at the latest by the Tuesday of the week preceding a meeting of the Council. Action: Clerk to note.

Cheshire County Council. Councillor Armitage referred to a forthcoming conference to be attended by senior managers of Cheshire County Council to discuss outside perceptions of the authority. Members who wished to attend should notify the Clerk who would inform the Chief Officer.

Parking. Councillor Hughes revisited his concerns as to the extent of parking at Cathcart Green. Action: refer to highway authority and police traffic management.

Antisocial behaviour. The Chairman referred to disquiet which had been expressed by the warden of Summerfield House as to the size of shrubs on the boundary with the Village Hall which concealed antisocial behaviour by young people to the concern of residents. Action: refer to the Community Association.

Circulation of minutes. The Chairman revisited the Council's wish for minutes to be circulated between meetings and sought guidance as to the legality of this so far as recipients outside the council were concerned. The Clerk would indicate the minutes were subject to confirmation.

26 Information correspondence.

defra: rural services standard 2003

ODPM: consultation paper on indemnities for relevant authority members and officers - response by 6 October 2003.

The Standards Board for England: standards committee determinations, guidance for monitoring officers and standards committees.

Cheshire County Council/Chester City Council/The Boundary Committee: Elected regional assemblies and local government reviews - response by 8 September 2003

Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils/NALC:

Basic induction session 30 July 2003

Newsletter No. 92, September 2003

Model charter - response by 12 September 2003

World Rural Women's Day 15 October 2003, nomination - response by 30 September 2003

Annual meeting Thursday 9 October 2003, 5:00pm - 9:30pm, Nantwich Civic Hall
Chester City Council:

Lady Mayoress's holiday fund for children, Garden Party, Saturday 6 September 2003, 2:30pm - 4:30pm, The Bishop's Garden, Bishop's House, Abbey Square.

Rural small firms and rural village shops grant schemes

Ethics and Standards Committee 7 August 2003

Ethics and Standards Committee annual report

Chester in Partnership Review, 23 September 2003, 9:30am - 1:30pm, Grosvenor Pulford Hotel, Pulford. Response by 15 September 2003

Awards for All lottery funding programme

Annual independent inspection of children's play areas
Parish Partnership Reception, Wednesday 19 November 2003, 7:30pm, Assembly Room,
Town Hall
Cheshire County Council
Rights of way improvement plan
Bus information strategy for Cheshire
Chester Matters issue 48, July/August 2003
Cheshire Community Council
Annual general meeting 17 September 2003, 7:30pm at Northwich Memorial Hall
Annual Report 2002/2003
Nominations for Trustees
Local network fund for children and young people
Chester Citizens Advice Bureau, money advice service
The Village Retail Services Association, helping Cheshire and Lancashire keep their
village shops

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public

NIL

The meeting concluded at 21:48