

Guiden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 9 February 2004 in Guiden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr D Fisher.

Present: Cllrs Armitage, Astbury, Bayton, Fisher, Hughes, Paterson, Proudlove, Young.

In attendance: PC R Boulton.

Public Speaking Time

There was no public speaking.

1 Apologies. County Cllr J E Burke, City Cllr J R Boughton.

2 Procedural matters.

(i) Declarations of interest. There were no declarations of interest.

(ii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 January 2004. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 January, 2004 were proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Young and agreed. At the suggestion of Cllr Hughes, the decision on action items would include a date for implementation where appropriate. **Action: Clerk to include date for implementation where appropriate.**

(iii) Action list. This would be circulated by the Clerk.

(iv) Notification of planning applications. The Clerk indicated he would be more than happy to circulate to each Member notifications of planning applications and appeals. **Action: Clerk to implement only in those cases where decisions were required before the next meeting of the Council.**

3 Planning:

(i) New applications:

03/02203/FUL two storey extension at 42 School Lane CH3 7ET for Mrs Oldham. Cllr Paterson reported. It was agreed there was no objection but the Council would wish to draw to the attention of the planning authority the fact there were no dimensions on the drawings other than the scale and the projection to the front of the property would break the building line on that

part of School Lane.

03/02260/FUL [neighbouring Parish Council notification] conservatory at Holly House, Hare Lane, Pipers Ash CH3 7ED for Dr and Mrs Porter. The Clerk reported the receipt of this notification. It was agreed there were no observations.

04/00045/FUL replace existing flat roof over garage and study at front of house with a pitched roof over garage and sloping roof over study at 2 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL for Mr B Clayton. The Clerk reported the resubmission of these previously approved plans for which permission had expired. Further inquiries were being made by Cllrs Paterson and Young who would consult the Chairman

(ii) Decision notices:

03/01972/FUL amendments to previous planning permission 02/01043/FUL two storey extension at 26 Oaklands, CH3 7HE for Mr and Mrs Dalgarno. Planning permission. It was noted the applicant had been informed that all works associated with the approved scheme including the foundations and guttering should be contained wholly on land within the applicant's ownership and that the attention of the applicant had been drawn to the provisions of the Party Wall Act 1996.

03/02098/FUL first floor side extension and conversion of flat roof to pitched roof at rear at 95 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mr A Mark. Planning permission. The Council welcomed a condition requiring that two car parking spaces should be made available within the curtilage of the site and kept available for that purpose prior to the extension being brought into use.

(iii) General. Content of decision notifications to those making representations. The Clerk had been informed by the Development Control Manager that it was hoped to include a reference to the conditions or reasons for refusal included in the decision notice within the text of decision letters sent to those who had made representations. This was welcomed.

(iv) Strategic planning. There were no action items to report.

4 Parish car park. There were no action items to report.

5 Leisure Services.

(i) Playing Field (a) repairs to playing surface. The Clerk reported he had spoken to the grounds maintenance contractor who proposed to carry out the work in the near future by replacing the damaged areas of the playing

surface with turf. This would be progressed by Cllr Hughes. (ii) basketball equipment. Cllr Armitage reported that bolts on this equipment should be sawn off and smoothed. **Action: Grounds maintenance contractor to be requested to carry out this work.** (iii) goal posts. Cllr Young referred to the absence of nets and suggested that metal nets might be provided.

(ii) Play Area (a) improvement scheme: Cllr Proudlove presented a detailed proposal for the replacement of both the multi-purpose item and the play house. It was agreed the scheme proposed by Cllr Proudlove, put forward by Play and Leisure, should be accepted.

Cllr Proudlove was thanked for her considerable efforts over a long period in identifying suitable equipment. A detailed financial appraisal, prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Clerk, was provided by Cllr Hughes.

Cllr Proudlove indicated a desire to proceed in one phase with Cllr Hughes suggesting a phased approach might be more appropriate. The Chairman expressed concern that should the Council proceed on the basis proposed by Cllr Proudlove, this could lead to the loss of an opportunity to apply for further grant. Cllr Armitage believed that funding the scheme in one phase would exhaust the Council's reserves. It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Bayton and agreed, Cllr Proudlove dissenting, that the Council should proceed with phase one of the scheme, involving the provision of new preschool age equipment together with the removal of the damaged slide on the multi-purpose item and that grant applications should be pursued. The Chairman pointed to the importance of raising funds for the future replacement of the equipment. Cllr Armitage accepted the Council would be disappointed the refurbishment could not be carried out at once but believed the Council had to be prudent. **Action: Phase one to be implemented including removal of damaged slide, grant applications to be progressed.**

(b) CCTV. The Clerk had been advised by the City Council that notices in connection with the CCTV installation need do no more than draw attention to its presence, the purpose for which it was being used and include an office hours contact telephone number. **Action: Clerk to produce draft notice.** (c) training session, Saturday 17 January, 2004. Cllrs Paterson and Armitage reported. As a result of their attending the training course, organised by Christleton Parish Council and RoSPA, it was agreed the weekly inspection rota should be modified to enable Cllrs Paterson and Armitage to carry out a certificated inspection on a monthly basis. The Clerk would also provide the Members concerned with a copy of the training material provided by the course organisers **Action: Rota to be amended by the Clerk.** Cllr Armitage reported that repairs were needed to the blue slide on the multi-purpose item. **Action: Repair to be sought.** (d) annual inspection, Chester City Council. The Clerk was confirming that annual inspections would now be carried out by Chester City Council at no cost to the Parish Council.

(iii) Public Footpaths. (a) Rights of Way Improvement Plan. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Status of Footpath no 7. The

Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence per Mr J Cox as to the use of Footpath No. 7. He further reported the Rights of Way committee had deferred a decision on the recommendation that the footpath should be upgraded to a byway open to all traffic to allow public consultation to take place in Mickle Trafford. The Rights of Way committee, for which he had prepared a detailed proof for submission at the appropriate stage, was also to make a site visit. **Action: Committee report to be copied to Cllr Hughes and Brian Lewin Esq, Parish Paths Warden.** The Clerk reported he had informed the City Council Tree Officer of the proposal to upgrade Footpath No. 7 and had requested an inspection to determine if any of the trees within or adjoining the footpath were worthy of preservation orders. **Action: Progress report to be sought by the Clerk.** (c) DEFRA consultation. The Council referred to this consultation on possible changes to the legislation which enabled ancient rights to be claimed to justify the use of public rights of way by mechanically propelled vehicles. It was agreed the Council would support a restriction which would prevent the use of byways by mechanically propelled vehicles. **Action: Clerk to respond.** (d) fencing, the hollows. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance: There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(v) Public Seats. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(vi) Landscaping, Fox Cover. Cllr Armitage reported that shrubs would be available from the Cheshire Landscape Trust to enable the necessary work to be carried out. The Clerk indicated the Parks and Open Spaces Manager was more than happy to provide advice and had suggested the Scouts could be available to assist in planting given prior notice.

(vii) Provision for youth: There was nothing further to report to the stage.

6 Public transport. (i) Provision of seats in shelters. A site meeting was being progressed by the Clerk. Cllr Paterson indicated she was normally available on Mondays and Thursdays. (ii) proposed subsidised bus service reductions. The Clerk reported on the proposed withdrawal of County Council supported Cheshire Bus services throughout the county which would affect the Sunday evening services through the parish provided by the C84 and possibly a morning bus from Elton on service 54. He further reported a request from Helsby Parish Council to support objections to the withdrawal of services through that parish. It was agreed the Council could object in general terms to the withdrawal of services in the rural area which was in conflict with policies set out within the Local Transport Plan. The proposed withdrawal affecting service 54 described as Elton-Helsby through Guilden Sutton, would be clarified. **Action: Objection to be raised to the withdrawal of services serving Guilden Sutton and the rural area in**

general. Position re service 54 to be clarified. Cllr Hughes referred to the powers available to the Parish Council to support public transport to which Cllr Armitage responded. **Action: Advice on Parish Transport Grant to be sought from Cheshire Community Council.** (iii) use of double deck buses, Oaklands. Cllr Armitage reported he had raised this issue with Chester City Transport which had indicated the route was considered as one for single deck vehicles although double deck vehicles were operated when necessary if single deck vehicles were not available.

7 Highways:

(i) Major schemes. (a) cycleway. Cllr Armitage reported that funding for the cycleway had been agreed. The Clerk reported he had discussed the matter with the Chairman of the Chester Cycle Working Party and the Council had been invited to attend a meeting of the working party on Wednesday 10 March 2004 at which the project was to be considered.

(ii) local matters: (a) Station Lane `slow' markings. An inspection by the Clerk had disclosed the remaining `slow' marking on Station Lane had not been reinstated. No further action would be taken at present (b) speed of traffic Wicker Lane. The highway authority had confirmed the road had been included in the list for review although it was not known at this stage when that might be carried out. (c) equestrian warning signs. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (d) speed of traffic Guilden Sutton Lane, use of speed trailer, week commencing 19 January 2004. The Council was grateful to those Members who had been able to assist with this initiative. Cllr Hughes and Cllr Armitage reported it was disappointing that a majority of drivers had been driving at more than 32 mph, the highest recorded speed being 56 mph, at times when School Lane and Guilden Sutton Lane were being used by vehicles transporting children to and from the primary school. **Action: Police and highway authority to be informed of the results.** (e) footway Wicker Lane. The District Maintenance Engineer had indicated the condition of this footway would be kept under review.

(iii) strategic: There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Lighting. (i) A 41. A response was awaited from the lighting authority as to the Council's request for lighting to be installed between Hoole roundabout and Guilden Sutton Lane. (ii) Faults would be reported on Belle Vue Lane and at the rear of the Village Hall.

8 Finance:

(i) Income:

Bank of Scotland:

Interest (Jan) £ 14.60

(ii) Payments

Hacker Young
External audit £ 141.00 (includes VAT £21.00)

proposed by Cllr Armitage
seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed

The Chairman reported that as village web master he would shortly receive an invoice of £114.88 plus VAT for the annual maintenance of the village web site. The Council considered how this might best be processed in view of the amount involved.

(iii) Balances:

(Jan) £14,446.06

(iv) Audit matters: External audit 2002/03. The Clerk reported a clean audit had been received. This was noted.

(v) Budget 2004/05. The Clerk confirmed the agreed precept had been notified to the City Council.

(vi) Banking arrangements. The Clerk indicated he was reviewing the interest rates at present available and would seek the guidance of Members at a future meeting

9 Environment services: (i) amenity cleansing. Cllr Hughes referred to the accumulation of litter in the accesses on Belle Vue Lane. **Action: scavenge to be requested by the City Council.** (ii) dog fouling. There was nothing further to report of this stage. (iii) litter bins. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (iv) lengthsman. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

10 Trees and hedges: (i) hedge Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk reported the outcome of discussions with Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council which indicated that appropriate action would be taken on behalf of the landowner. (ii) overhanging shrub, Oaklands. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (iii) felling of tree. A Member referred to the felling of a tree in the front garden of a property. It was not thought the tree was protected but the matter would be drawn to the attention of the Parish Tree Warden.

11 Cheshire Association of Parish Councils/NALC. There were no action items to report.

12 Chester City Council (a) review of the financial arrangements with Parish Councils. The Clerk reported he had submitted a comprehensive response on behalf of the Parish Council. He further reported his understanding that the Chairman of the Chester Area Meeting had also responded. (b) maintenance of churchyards and burial grounds. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the grant to the Parochial Church Council. (iii) Gowy North Area Committee Tuesday 15 January 2004. The Chairman reported. He indicated that a quantity of biodegradable sacks for the disposal of garden refuse were to be made available through ward members and that he had requested a supply for the parish.

13 Cheshire County Council. (a) Annual Town and Parish Councils conference 21 January 2004. Cllr Armitage reported. With respect to any future reorganisation of local government into unitary authorities, the Council believed it to be important that the legislation should provide for parish councillors to be full voting members of any local arrangements to be introduced by the unitary authority.

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. PC Boulton referred to current issues within the parish and responded to Members' questions. These included youths congregating in the vicinity of the Village Hall and shops with which at present there was no great difficulty; parking on the bend at Cathcart Green and also on Oaklands by occupiers or visitors to adjoining properties which was also not thought to be a great problem; traffic issues at the junction of Guiden Sutton Lane and the A41 where PC Boulton would speak to traffic officers about a possible reduction in the 70mph limit; the use of the speed trailer, antisocial behaviour in the copse at the junction of Guiden Sutton Lane and the A41; the use of farm land for scrambling and a recent burglary. PC Boulton emphasised that residents should not hesitate to call the police if they were concerned and should note the registration numbers of any suspicious vehicles. **Action: speed limit, A41. Clerk to seek an extension to the 50mph limit at present placed on the adjoining lengths of the A41. Speed trailer: Clerk to inquire as to future availability. Burglaries. Appropriate note to appear in the newsletter.**

18 Newsletter. There was nothing further to report to the stage.

19 Memorial garden. (a) finger post. The Clerk had made arrangements with the adjoining occupier to retrieve the missing finger post arm for

refixing by the contractor. (b) hedging. Cllr Armitage indicated that thorns would be available from the Cheshire Landscape Trust to complete the proposed hedging at the rear of the memorial garden.

20 Bulb planting. Cllr Hughes visited his proposal that white stakes might be provided to protect the planting following the commencement of grass cutting. It was agreed a site meeting should be sought with the District Maintenance Engineer.

21 Parish ICT. The Chairman reported the village site now included a link to the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society.

22 Primary School. The Chairman reported on current issues.

23 Parliamentary boundary proposals. The outcome of the public inquiry was awaited.

24 Parish noticeboards. Cllr Hughes would speak to the contractor concerning repairs to the Guilden Sutton Lane noticeboard. Cllr Paterson and the Clerk would produce an updated information list for display on the boards.

25 Members' information items.

Youth. Cllr Armitage referred to a forthcoming conference to be held on Wednesday 31 March 2004. Members wishing to attend would inform Cllr Armitage.

26 Information Correspondence.

Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils/NALC. Newsletter No. 94, January 2004; Training update.

Chester City Council: consumption of alcohol in public places, response required by end March 2004; Chester News; Highways and transportation local joint committee 22 January 2004; Cheshire West local health scrutiny committee 29 January, 2004.

Cheshire County Council: consultation on draft planning charter.

Cheshire Community Council: The Playing Field, Winter 2003/04.

CPRE: TCG News issue 28, December 2003; Planning Update issue 1/04 January 2004.

Boundary Commission: local government review, response required by 23 February 2004.

Voluntary Voice, issue 25, Winter 2003/04.
Volunteer Voice issue 20, Christmas 2003.

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public

– It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed that the Press and public should be excluded from consideration of the business set out beneath due to the likely disclosure of exempt information.

– 27 The Clerk: terms and conditions. This was deferred to a future meeting with the agreement of the Clerk.

28 Enforcement. (i) The attention of the enforcement officer would be drawn to the parking of trade vehicles at a residential property within the parish. (ii) The attention of the enforcement officer would be drawn to alterations which had been carried out to a residential property.