

# Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting  
11 May 2009

Reports 2008/09.

# Guilden Sutton Parish Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

2008/09 has again been an extremely busy period for the Parish Council on behalf of the local community.

In the election held on 3 May 2007, the following were elected unopposed to serve until 2011:

Robert Michael Armitage, 12 Oaklands, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7HE  
Ronald James Kimpton Bayton, Bramfield, 24 Cinder Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7EN  
Imogen Sue Brown, 5 Cathcart Green, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7SR  
Danny Michael Fisher, 5 The Dell, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7ST  
Derek Hughes, 47 Oaklands, Guilden Sutton, Chester, Cheshire CH3 7HE  
Bill Moulton, 9 Moorcroft Crescent, Guilden Sutton Lane, Chester CH3 7HA  
Patricia Margaret Paterson, 46 Oaklands, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7HE  
Michael Stephen John Roberts, 113 Oaklands, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7HG.

Cllr Armitage subsequently retired in Autumn, 2007 and was replaced by Cllr Michelle Kerfoot of 42 School Lane. Cllr Bayton resigned early in 2008 and we were very pleased to welcome Cllr Jane Hughes of Wicker House, Wicker Lane who was co-opted in his place.

Following the elections held on 1 May, 2008 for the new Cheshire West and Chester unitary authority, which succeeded Cheshire County Council and Chester City Council on 1 April, 2009, Guilden Sutton, as part of the Gowy ward, will be represented until 2011 by our two previous city councillors Brian Bailey and Stuart Parker (Con) and by Cllr Hugo Deynem (Con).

Monthly meetings have been held throughout the year, apart from August, together with site meetings. There have been extensive consultations on planning applications which have properly taken a great deal of time.

The Council is pleased that members of the public continue to take advantage of public speaking time which precedes each monthly meeting and raise a range of issues.

The following representatives were appointed to outside bodies:

Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Chester Area Meeting: Cllrs Fisher, D Hughes.  
Cheshire Community Council Village Halls Forum: Cllr D Hughes.  
CPRE: Cllr Brown.  
Guilden Sutton Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr Paterson.  
Chester City Council Gowy North Area Committee: Cllrs Fisher, D Hughes.  
Cheshire Police Authority Chester Have Your Say meeting: Cllr D Hughes, Cllr Moulton.  
Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee: Cllr Roberts.

The following Office holders were appointed:

Parish Paths Warden: Mr B Lewin.  
Parish Tree Wardens: Cllr I Brown, Mr A Young.  
Local Bus User Contact: Cllr M S J Roberts.

Cllr Hughes has continued as the Council's community governor nomination to the governing body of Guilden Sutton Church of England Controlled Primary School.

The Council has continued in membership of a wide range of outside bodies including the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Cheshire Community Action, the CPRE and the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society.

Guilden Sutton again provided the Honorary Secretary (The Clerk) of the Chester Area Meeting of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Members and the Clerk have attended a wide range of conferences and meetings held by Cheshire County Council, Chester City Council, Cheshire Community Action, the Cheshire Planning Forum, the CPRE, the Cheshire Association of Local Councils and the shadow Cheshire West and Chester Council. These meetings bring valuable information to the parish to assist the Council in the conduct of its business and enable Members to make useful contacts with Members and officers of other authorities. Members and the Clerk have also undertaken training which will assist the Council's aspiration to achieve Quality Council status.

The Council and the Clerk devoted considerable time during the year to engaging with the shadow Cheshire West and Chester Council as it drew up its new structure and working methods, particularly as these affect local councils. Guilden Sutton is now part of the Rural West area partnership board, which stretches from the Dee Estuary to Shropshire although local engagement is expected to be achieved through a new community forum. Together these will replace the former Gowy North Area Committee.

The present Local Plan for Chester district, which has been transferred to the new unitary authority in the interim, includes policies to control development in Green Belt villages such as Guilden Sutton. The Council believes that continued vigilance to protect the Green Belt is essential, particularly in the light of representations made to the City Council at an earlier stage in the plan process for land at Guilden Sutton Lane to be allocated as a business park and for 1,600 new houses to be built between Guilden Sutton and Littleton.

The City Council consulted on options which included alterations to the Green Belt in Chester District. The outcome is informing new proposals to be drawn up by the unitary authority and the Parish Council will consider these carefully and any impact they may have on Guilden Sutton.

The City Council also consulted on changes to the policy for new housebuilding where a moratorium had been in force since 2005. This was lifted as national and regional policies have since changed and completions will be allowed to return to their historic, higher level. The Government does not now apply an upper limit to the amount of new housebuilding which can take place and Cheshire West and Chester is designated as a housing growth point.

There have also been consultations on a wide range of other planning matters and on other issues by bodies such as the demising City and County Councils, the shadow Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Police and Fire and Rescue services and the Government which in one way or another affect the parish.

At a local level, the Council is fully supporting the group which is pursuing a parish plan for the village.

For 2008/09 a budget of £18,674 was set with the precept rising by 4%, below the Government guideline, to £13,104. This represented approximately £1.71 per month for an average band D house in the parish. The Council believes this represents good value for money but remains fully committed to spending council tax payers' money wisely and to securing grants towards expenditure wherever this is possible. For example, the Council has, in the past, been reimbursed by the previous City Council for approximately 60% of the cost of the village lengthsmen amounting to a sum in excess of £600. Grants totalling £1,000 were obtained towards the cost of the parish car park improvements mentioned elsewhere in this report and £270 towards the cost of the gardens open day. Twice in recent years, the value of grants which have been attracted towards projects for the benefit of the community have exceeded the value of the precept.

Historically annual expenditure has been rising as additional services and facilities have been provided and other costs have increased, including those of the Clerk whose terms and conditions have been under review. The Council aims to have a balanced budget in order to build up reserves for major expenditure such as any future replacement of the equipment in the children's play area and similar major projects such as the purchase of a children's playing field.

However, in recognition of the current financial climate, the Parish Council decided to freeze its spending plans and precept for 2009/10. Although this represents a modest saving of £4 for an average band D household in the village, councillors felt this was the right thing to do.

In other circumstances, the Council would have sought an increase in spending of around £2,500. This would have been higher than usual due to the withdrawal of a grant previously paid by Chester City Council towards double taxation issues, referred to later, amounting to £1,863. The balance would have been accounted for by provision for inflation.

In 2009/10 an average band D property in Guilden Sutton will therefore pay £20.70 to the Parish Council during the year, equivalent to £1.72 per month.

The total expenditure of £18,764 is planned to exceed the precept by £5,660 with the balance being found from other income streams and from reserves.

The freeze is a "one off" and the £4 per house increase will come into effect for 2010/11 unless permanent savings or new sources of income can be found during the year to compensate.

The new unitary authority finds it cannot continue to alleviate the long standing double taxation anomaly whereby, for example, council taxpayers in Guilden Sutton directly fund the cost of the provision of the children's play area and the parish playing field in addition to making a contribution to similar facilities in Grosvenor Park and Hoole. This grant had risen to £1.25 per head towards the estimate cost of £3.70 per head. The new council argues that savings to council taxpayers in Chester District arising from averaging out council tax across the new authority's area more than compensate for the loss of this grant. It is also proposing more formal arrangements which could see parishes benefiting from the certainty of three year agreements regarding certain aspects of parish expenditure.

The Council is pleased to report it again achieved a clean audit of its accounts.

A wide range of issues have been dealt with during the year. The Council is very aware of its responsibility to speak out for local interests, for example in responding to consultations and this is reflected in its very detailed monthly agenda. All issues, both large and small, are considered equally.

With local planning, there were few difficult issues and the Council has, as always, taken a great deal of care to ensure that all aspects were carefully considered and fairly discussed before a decision was reached. It is also worth noting that the Council is also consulted on planning applications on or near the Parish boundaries where these would affect Guilden Sutton.

A number of local highway matters were considered. The Council remains disappointed that a number of motorists exiting Guilden Sutton Lane at the junction with the A 41 ignore the intention that the gap in the central reservation is suitable to allow only one vehicle at a time to turn right into the main road, causing problems for themselves, approaching traffic and the vehicle already waiting. The Council hopes that all motorists using the junction will see the sense of exercising a little patience given the previous difficulties caused by inappropriate manoeuvres have not been entirely eradicated.

The Council has previously requested the highways and transportation local joint committee for Chester to reduce the speed limit on the A41 to 50mph, install traffic signals and provide street lighting from the Hoole Roundabout to Guilden Sutton Lane to improve conditions at the junction and reduce the road rage which occurs. Apart from the road being included in a county wide review of speed limits, there has been no progress on the other issues, large due to financial considerations.

The speed of traffic particularly on Guilden Sutton Lane, School Lane, Wicker Lane and Oaklands remains a concern and the possibility has previously arisen of a speed campaign in the village. This will be revisited at an appropriate stage. Councillors have previously taken advantage of training with new radar equipment and sites for its use have been assessed although no sessions have been possible. Details are taken of motorists exceeding the limit and police action follows if the same drivers are detected by the police on a future occasion. Our Clerk addressed the highways and transportation committee on proposals for a 30mph limit on Guilden Sutton Lane which have yet to progress.

Street lighting faults continue to be reported although in the last 12 months these have been fewer than usual. Faults can be reported by any resident at any time by telephoning the number and road name of the light concerned to the highway authority on 0300 123 7036 or through the Cheshire West and Chester Council web site.

Members maintain a close interest in bus services serving Guilden Sutton and have welcomed the introduction by the operator, Helms, of new, low floor vehicles.

The Council is pleased the children's playing field, which is rented from a private landowner, continues to be a well used village amenity.

Guilden Sutton continues to be deficient in all aspects of open space provision and any improvement in the position hinges crucially on land becoming available. The Council would be pleased to hear from landowners who might be able to help. The new unitary council would then be able to assist with help and advice as to the funding of the project.

The children's play area has benefited from a significant uplift in recent years thanks to magnificent fund raising by interested parents and grants. There has recently been concern at the condition of the safety surfacing although this was found to be of the required standard at the statutory annual inspection. Possible improvements are under consideration.

Regular basic inspections are carried out on an informal basis by Members of the Council, one of whom has received basic training in this aspect. The formal annual inspection has hitherto been arranged for the Parish Council by Chester City Council. Litter continues to be a problem and the Parish Council's contractor is paid to give the play area weekly attention by 3pm on Monday afternoon to deal with any weekend arisings. A litter bin is available very close by and the Council hopes this will encourage children and their parents to dispose of their litter in this manner.

Public footpaths are seen by the Council as an important part of village life and Members would wish to thank the Parish Footpaths Warden, Mr Brian Lewin for his work. New volunteers are always welcome and would help to reinvigorate the Parish Paths Group.

It may be recalled the Parish Council opposed the proposal by Cheshire County Council to upgrade the status of public footpath No. 7, the green lane on the boundary of Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford parishes, to a byway open to all traffic on the basis of historical evidence dating back to earlier centuries. The Parish Council continues to monitor the character and condition of the route and in the Autumn organised a community bulb planting day on the lane which is now a restricted byway.

The condition of the dingle path at the rear of Oaklands is of concern. A site meeting held in Spring 2008 led to some work being carried out in the Autumn but the overall condition remains less than satisfactory. A further site meeting is being sought to consider issues such as ongoing future maintenance.

New steps have been installed by Cheshire County Council from the dingle path to Church Lane. The Clerk had previously addressed the highways and transportation local joint committee to request the steps, the adjoining level length of the footpath and the footway on the field side of Cinder Lane, all of which are part of the Longster Trail, should be included in an appropriate maintenance schedule.

The Council believes that trees play a vital part in the village environment and would wish to thank Cllr Brown, and Mr Alan Young, the parish tree wardens, for their efforts.

The Council's newsletter continues to appear and has now reached its 132nd issue. Members would be pleased to hear comments as to its value in helping the Council's communications within the Parish.

The three parish noticeboards at Guilden Sutton Lane, opposite the Summerfield Road shops and at the car park on Church Lane continue to be well used

Due to its proximity to the urban area, the parish suffers from a great deal of indiscriminate dumping of refuse, particularly in Belle Vue Lane and Guilden Sutton Lane. This continues to be a serious concern. The same applies to tipping in the dingle at the rear of Oaklands. Such action is deprecated by the Council which believes that residents should appreciate the good environment the village is fortunate to enjoy. Particular concerns have arisen on Belle Vue Lane and a site meeting was held with Cllr Stuart Parker and the relevant officer. Unfortunately, no progress has since been made and this is to be revisited.

The Council would be pleased to receive views on the Parish's entry in the Cheshire Best Kept Village Competition having again decided there was insufficient support to participate in 2009. Marks in earlier years, although no worse than average, had highlighted that a number of aspects needed to be improved including the extent of community involvement.

The Council remains concerned at the degree of dog fouling within the village, particularly on the footpath leading to the primary school and the dingle footpath. This is a totally unnecessary problem and the Council hopes that the small minority of dog owners concerned would feel more able to play their part in tackling the problem. Additional dog bins have been provided in the parish by the warden.

Our local police officer, PC Mal Baker, has attended meetings of the Parish Council to discuss Policing issues and has also made high-visibility patrols of the parish accompanied by Parish Councillors. This initiative is very much to be welcomed.

Generally Guilden Sutton is seen as a relatively peaceful village although there have in the past been isolated instances of anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the play area and the Village Hall. The upgraded CCTV equipment there is thought to have had a beneficial effect.

The Council continues to embrace information technology. A significant and increasing proportion of the Clerk's contact with Members and with the principal authorities and other organisations and individuals has been carried out through e-mail for a number of years. Under the leadership of previously Cllr Fisher, and more recently Mr Brian Lewin, the village web site has been further developed and offers an ever increasing range of information about the Council and the community, attracting praise from the this country and overseas.

Civic duties have included the laying of the customary wreath on Remembrance Sunday in memory of the fallen and attendance at the Lord Mayor of Chester's Civic Service.

During 2005/06, the Council spent a considerable amount of time considering provision for youth. Illustrative proposals were on display for comment at a community drop in. The Council was pleased to hear from young people themselves and also took account of representations made by residents that any proposals should be preceded by consultation. The issue of provision for youth is set against the backdrop that the Parish Council controls no suitable land itself. At an early stage, the Council agreed the use of the City Council owned amenity areas at the dell and Fox Cover should be discounted as unsuitable, having taken appropriate advice from the City Council as landowner. No further progress is possible at the present time given the lack of suitable sites.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of Cllr Kerfoot, the Council marked Cheshire Year of Gardens with an extremely successful inaugural gardens open day attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Cllr Brian Bailey and Mrs Raewyn Bailey. As part of the year, improvements were also carried out to landscaping at the parish car park in Church Lane and further work is envisaged.

Despite its busy agenda the Council strives to keep in touch with village life and what is important to people in Guilden Sutton. It was pleased to finance the gardens day referred to above and also to make a grant towards the cost of the summer holiday club organised by St John's Church. In 2009/10, it will again make a contribution towards the cost of the gardens open day, taking place on Sunday 14 June and a further grant to the holiday club in addition to providing financial support to the proposed village fete on Saturday 11 July. Ready support was also given to occupiers in Vicarage Close who petitioned for a grit bin during the severe weather.

In conclusion, the Council would wish to thank the demising City and County Councils, the shadow Cheshire West and Chester Council, our local City, County and shadow unitary councillors Brian Bailey, Stuart Parker, Hugo Deynem and Eleanor Johnson and Mrs C M Russell MP for their unfailing help and support during the year.

Inevitably an annual report passes over the great deal of routine, day to day activities by the Council which taken together contribute greatly to the well being of the community. I would therefore pay tribute to the Council and our Clerk for its hard work during the last 12 months and believe the parish is fortunate that Members have felt able to come forward with their time to serve the community.

**Cllr Danny Fisher**  
**Chairman.**

## **Development Control.**

### **Development control report for meetings held between 7 April 2008 and 6 April 2009.**

#### **New Applications.**

08/00423/FUL single storey front and side extension 28 School Lane CH3 7ET for Mr and Mrs R Wilkinson. Cllr Kerfoot declared a prejudicial interest and left the room. Inquiries would be made by Cllrs Fisher and Moulton to enable a response to be made on Tuesday 8 April 2008 which had been agreed with the case officer. No objection raised.

08/00484/FUL removal of 27m of hedgerow 1.8m - 2m high and reprofiling of land, Ganilly, Church Lane for Mr W Young. Cllrs Hughes and Brown reported. It was noted the application was retrospective and the hedgerow had already been removed. As a result the Council was unable to fully assess the impact of its removal. The local planning authority would be informed the Council may have been minded to object had the hedgerow been the original field hedge. An assurance would be sought the advice of landscape officers would be sought in reaching a determination.

It was noted the application had been approved. An approach would be made to the local planning authority seeking an explanation for the decision on the basis it was contrary to the view of the Parish Council.

An approach had been made by the Clerk to the local planning authority seeking an explanation for the decision on the basis it was contrary to the view of the Parish Council. It had also been noted the description of the proposal in the decision notice as the enclosure of agricultural land into residential curtilage and regrading works to rear boundary (retrospective) did not accord with that on the application. The Clerk had been informed by the case officer that the description originally provided was felt to be sufficiently accurate but it had been thought it should be revised to more accurately reflect the development works which had actually been granted permission. The removal of the hedge, which did not in itself require planning permission, had been necessary to facilitate the expansion of the garden. The planning authority believed the enclosure of agricultural land into residential curtilage had not been excessive and the replanted hedge was satisfactory.

08/00524/FUL single storey extensions to side and rear of property and first storey front extension, 101 Oaklands for Mr G Connolly. Cllrs Fisher and Moulton reported on this resubmitted application. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/00565/FUL ground floor rear extension at 80 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mr S Moulton. Further inquiries had been made by Cllrs Brown and Paterson. It was noted the applicant intended to submit a revised proposal. Neighbour consultations would proceed at that stage. The Clerk reported the receipt of copy correspondence from Dr and Mrs J E Cattle, The Lodge, School Lane raising concerns about the proposal.

Inquiries by the Clerk of the case officer had revealed the Council had not been informed of the expected revised application as the scale of the proposed extension had been reduced. Members expressed concern that in anticipation of the revised application, consultations with neighbours had been placed in abeyance and the Council therefore had not had the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Although there was no precedent, Members agreed that should similar circumstances arise in the future, the local planning authority would be informed the Council was aware a revised proposal was expected and would not wish to find itself in a position where it did not have the opportunity to comment. It was noted planning permission had been granted. Dr and Mrs Cattle, Paddock House, would be advised of the circumstances having invited the Council to view the application site from their property.

08/00566/FUL ground floor extension and small porch to side at 3 The Dell CH3 7ST for Mr P Lindberg. Further inquiries had been made by Cllr Paterson. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/00675/FUL two storey and single storey extension and replace flat roof over dormer with pitched at 42 Cinder Lane CH3 7EN for Mr D Hudson. Further inquiries had been made by Cllrs Kerfoot and Moulton. It was agreed no objection should be raised.

08/00713/FUL steel framed portal building at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Ardens. Cllr Fisher reported and referred to copy correspondence received from Mr Hibbert. Cllr Hughes believed it would be

difficult to object to the proposal and pointed out a grain dryer had been in use at the farm for a number of years. It was not anticipated there would be any significant increase in traffic movements. Cllr Fisher supported the views of Cllr Hughes. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed that no objection should be raised. The local planning authority would be asked to clarify the absence of any notice of intended development and the extent of consultation with neighbours.

The local planning authority had indicated a notice of intended development had been issued. It was now understood this had been displayed. A total of 10 surrounding dwellings on Wicker Lane had been notified in writing and a number of responses had been received.

08/00745/FUL two storey rear extension and replacement conservatory at Wicker House, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Mr and Mrs G Hughes (resubmitted application.) Further inquiries had been made by Cllrs Fisher and Kerfoot. It was agreed no objection should be raised. It was noted the application had been refused.

08/00814/FUL ground floor extension to front and side of dwelling at 8 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL for Mr Pryer. Further inquiries had been made by Cllrs Moulton and Kerfoot. It was agreed no objection should be raised.

08/00849/FUL construction of single storey extension, porch and removal of existing garage at Wembrook, Belle Vue Lane for Mr and Ms Mitchell and Steepe. Cllr Paterson reported. It was noted there were neighbour objections relating to overshadowing due to the height of the proposed extension and the overlooking of a patio by a Juliette balcony. It was agreed the Council would not wish to raise an objection although it would wish the local planning authority to be satisfied there would be no unacceptable loss of light to the main habitable rooms of the adjoining property or unacceptable overlooking from the proposed balcony.

08/00986/FUL single storey extension to side of existing dwelling at Oakleigh, Hare Lane, CH3 7ED for Mr S Pinder. The Clerk reported that initial consideration had been given to this application by Cllr Paterson who had determined the proposal was a neighbouring parish notification. In consultation with the Clerk, Cllr Paterson had agreed that no further action should be taken in order to release time, given the availability of Members, for consultations on a proposal within the parish.

08/01084/FUL two storey extension at Belle Vue Cottage (Polruan), Belle Vue Lane for Mr M Jones. Cllr Hughes reported. The Council believed there would be no unacceptable harm to the Green Belt and agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/01150/FUL (amended description) replacement conservatory extension, enlargement of dwelling by adding front and rear roof dormers at Wicker House, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Mr G Hughes. Following a report from Councillors Derek Hughes and Brown it was agreed that no objection should be raised as the Council was not persuaded the proposal would have an unacceptable harm on the openness of the Green Belt.

08/01154/FUL demolish existing conservatory and replace with single storey extension at 67 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mrs J Tindle. Following a report from Councillors Paterson and Brown, it was agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/01230/FUL replace existing wooden frame windows with uPVC windows at Flat 2, Post Office, Summerfield Road for Mrs K Smith. Following a report from Cllr Brown, it was agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/01544/FUL garage to side of dwelling at Cherry Bank, Church Lane for Mr D Phillips. Following a report from Cllr Fisher, it was agreed that no objection should be raised. The Council would indicate its pleasure that a sandstone wall was to be retained.

08/01644/FUL amendments to 07/00366/FUL and additional single storey extension at Brackendale, Church Lane for Mr and Mrs Jessop. Further inquiries had been made by Cllr D Hughes and Cllr J Hughes. No objection had been raised. This was agreed.

08/01909/FUL erection of dwelling house to replace existing at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane for Mr and Mrs M & A Jones. Councillors Paterson and Brown reported. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.



08/01958/COU change of use of two storey side extension to separate dwelling at 8 Hill Top Road, CH3 7HJ for Mrs Sansom. Further enquiries had been made by Cllrs Fisher and Kerfoot. The following interim response had been made:

*"Thank you very much indeed for kindly consulting my Council on this proposal.*

*We do not now hold a copy of the original decision but believe the accommodation may have had approval for occupation by a dependent relative. Should that permission have been granted today, the City Council's policy HO18 would appear to preclude its future use as a separate unit of accommodation and would require it to continue in the same ownership control. Members would be grateful if you are able to clarify this aspect.*

*In the meantime, on the basis of the presently available application, the Council would wish to OBJECT as there is insufficient information as to the extent of the curtilage of the proposed dwelling, private amenity space, bin storage (taking account of the requirement from 1 April 2009) and parking arrangements. In respect of the latter point, the views of the County Engineer are supported.*

*Should the LPA be minded to consider approval, we would wish careful consideration to be given to policies GE3 (effect on the amenities of neighbours), HO5 (residential development) and TR13 (highway safety). In respect of HO5, it is noted the character of the surrounding area is an issue and Members are concerned that the apparent lack of private amenity space for the separated dwelling together with the absence of a front door are not features of surrounding development."*

It was agreed this response should be confirmed.

A report to the Planning Board recommending permission had been circulated by the Clerk to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Kerfoot. The Clerk informed the Council's concerns had helpfully been raised by City Cllr E Johnson at the Board. He also pointed out the present use for paying guest accommodation could continue until such time as the standard three year permission was implemented. Members had agreed the officer's recommendation.

08/01974/FUL replacement conservatory at Barrow View, 2 Cinder Lane for Mr David Moulton. Councillors Brown and Kerfoot reported. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/02147/TPO 1 no sycamore, branch lopping, corner of Guilden Sutton Lane (sic) opposite Methodist Church for Guilden Sutton Parish Council. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

09/010023/FUL proposed alternative access arrangements from the Greenway onto Station Lane for Sustrans. The Clerk had obtained details of this neighbouring parish application which proposed alterations to the emergence of the extended cycleway onto Station Lane. This would now avoid a shared access closer to Mickle Trafford and would follow a line along the boundary of a field opposite Meadow Lea Farm. It was agreed the situation should be monitored.

Further to the report to the previous meeting, the Clerk reported he had obtained a copy of the design and access statement which indicated the route would connect the greenway to Station Lane in Mickle Trafford to the south of Silverdale Park rather than the previously proposed access which would have involved a private residence, Network Rail vehicles and users of the greenway sharing the same access and passing near live railway lines and a signal box. The new route, which would be landscaped, would be some distance from the parish boundary although visible from Footpath 7.

09/10120/FUL single storey extensions to dwelling to form garden room and art studio at Clock House, The Steadings, Wicker Lane, CH3 7EL for Mr and Mrs P McCormick. Cllr D Hughes reported the proposal had been considered by The Steadings Management Committee which had no objection. It was agreed no objection should be raised by the Council subject to the local planning authority being satisfied there would be no unacceptable harm to the openness of the Green Belt

09/10171/FUL single storey extensions to side and rear and first floor side extension at Mountview, Station Lane for Mr P Fellows. Cllr Fisher reported. It was agreed no objection should be raised to this resubmitted application.

09/10201/FUL replacement front porch at 1 The Vetches CH3 7HL for Mr Ian Howell. Further inquiries had been made by Cllr Paterson. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

09/10276/FUL single storey extension to rear of property, porch to front and loft conversion at Westview, Hare Lane CH3 7ED for Mr and Mrs Collinson. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

09/10317/FUL extension and alterations at 3 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr and Mrs R Spencer. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

09/10375/FUL conservatory at Tabora, Belle Vue Lane for Mr Duckworth. Enquiries had been made by Cllr Brown. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

## **Decisions**

07/00241/REM detached dwelling, The Vicarage, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance. Planning permission. Conditions re materials, drainage, landscaping. The Clerk reported the application had unanimous approval from the Planning Board after little debate. City Cllr Parker had indicated the proposal was supported by residents and believed the village was fortunate to have the rector in the parish.

07/02400 two storey side and rear extensions and alterations 4 Moorcroft Crescent CH3 7HA for Mr S Lloyd. Planning permission. Conditions re materials, privacy.

08/00423/FUL single storey front and side extension 28 School Lane CH3 7ET for Mr and Mrs R Wilkinson. Planning permission.

08/00484/FUL enclosure of agricultural land into residential curtilage and regrading works to rear boundary (retrospective) at Ganilly, Church Lane for Mr W Young. Planning permission. Condition as to submission of drainage details in respect of the embankment so created. It was noted the description of the proposal on the decision notice did not accord with that on the application and the Clerk would seek clarification. It was further agreed a copy of the decision notice should be sent to Mr and Mrs Church.

08/00524/FUL single storey extensions to side and rear of property and first storey front extension 101 Oaklands for Mr G Connolly. Planning permission.

08/00565/FUL (amended) ground floor rear extension at 80 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mr S Moulton. Planning permission.

08/00566/FUL ground floor extension and small porch to side at 3 The Dell CH3 7ST for Mr P Lindberg. Planning permission.

08/00713/FUL steel framed portal building at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Ardens. Refusal of planning permission. The proposed development would result in a significant increase in the number of large vehicles accessing the site. The local road network was not considered to be of a suitable standard to accommodate this traffic through the surrounding lanes or its turning manoeuvres at the junctions with the surrounding major roads the A51, A41 and A56 resulting in increased highway conflict and conditions detrimental to highway safety. The site is located within an area designated as Green Belt wherein there is a presumption against all inappropriate forms of new development. It had not been demonstrated that the proposed development was reasonably required to support the agricultural use of land within the applicant's control. Very special circumstances had not been demonstrated.

08/00814/FUL ground floor extension to front and side of dwelling at 8 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL for Mr Pryer. Planning permission.

08/00849/FUL construction of single storey extension, porch and removal of existing garage at Wembrook, Belle Vue Lane for Mr and Ms Mitchell and Steepe. Planning permission. Balcony rail not approved and should be omitted from the proposed development to safeguard the privacy of both the occupants of the adjacent property and the application property.

08/01084/FUL two storey extension at Belle Vue Cottage (Polruan), Belle Vue Lane for Mr M Jones. Refusal of planning permission. Inappropriate development within the Green Belt. Proposed extensions would be out of scale and keeping with the original dwelling and amount to disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original property. No special circumstances. Size and design would appear out of keeping and detrimental to the character and appearance of the rural part of the district.

08/01150/FUL (amended description) replacement conservatory extension, enlargement of dwelling by adding front and rear roof dormers at Wicker House, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Mr G Hughes. Planning permission.

08/01154/FUL demolish existing conservatory and replace with single storey extension at 67 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mrs J Tindle. Planning permission. Condition re approval being required for any future side window.

08/01230/FUL replace existing wooden frame windows with uPVC windows at Flat 2, Post Office, Summerfield Road for Mrs K Smith. Planning permission.

08/01506/LDC use of land as residential curtilage at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane for Mr M and Miss A Jones. Granted. The Clerk referred to the procedure relating to such certificates and informed this did not involve consultation with the parish council.

08/01544/FUL garage to side of dwelling at Cherry Bank, Church Lane for Mr D Phillips. Planning permission.

08/01644/FUL amendments to 07/00366/FUL additional single storey extension at Brackendale, Church Lane for Mr and Mrs Jessop. Planning permission.

08/01909/FUL erection of dwelling house to replace existing at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane for Mr and Mrs M & A Jones. Planning permission. Permitted development removed.

08/01958/COU change of use of two storey side extension to separate dwelling at 8 Hill Top Road, CH3 7HJ for Mrs Sansom. Planning permission. Conditions re details of the boundary enclosure, removal of permitted development, parking to be maintained.

08/01974/FUL replacement conservatory at Barrow View, 2 Cinder Lane for Mr David Moulton. Planning permission.

08/02147/TPO 1 no sycamore, branch lopping corner of Guilden Sutton Lane opposite Methodist Church for Guilden Sutton Parish Council. Permission.

09/10120/FUL single storey extensions to dwelling to form garden room and art studio at Clock House, The Steadings, Wicker Lane, CH3 7EL for Mr and Mrs P McCormick. Planning permission.

09/10171/FUL single storey extensions to side and rear and first floor side extension at Mountview, Station Lane for Mr P Fellows. Planning permission. Side windows condition.

09/10201/FUL replacement front porch at 1 The Vetches CH3 7HL for Mr Ian Howell. Planning permission.

### **Appeals**

07/00509/FUL 2 no. garages on land between 4 Summerfield Road and Summerfield House. The Clerk had circulated the Inspector's report which dismissed the appeal on the grounds of the unacceptable relationship between the garages and the windows of habitable rooms in Summerfield House.

08/00713/FUL steel framed portal building at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL. The Clerk reported the receipt of notification of this appeal for which a response was due by 18 November 2008. It was noted that no further representations were required as the Council had not objected to the application.

The Clerk reported the receipt of the decision in this appeal which had been dismissed by the inspector on Green Belt grounds.

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## **Financial reports 2009/10.**

### **Parish Council budget 2009/10**

In recognition of the current financial climate, the Parish Council has frozen its spending plans and precept for the next 12 months. Although this represents a modest saving of £4 for an average band D household in the village, councillors felt this was the right thing to do.

In other circumstances, the Council would have sought an increase in spending of around £2,500. This would have been higher than usual due to the withdrawal of a grant previously paid by Chester City Council towards double taxation issues, amounting to £1,863, with the balance being accounted for by provision for inflation.

In 2009/10 an average band D property in Guilden Sutton will pay £20.70 to the Parish Council during the year, equivalent to £1.72 per month.

Total expenditure of £18,764 is planned to exceed the precept by £5,660 with the balance being found from other income streams and from reserves.

The freeze is a "one off" and the £4 per house increase will come into effect for 2010/11 unless permanent savings or new sources of income can be found during the year to compensate.

The new Cheshire West and Chester Council has levelled out council tax across its area as a result of which its increase in Chester district for next year is less than 1%.

The Police increase is 3.6% and that for the Fire authority 2.9%.

### **Parish Council budget 2009/10 with 2008/09 for comparison.**

Head	Budget 2008/09	Budget 2009/10
CATPCs sub.	305	330
CPRE	30	30
Community Council	40	50
Md Ch Ftph Soc	10	10
BTCV	25	50
Cty PI Fields Assn	15	15
CLT	40	40
Salaries	4625	4725
Agreed expenses	104	104
Clerk's gratuity	160	160
Postages	75	35
Photocopies	150	150
Stationery/ equipment	75	50
Telephone	50	50
Mileage	100	100
Parish car park rates	585	620
Insurance	1350	1350
Audit	275	225
Gnds maintenance	2000	1750
Lengthsman	1735	1825
PI field rent	550	640
Footph Gp grant	350	50
Newsletter	450	600

Room hire	20	20
Memorial garden	50	50
Play Area capital	1000	1000
St. John's PCC	250	250
Meeting expenses	25	25
Bulbs	100	100
Public seat	500	500
Web site	50	50
Shelter cleaning	65	65
CCTV mntce	250	250
Christmas	50	50
Holiday Club	200	200
Member training	500	500
Clerk's qualification	500	500
QPC	550	550
Parish Plan/VDS	250	0
Events	0	1000
Contingency	1305	695
	18764	18764

Financed by

Precept	13104	13104
VAT	1200	125
Double taxation grant	1863	0
Interest	557	500
Lengthsman grant	450	600
Area Committee grant	700	0
Graveyard grant	250	250
Reserves	640	4185
	18764	18764

A band D property in Guilden Sutton will pay council tax of £1,449.97 during 2009/10 compared with £1,432.38 during 2008/09.

The total includes precepts raised by Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire Police Authority, Cheshire Fire Authority and the Parish Council.

Of the band D total, Cheshire West and Chester Council takes £1,224.04, Cheshire Police Authority £140.70 and Cheshire Fire Service £64.53.

Any of the smallest band A properties will pay £966.65 while occupiers of any of the largest band H properties will face a total bill of £2,899.64.

Changes have also been made by the new Cheshire West and Chester Council to direct debit payment dates to bring these into line across its area.

## Expenditure 2008 – 2009

Chg	Date		Salaries	Post/tp	Mileage	Printing	Str/equ	Insurance	Subs	Admin	Grants	Publ'ty	Services	VAT
38	70408	Gresty											1053.00	
39		Cheshire PI Fields Assn							14.00					
40		Mid Ch Ftpath Soc							8.00					
41		Chester City Council											294.05	
42		S&H Services											14.00	
43		ChALC								312.67				
44		Devaprint										150.00		
45		NWN Media										23.00		4.03
46		Clerk	1079.33											
47		Clerk			17.60	10.05	104.00							
48	240408	Devaprint										165.00		
49	120508	Play & Leisure											150.00	26.25
50		NOT ISSUED												
51		NOT ISSUED												
52		Chester Security											4280.00	749.00
53		CPRE							28.00					
54		Cheshire Comm Cl							50.00					
55		D Hughes											28.60	
56		NWN Media										23.00		4.03
57		Clerk			30.40	24.20	9.99							
58	90608	Allianz						1285.96						
59		St John's PCC									500.00			
60		Gresty											865.00	
61		Clerk			1.60	11.20								
62	20708	Clerk										41.40		
63		NWN Media										26.00		4.55
64	210708	Chester City Council											295.00	
65		St John's PCC									200.00			
66		Gresty											309.00	
67		Devaprint										145.00		
68		Sharon Press										145.00		
69		D Tubman								44.00				
70		Mrs R Mort											297.50	
71		Clerk	1079.33											
72		Clerk				16.50	15.99					17.60		
73	290708	M Kerfoot									479.79			
74	10908	Gresty											309.00	
75		S&H Services											14.00	
76		Mrs R Mort											160.00	
77		Clerk		3.76	3.20	16.40								
78	61008	NWN Media										23.00		4.03
79		Gresty											309.00	
80		ChALC								90.00				
81		Clerk	1079.33											
82		Clerk			4.80	10.20						20.70		
83	101108	NWN Media										23.00		4.03
84		D Astbury											1210.00	
85		Clerk			3.20	11.05								
86	11208	Audit Commission								135.00				23.63
87		ChALC							15.00					
88		Gresty											1007.00	
89		Plemstall Services											555.00	
90		Clerk		1.76	3.20	21.25								
91	50109	Mrs R Mort											160.00	
92		S&H Services											14.00	
93		ChALC								15.00				
94		NWN Media										23.00		3.45
95		D Norbury		2.97	3.20	16.00								
96		Upton RBL								18.00				
97		D Norbury	1079.33											
98	20209	Devaprint										165.00	27.50	
99		Gresty											114.60	
100		D Norbury		1.68	9.80	17.85								
101		P M Paterson											10.00	
102	20309	D Norbury			3.20	12.25								
103		I Brown											36.00	

**Income 2008 - 2009**

Guilden Sutton PC				
Income 2008/09				
Date	Bank interest	Precept	Grant	Description
10408	265.62			
	29.63			
40408	3.11			
90408			1863.00	Double taxation
140408		13104.00		
60508	14.16			
300508	145.44			
50608	15.65			
90608			3000.00	Parish Plan
110608			1450.00	CCTV
120608	23.40			
10708	78.39			
	6.16			
40708	13.50			
90708			750.00	Car park
			270.00	Gardens Day
250708			1215.49	VAT refund
50808	14.71			
60808			250.00	Churchyard
			603.20	Lengthsman 06/07
			624.00	Lengthsman 07/08
50908	13.50		250.00	CYOG08 re car park
11008	227.02			
	30.02			
31008	12.13			
51108	9.32			
51208	4.00			
10109	146.13			
	19.93			
50109	0.91			
50209	0.89			
50309	0.61			
	1074.23	13,104.00	10275.69	24453.92

## Annual Return 2008/09

<b>Head</b>	<b>31/03/08</b>	<b>31/03/09</b>
Balances b/f	21183	25782
Add precept	12000	13104
Other receipts	4430	11350
Staff costs	4317	4317
Other payments	8114	16935
Balances c/f	25782	28984
Assets	58451	61642



## Supporting notes 2008/09.

### Assets.

During the year, the Council acquired the following assets:

- 1 no replacement CCTV system £4280
- 1 no printing calculator £16

The existing CCTV system, which had no residual value, was disposed of.

At 31 March 2009 the following assets were held:

1 no Brother AX110 electric typewriter	£ 80 (b)
3 no street lights	£ 1140 (b)
1 no memorial garden	£ 4366 (a) (c)
1 no see saw	£ 1393 (c)
1 no basket ball post	£ 1402 (c)
1 no preschool unit	£ 5481 (c)
1 no multiplay unit	£11311 (c)
1 no animal spring	£ 451 (c)
1 no slide	£ 2050 (b)
1 no parish car park	£ 5005 (a) (c)
3 no bus shelters	£ 5887 (c)
3 no notice boards	£ 900 (b)
2 no public seats	£ 750 (b)
3 no parish boundary signs	£ 360 (b)
4 no litter bins	£ 400 (b)
4 no benches	£ 460 (b)
5 no signs	£ 212 (b)
1 no CCTV installation	£ 4280 (b)
1 no play area fencing and gate	£ 1552 (c)
Gates and fences	£ 2502 (c)
1 no play area surfacing £ included beneath	
1 no basketball pad	£11328 (c)
3 no bus shelter seats	£ 316 (b)
1 no printing calculator	<u>£ 16 (b)</u>
	£61642

The basis of the evaluation of these assets is as follows:

- (a) nominal - community asset
- (b) replacement value
- (c) insured value

### Leases.

At the year end, no leases were in operation.

### Borrowings.

At the close of business on 31 March 2009 there were no outstanding loans to the Council.

### **Debts.**

At 31 March 2009 there were no repayments due to the Council under previously agreed loans.

### **Capital reserves.**

At 31 March 2009 the Council had no capital reserves although an appropriate proportion of any balances at the time would be applied to the purchase of a parish playing field should this become possible, provision for youth and provision for a replacement play area. The Council agreed that £1000 per annum of balances from 2004/05 should be earmarked for this latter purpose.

### **Earmarked reserves.**

At 31 March 2009 the Council had the following earmarked reserves:

General projects	£ 1114
Clerk's gratuity	£ 2603
Parish Plan	£ 2855
Replacement play area	£ 5000

### **Overall reserves.**

The reserves at 31 March 2009 comprised:

<b><u>General projects</u></b>	<b><u>£ 1114</u></b>
Clerk's gratuity	£ 2603
Parish Plan	£ 2855
Replacement play area	<u>£ 5000</u>
Balance	£17412

In response to the Auditor's comments in 2007, the Council concluded estimates and fundraising for a replacement CCTV system (£4280 excluding VAT) for which grants of £1950 were obtained. The balance of £2330 was taken from reserves, thus improving the relationship with the precept.

An uplift to the landscaping of the parish car park costing £1760 was completed for which grants totalling £1000 were obtained, the remaining £760 being taken from reserves.

The Council will continue to keep the level of reserves under review bearing in mind the aspiration to acquire a playing field.

### **Tenancies.**

During the year the Council held no tenancies as landlord.

As a tenant, the Council held a licence for the rent of the parish playing field at a rent of £640 per annum on a repairing basis.

### **Section 137 payments.**

The limit for spending under section 137 of the LGA 1972 for this Council during the year was £6639.38. No payments were made during the year.

### **Agency work.**

During the year no agency work was undertaken on behalf of other authorities.

Advertising and publicity

The following costs for advertising and publicity were incurred during the year:

Recruitment advertising nil  
Other advertising nil  
Publicity (newsletter) £900

### **Contingent liabilities.**

NIL.

### **Pensions.**

For the year of account, the Council made no contributions to employee pensions.

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## Summary accounts.

### Opening balances.

Current	£ 3430.34
Scottish Widows 1	£19859.80
Scottish Widows 2	<u>£ 2492.66</u>
	£25782.80

### Receipts.

Current	£23482.18	
Scottish Widows 1	£ 862.60	
<b>Scottish Widows 2</b>	<b>£ 109.14</b>	
	<u>£24453.92</u>	
		£50236.72

### Payments.

Current	£21251.89	
Scottish Widows 1	Nil	
Scottish Widows 2	<u>Nil</u>	
	£21251.89	£21251.89

### Closing balances

Current	£ 5696.63	
<b>Scottish Widows 1</b>	<b>£20722.40</b>	
Scottish Widows 2	<u>£ 2601.80</u>	
	£29,020.83	<b><u>£28984.83</u></b>

### Reconciliation to box 8

Minus u/p	£ 36.00
	<b><u>£28984.83</u></b>

### Receipts:

Precept	£13104.00
Other	<u>£11349.92</u>
	£24453.92

### Expenditure:

Staff costs	£ 4317.32
Other	<u>£16934.57</u>
	£21,251.89

## **Significant variations.**

Line 1 The increased balances carried forward reflected underspends in 07/08 or provision which was not taken up.

These included:

Salaries	£ 308
Postage	£ 55
Stationery	£ 80
Telephone charges	£ 50
Insurance	£ 171
Audit fee	£ 147
Footpath group grant	£ 350
Newsletter	£ 150
Play area capital	£1000
Contingency	£1215
Public seat	£ 500
Website	£ 100
CCTV maintenance	£ 250
Training	£ 500
Quality Parish Council	£ 500

Line 2. The Council agreed a precept increase of 4%.

Line 3. Increased income included:

Double taxation grant	£ 373
Parish Plan grant	£3000
CCTV grants	£1450
Car Park Improvement grants	£ 750
Gardens Open Day grant	£ 270
Increase in VAT refund	£ 749
Street cleansing grant arrears	£1227

Line 6. Increased expenditure included:

Publicity	£ 637
CCTV	£5029
Car park improvement scheme	£1760
Gardens open day	£ 480
Graveyard maintenance grant	£ 500
Parish plan	£ 145
Training	£ 115

Line 7. Year end balances rose mainly due to increased income of £3000 which is ring fenced for future parish plan expenditure.

Line 9. The asset base increased due to insurance revaluations and acquisitions as previously detailed.

## **Public speaking at meetings held in the period 7 April 2008 – 6 April 2009**

7 April 2008

Mrs Y Kirk referred to the amount of litter on part of Guilden Sutton Lane, thought to be wind-blown and to the condition of the dingle footpath, Church Lane, the parish car park and the playing field ditch. A member of the public requested that Members should take account of the presence of members of the public to enable them to fully follow the business. Cllr H Deynem introduced himself to Members of the Council as a candidate for the Goway ward in the forthcoming election for Cheshire West and Chester.

12 May 2008

Mr R Hibbert spoke in respect of planning application 08/00713/FUL steel framed portal building at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Ardens and expressed concern that a notice of intended development had not been displayed and the height of the proposal was unclear as was the area of the farm from which the grain to be stored would be harvested. Mr Hibbert further questioned whether the installation in future of a grain dryer would require planning permission and asked for these points to be raised with the City Council. Mrs C Hibbert questioned the procedures to be followed by the local planning authority in monitoring the application and traffic issues. Mr P Ashton suggested the application would pose questions including traffic aspects if the building was to be used for imported grain and the effect on residential amenity. He was concerned the planning authority, in his view, was not carrying out its statutory duties.

Mr P Collinson referred to the prospect of lower speed limits being introduced on Hare Lane and Belle Vue Lane in place of the national 60mph limit.

Mr J Church referred to planning application 08/00484/FUL removal of 27m of hedgerow 1.8m - 2m high and reprofiling of land, Ganilly, Church Lane for Mr W Young, about which he had not been informed by the local planning authority and raised drainage issues.

Mr R M Armitage referred to the installation of gates on public footpath No. 1, the Belle Vue Path, Belle Vue Lane.

9 June 2008

Mr Michael Brown said he believed there were insufficient bus services to the village which gave rise to difficulties for elderly people amongst others. He also felt there was a need for a bus on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Mr Brown was thanked for his attendance.

Cllr S Parker presented an update on the shadow Cheshire West and Chester Council. He indicated that public speaking time was to be introduced at meetings of the City Council's Planning Board. Under this arrangement, local Members would continue to be able to present comments on applications submitted to the board as at present.

21 July 2008

Mr J Dale referred to parking outside his property at unsociable hours by youths from outside the village who made their way to the green lane and allegedly indulged in anti social behaviour, photographic evidence of which was submitted by Mr Dale. The Chairman assured Mr Dale the issue would be considered at an appropriate point in the agenda and thanked Mr Dale for his attendance.

Mr Michael Brown referred to changes which had been introduced to the bus timetable and indicated he would be unable to reach his educational establishment. The Chairman assured Mr Brown the issue would be considered at an appropriate point in the agenda and thanked Mr Brown for his attendance.

Mr G Collins presented a report on the work of the Primary School Travel Group which had been involved in the preparation of a school travel plan. It was noted that many of the traffic and transportation issues identified in a survey of parents mirrored issues which were being pursued by the Parish Council and by the Parish Plan Group. Mr Collins agreed it would be valuable for the Parish Council to be represented at future meetings of the group as its work progressed to the implementation stage. Mr Collins was thanked by the Chairman for his attendance.

1 September 2008

Mrs Y Kirk referred to her previous correspondence and thanked the Council for its response. Mrs Kirk referred to the village bus service and the need for improvement, including a Sunday bus; road signs which were obscured by vegetation; the removal of redundant gas markers from Belle Vue Lane; the speed of traffic on Guilden Sutton Lane; the need for warning signs on Porters Hill; the unacceptable quantity of litter on parts of Guilden Sutton Lane and the condition of Station Lane. Mrs Kirk was assured by the Chairman that the issues she had raised would be considered and was thanked for her attendance.

6 October 2008

Mrs Y Kirk reported a faulty light on the steps at Fox Cover.

Speaking to correspondence she had submitted, Mrs Kirk further raised suggestions as to the future maintenance regime for the parish car park.

Mr I Girling, 3 Old Hall Park referred to the need for regular future pruning of the remaining trees following the completion of the improvement scheme.

Mrs Judith Lathaen referred to a proposal to install fencing to the side of the Village Hall in connection with the use of the Marigold Room by pre school children and sought the support of the Council in enabling the project to proceed.

10 November 2008

Mr I Girling, 3 Old Hall Park, thanked the Council for the improvement scheme which had been carried out to the trees in the parish car park and referred to the completion of the scheme. Mr Girling further sought advice as to the requirement for the Council to advertise its meetings. Mr Girling was subsequently informed there was a requirement for the Council to formally post a notice in a prominent position within the parish three clear days before the meeting for which the noticeboard at Summerfield Road was used. Dates of future meetings also appeared in the newsletter which was circulated to every house in the village and on the website. The notice which had been placed on the Church Lane noticeboard in respect of this meeting was believed this had been carried away by the weather.

1 December 2008

Mrs A Jones, (an applicant), being present, indicated she did not wish to speak.

5 January 2009

Mr J Dale referred to the deteriorating condition of the surface of the green lane due to horse riders who were now disturbing the whole width of the route. He pointed out that maintenance of the route in a suitable and safe condition for all users was the responsibility of Cheshire County Council. Mr Dale also indicated he had responded to the consultation on the proposed 30mph speed limit on Guilden Sutton Lane. The Chairman thanked Mr Dale for his attendance and indicated his concerns would be carefully considered.

2 February 2009

Mrs C Evans, Vicarage Close, requested the provision of a grit bin at Vicarage Close due to the condition of the road in recent severe weather, which had led to her suffering a personal injury and the absence of footways. Mrs Evans presented a petition and letter of support for the request and was thanked for her attendance.

2 March 2009

Mrs J Lathaen referred to the forthcoming Gardens Open Day and the Village Fete and indicated that financial support would be welcomed towards both events.

The Gardens Open Day taking place on Monday 4 May would follow on from the success of the Gardens Open Day in 2008. Mrs Lathaen referred to the fact the Council had showed support in the previous year by totally funding the cost in celebration of Cheshire Year of Gardens 08. Any profits made in 2008 had been divided equally between the organisations which had formed part of the committee and the same would apply in 2009.

The money would contribute towards the costs of printing, advertising, prize money, the hire of the village hall, refreshments and other expenditure. The figure was based on the actual costs of running the event in 2008.

The village fete was being organised by herself with a large group of volunteers from many different groups within the village. It would take place on Saturday 11 July from 1.30pm to 4.30pm at Guilden Sutton CE Controlled Primary School. There would be 20 stalls and sideshows all housed in gazebos, a central area with activities throughout the day and refreshments. The fete was planned to be a community event involving as many people from the village as possible. Any proceeds would be used to pay for the event this year and any funds left over would be applied to set up a village fete fund to allow a fete in future years. The plan would be to then divide the proceeds in future as agreed by the fete committee. Mrs Lathaen requested a grant of £500 to help pay insurance and advertising costs. The money would be ring-fenced and managed to the Guilden Sutton Community Association account. She believed the Council should be supporting the event as it involved the school and 19 groups from the village, covering all age groups.

Mrs Lathaen was thanked for her attendance by the Chairman.

Mrs Y Kirk referred her letter, which had been circulated to all Members by the Clerk, raising concerns as to dumping and litter, manoeuvres by large vehicles turning right into the A41 at Guilden Sutton Lane and a change to the timetable for the C80 service. Mrs Kirk was thanked for her attendance by the Chairman.

City Cllr S Parker kindly updated the Council on issues relating to the incoming Cheshire West and Chester Council including local area working and the fact that each Member would have £5,000 to allocate for local priorities. Cllr Parker also referred to concerns as to road safety on Station Lane with the extension of the cycleway to Mickle Trafford and indicated a reduced speed limit would be sought. Cllr Parker was thanked for his attendance by the Chairman.

6 April 2009

Cllr S Parker kindly updated the Council on issues relating to the introduction of the new Cheshire West and Chester authority on 1 April 2009, which he believed had been greatly welcomed by officers, arrangements for dealing with development control matters, including the introduction of public speaking by parish councils and the possible inclusion of parish councils in site visits, attendance by members at parish council meetings and the possibility of member surgeries, to include parish clerks, as an alternative. Cllr Parker was thanked for his attendance by the Chairman.

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## **Cheshire West and Chester council tax**

As mentioned above, the Cheshire West and Chester Council Tax has set a new rate for standard band D properties of £1224.04, an increase in Chester district of less than 1%.

Cllr Mike Jones, Leader of the new council, said: "This budget is about building on the work of the old councils and delivering efficient, value for money and high quality services for Cheshire West and Chester Council.

"It delivers efficiency savings of 11% - or £25m - compared to the previous councils by reducing management levels and doing things differently.

"We will also be delivering effective services that are customer focused. This budget gives us the platform to do this.

"In setting the new council's first budget we were determined to protect front line services; to make a start in the resourcing of the new council's priorities; to have fewer managers; to have fewer staff not directly involved in service delivery; to remove duplication and to streamline service delivery. This budget delivers these aims."

The £239m budget highlights social care support for the elderly and the vulnerable. It prioritises an additional £2m to support safeguarding and protection of vulnerable children, whilst at the same time seeking efficiencies through streamlined serviced delivery.

The budget also increases payments for foster carers who play a very significant role in looking after vulnerable children.

The budget allows every one of the 72 local councillors to make choices about spending on local issues, with each councillor having £5,000 to invest on priorities in their local communities.

The council is also investing in schools and roads with spending of £1.4m allocated for primary school buildings and £4.8m on highway maintenance. Also identified is £585,000 to support local home owners affected by the credit crunch.

Around 200 staff from the previous councils will be leaving voluntarily as the new council reduces duplication and applies the economies of scale over the previous three district councils and the former County Council.

The council has saved an extra £6m to offset the impact on the council of the credit crunch which has led to lower returns on our investments and reduced income.

## **Cheshire Police**

Police Authority chairman, Peter Nurse said the authority's priorities for 2009/10 are to continue to protect the people of Cheshire and see a further reduction in crime and fear of crime.

He believes the budget will enable the Constabulary's performance to continue to improve.

It has been set at £172,898,000, an increase in funding of 2.9%. This means an increase in council tax on a band D household of just over 9p per week or 3.65%.

The authority has also agreed the Chief Constable's policing objectives for the year which are to:-

- Increase public confidence in policing by providing a visible presence.
- Respond effectively to the public when in need.
- Work in partnership with others to create strong and vibrant communities.
- Prevent and investigate crime and disorder.
- Protect vulnerable people.
- Protect the public from serious and organised crime and terrorism.

"The focus for the Constabulary is to continue to work hard to make sure there is confidence and satisfaction in the policing service we deliver and that it responds and meets citizens' needs," said Mr Nurse.

"We are grateful to the local people who have supported the authority's investment in recent years and the benefits of that investment are now evident. We are also grateful for the views expressed by the public during our extensive consultation about the budget and their priorities for policing, which has helped us set these objectives for the Chief Constable"

The authority's budget is capped by the Government.

### **Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service**

The Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service said its increase is being kept down to under 3% per cent to limit the impact on local council taxpayers.

The increase is equivalent to just £1.82 a year more for a band D home – or 3.5p per week extra - but fire chiefs say it will still allow them to invest in new projects, including ones aimed at improving training in risk-critical areas.

The authority has set the organisation's budget for 2009-10 at £42m.

Fire Authority chairman Tony Hooton said it had been possible to keep the increase down thanks to a combination of nearly £1m of efficiencies and savings, together with a good grant settlement from the Government.

He has revealed the budget will still support new developments including:

A new £100,000 budget to support local safety projects in each of the four new unitary council areas of Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester.

An extra £90,000 to increase training in incident command and for staff on the retained duty system.

£120,000 towards the development of youth engagement projects.

£100,000 to update breathing apparatus training facilities at Macclesfield Community Fire Station.

Over £600,000 to invest in new technology and equipment to support frontline emergency response.

"I am pleased that we have been able to keep the increase down to under 3% as we appreciate the difficult circumstances facing many of our residents," he said.

"We will be able to continue our work in reducing fire injuries and damage in the community as well as ensuring our fire crews are properly trained and equipped. I believe providing a first class fire and rescue service for less than £1.25 a week for an average household represents good value for money."

gspc pm 08/09

## **Local Government Issues.**

### **Cheshire West and Chester Council**

The new Cheshire West and Chester Council replaced the former Cheshire County, Chester City and Ellesmere Port and Neston and Vale Royal borough councils on April 1.

Guilden Sutton is represented by

Cllr Brian Bailey  
Cllr Hugo Deynem  
Cllr Stuart Parker

The council intends to bring a fresh and energetic approach to providing top quality services for its customers and communities.

With the introduction of the new authority on 1 April, residents will be able to access all council services through one organisation. It says its vision - Customer first, Value for Money, Best Practice - highlights the council's ambition to place its stakeholders at the heart of everything it does.

With a population of 327,500, the area covered by the new borough will include the major towns of Ellesmere Port, Neston, Winsford, Northwich and Frodsham and the historic city of Chester.

The new council will be the fourth largest unitary authority in the North West, giving it a powerful strategic voice in the UK and enabling it to drive forward initiatives to support developments in the area.

The council aims to get close to its communities to ensure their hopes and ambitions for their neighbourhoods help shape its service planning and delivery.

The council has a total of 72 elected councillors, representing 24 wards, who will engage with residents, businesses and partners to create real and valuable channels of communication.

### **Chester's waste collection and recycling contract**

The new system, which will be rolled out across the former Chester City Council district from June 2009 enables residents to recycle even more at the kerbside, reducing the amount of rubbish that goes to landfill according to the Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Every household covered by the scheme will receive an information pack with details about the new service which consists of:

A new 240 litre blue wheeled bin for paper and card, plastic bottles and bags, food and drink cans, aluminium foil and textiles with a caddy inside the blue bin for glass bottles/jars and batteries.

A new 240 litre green wheeled bin for garden waste

The existing 140 litre brown wheeled bins which will be used for any household waste that cannot be recycled.

For details about the new household waste system, residents can contact the customer services helpline on: 0300 123 7026.

### **Community safety.**

A new community safety partnership has been set up across the Cheshire West and Chester Council area to coincide with the new Council taking over the running of local services on April 1.

Made up of senior representatives of the new council, Cheshire Police, the Police Authority, the Primary Care Trust, Probation Service and Fire Service, the partnership's aim is to assess levels of crime and disorder, understand the concerns of people living and working in the area and tackle the issues that matter to the community.

A review of levels of crime and disorder has been completed and the findings are being used to inform the priorities for a new community safety plan.

As part of this process the partnership is inviting residents and to comment on its proposed priorities.

These are:

- Reducing overall crime - in particular alcohol related crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Reducing offending
- Domestic abuse
- Road safety
- Targeting high crime neighbourhoods
- Providing public reassurance
- Tackling substance misuse

Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson, chair of the partnership, said: "Over the last three years crime and anti-social behaviour incidents have continued to fall across the area with some significant reductions in burglary, criminal damage, vehicle crime and violent crime.

"Crime and community safety, however, remains a priority for residents and we need to ensure that police and partners are concentrating their efforts on addressing those issues that the community are most concerned about."

The new partnership has set up an on line survey on the Cheshire West and Chester Council web site and is encouraging residents to complete the short questionnaire which should only take a few minutes.

Questionnaires will also be available at many council buildings, police stations and libraries which residents can complete and return using the free post address.

### **Guilden Sutton Lane speed limit**

The highway authority has put forward a proposal for a 30mph limit on Guilden Sutton Lane covering the existing 40mph limit from the reservoir to the present 30mph limit at the approach to the children's playing field.

This is based on new national guidelines under which the number of properties on Guilden Sutton Lane qualify the road for a 30mph limit.

The reduced limit, which is supported by the Parish Council, was recommended for approval to a meeting of the city's highways and transportation local joint committee where concerns were raised about the effect of the loss of the present 40mph repeaters.

Traffic engineers pointed out that 30mph limits are denoted by the presence of street lighting. Four additional lights have been installed to improve the standard of lighting on part of the road which would be covered by the proposed lower limit.

The parish council took part in the debate and confirmed it had been aware the 40mph repeaters would be removed when it backed the proposed new limit. It also referred to speeds which had been recorded the same day by the Smiley Sid which was in use at the time.

City and county councillors voted by a majority to defer a decision on the basis they wished to have further details of the cost of additional measures which would have to be implemented if the 30mph limit is not observed. A final decision is awaited.

### **Dog faeces.**

Community safety wardens and the dog warden have stepped up patrols following increasing complaints from residents about the high level of dog fouling on Chester's streets and public land.

The dog warden recently provided signs for a path in the village which was suffering from the problem.

The new zero tolerance approach means that offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £50 if they do not clean up after their dog. Wardens will first offer offenders without a dog bag a free one to clean up the mess.

If the person refuses to do so they will be fined.

The city council says it spends thousands of pounds a year in an effort to keep streets, footpaths and public areas in the district clean and safe. Irresponsible dog owners who let their pets foul public spaces cause unnecessary inconvenience, stress and health dangers to other residents, especially children.

It argues their selfish behaviour is unacceptable. it now has the powers to get tough and the time has come to use them.

Free dog bags are available from the community safety wardens, dog warden and the council reception desk at the Forum Offices.

### **New buses**

Bus passengers in the village will benefit from an investment of almost £500,000 in new buses.

Two of the new state-of-the-art vehicles will begin operating for Helms from May 5 on services from Guilden Sutton and between Ince, Elton and Chester Business Park which pass through the village.

"The funding involved represents a major investment for Helms Coaches Ltd but this demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing quality public transport for Cheshire's rural communities" said John Cherry, managing director of the Eastham-based company.

The single deck vehicles will have a distinctive livery to emphasise their green low emission engines. They will also be fitted with ramps to help wheelchair users and 34 leather seats to provide comfort for passengers.

### **Information.**

The Council's e mail address is [info@guildensutton.org.uk](mailto:info@guildensutton.org.uk) and its web site is at [www.guildensutton.org.uk](http://www.guildensutton.org.uk)

### **Future meetings:**

Future meetings of the Council are due to be held in the Village Hall on Mondays 8 June, 20 July, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December 2009. All meetings include public speaking time and residents are welcome to attend and address the Council.

### **Contact**

Councillors Danny Fisher 301398, Imogen Brown 300812, Derek Hughes 300185, Jane Hughes 300863, Michelle Kerfoot 300644, Bill Moulton 348473, Trisha Paterson 300307 and Mike Roberts 300684 or the Clerk, David Norbury, 1 Orchard Croft, Guilden Sutton, CHESTER, CH3 7SL, 300783.

Cllr Roberts 300684 is the Local Bus User Contact and Brian Lewin 301501 is the Parish Paths Warden. The Parish Tree Wardens are Cllr Brown 300812 and Mr Alan Young 301558. Cllr Roberts and Cllr Jane Hughes share recycling issues.