

# Guiden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 April 2010 in Guiden Sutton Village Hall.  
Chairman: Cllr D Hughes.

Present: Cllrs I Brown, A Davis, D M Fisher, D Hughes, J Hughes, M Kerfoot, W Moulton, P M Paterson.  
In attendance: Cllrs B J Bailey, S Parker (Cheshire West and Chester Council).

1 Procedural matters.

(i) Apologies. Members: None.

Apologies were received from Cllr H Deynem, Cheshire West and Chester Council, PC M Baker.

(ii) Declarations of interest.

Members were reminded that they should declare any personal interest which they had in any matter or item to be considered at the meeting. Any declaration must be made before the matter, or item, was considered or as soon as the Member became aware a declaration was required. Similarly, if the interest was also a prejudicial one, this must be declared and the Member must leave the room after making a statement should they so wish under clause 12 (ii) of the code. Declarations were a personal matter for each Member to decide. The decision to declare, or not, was the responsibility of the Member based on the particular circumstances.

Cllr P M Paterson declared a personal interest in planning application 10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW by virtue of being a member of the Executive of Guiden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

Cllr D M Fisher declared a personal interest in planning application 10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW by virtue of being a member of the Executive of Guiden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

Cllr D Hughes declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW by virtue of being Chairman of the Executive of Guiden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 1 March 2010. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 1 March 2010 were proposed by Cllr M Kerfoot, seconded by Cllr A Davis and agreed as a correct record.

(iv) Chairman's Announcement. The Chairman referred to the recent sad death of Mr Philip "Pip" Gresty of Wood Farm, School Lane. He remarked the Council had dealt with Messrs Gresty for many years and the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk had attended the funeral service.

(v) Dates of future meetings:

Mondays 10 May, 7 June, 12 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December 2010.

(vi) Publication scheme: Training. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(vii) Code of Conduct. The Clerk would prepare and circulate a note of the main points made by the former Monitoring Officer in due course.

10/11 001

(viii) Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill. The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence, dated 12 March 2010, from Mrs C M Russell MP indicating the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill had successfully passed all its stages in the House of Commons with cross party support. It was hoped the House of Lords would have the same determination to get the Bill passed before the general election as the House of Commons had shown and that the Bill would pass onto the statute books before Parliament was dissolved. Mrs Russell had kindly furnished the Council with a fact sheet on the Bill. The information was welcomed and Mrs Russell would be thanked. **Action: The Clerk.**

(ix) UK Youth Parliament. The Clerk informed that Mr D Palmer had been successful in his election as a Member of the UK Youth Parliament. It was agreed that Mr Palmer should be congratulated and invited to maintain contact with the Council. **Action: The Clerk.**

(x) Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Following the nomination of Cllr D Hughes and Mrs R Hughes to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 22 June 2010, the Clerk regretted there was no indication the Council's nomination had been successful in the ballot.

(xi) Chairman/Vice Chairman 2010/11. Cllr Fisher referred to the annual meeting of the Council, to take place on Monday 10 May 2010 and suggested that prior to then consideration should be given by Members to nominations for the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was agreed.

(xii) Succession planning. Cllr Fisher referred to the advisability at some stage of succession planning should the Clerk retire in view of the likely impact on the Council's budget requirements. This was agreed.

## 2 Public Speaking Time.

Cllr S Parker, Cheshire West and Chester Council, informed of a number of borough council issues. Cllr Parker responded to questions from Members and was thanked by the Chairman for his attendance.

## 3 Planning:

### (i) New applications.

10/10167/FUL first floor front extension at 7 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL for Mr Richard Baird. Cllr Paterson reported. It was noted that although the property had previously been extended, the proposal would not increase the footprint. No objection had been raised.

10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW. It was agreed that further inquiries would be made by Cllr Fisher and Cllr J Hughes who would advise the Vice Chairman and remaining Members prior to any response given the prejudicial interest of the Chairman.

10/10861/FUL conservatory at rear of 109 Oaklands CH3 7HG. Further inquiries would be made by Cllr Paterson.

### (ii) Decision notices.

10/10167/FUL first floor front extension at 7 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL for Mr Richard Baird. Planning permission.

10/10527/NMA non material amendment to permission 09/11994/FUL - repositioning of entrance at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane CH3 7EJ. Planning permission. The Clerk informed the Council was not consulted on non material amendment applications.

(iii) Parish Plan: progress report. Cllr Paterson reported further as to the arrangements for the launch.

(iv) Village Design Statement. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(v) Strategic Planning.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(vi) Gypsy Traveller Overview Training Sessions. It was noted that further sessions would take place on 18 May and 13 July 2010.

4 Quality Council issues.

(i) CiLCA qualification. The Clerk reported he had progressed the revisions arising from the pre assessment of his portfolio by the Cheshire Training Partnership and had submitted the application.

(ii) Training: (a) Power to Promote Well Being. At an appropriate stage, the Council would revisit the possibility of training being requested from the County Office. (b) General. Members would indicate should they wish to attend any particular session during 2010 from the list previously circulated. **Action: All Members.** Cllr Paterson reported on Chairmanship training she had undertaken. The Clerk was to attend an Audit update session in Crewe on Wednesday 14 April, 2010

(iii) Moving Towards Quality Parish Council Status. (a) Conduct of Council business. The NALC model standing orders would be considered by the small group which had been established comprising the existing Quality Council group of Cllrs Fisher, D Hughes and Brown. (b) Status. A meeting would be arranged in due course to enable the group to consider the requirements which would have to be met by the Council if it was to achieve Quality Parish Council status to which it was committed in principle. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

5 Parish car park.

(i) Grounds maintenance. Performance against specification by the contractor, including the need for the grass to be cut on a regular basis and for weeds to be removed from the hard surface would continue to be closely monitored.

(ii) Improvement scheme. (a) Boundary treatment. A response was awaited by the Clerk as to his renewed approach to a contractor to seek quotations for the removal of the planting and mulch on the sides and rear of the car park and their replacement with concrete topped by setts.

(iii) Rear boundary wall. The Clerk would approach the two contractors of which he had details in due course to ascertain their interest in carrying out an inspection and detailing any necessary repairs to the boundary wall.

(iv) Replacement noticeboard. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the application to the ward councillors for a grant from their Members' Personal Budgets for the replacement of this noticeboard.

(v) Bulb planting. (i) Daffodils. Cllr D Hughes advised the daffodils planted by Messrs Gresty had been spread evenly for which he was particularly grateful for the efforts of Messrs Gresty. (ii) Snowdrops. Further to the decision at the previous meeting to plant snowdrops in the green, Cllr D Hughes advised a supply of 400 had been obtained, most of which had been planted on the car park bank. In addition bluebells had been planted and Cllr Hughes hoped there would be a good show of colour in 2011. Cllr J Hughes remarked the village as a whole was looking lovely.

6 Leisure Services

(i) Children's Playing Field:

(a) Grounds maintenance issues. In view of recent events, the request to Messrs Gresty to remove and repaint the goal posts with reseeding being carried out where necessary and depressions being filled where ponding was found would not be followed up at this stage, particularly as the field was again in use. Cllr Paterson reported following an inspection. There was evidence of litter on the field. The annual trimming of the hedges had now taken place and the ditch had been cleared. The Council had been congratulated by Mr Foreman on the condition of the ditch following work carried out by Messrs Gresty. .

(b) Mole infestation. Cllr Davis reported on progress so far. This was noted.

(c) State of nets. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Basket ball equipment. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(e) Use by vehicle. Cllr Davis informed of a motor scooter using the field. This was noted.

(ii) Children's Play Area.

(a) CCTV and CCTV protocol. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) Inspections. The Clerk informed that at this stage there was nothing further to report as to the statutory annual inspection to be carried out by the inspector brokered by Upton by Chester and District Parish Council.

(c) Litter bin emptying. There was nothing further to report at this stage. Cllr Kerfoot informed of unsightly litter at the side of the Village Hall and was thanked for kindly dealing with same.

(d) Grounds maintenance issues. The contract requirement for detritus to be removed from the hard surfacing rather than blown into the hedge bottom would continue to be brought to the attention of Messrs Gresty. Further to Cllr Fisher informing that the height of the boundary hedge was higher than desirable, the hedge had been reduced to slightly above the height of the fence by Messrs Branching Out Tree Services. Members expressed their appreciation of the standard of the work. Cllr D Hughes suggested that any future cut could be carried out slightly below the height of the fence.

(e) Replacement of safety surfacing. The likelihood of grants being available was being pursued by the Clerk.

**Action: The Clerk.**

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Footpath 7. Further to Cllr Paterson informing of low branches from trees adjoining the route, which it was noted would be the responsibility of the landowner, any comments from the Rights of Way Warden were awaited.

(b) Footpath 2. (i) Clearance and sweeping. Further to the Clerk informing Cllr B J Bailey of footpath issues which had been raised with the borough council and to Cllr Bailey and the Clerk having carried out a site inspection of all the routes previously visited with the Area Manager, the matter was being progressed by Cllr Bailey. Cllr Fisher referred to the narrowness of the route in parts. **Action: Cllr Bailey.**

(c) Footpath 1. The Clerk informed a report had been prepared by a Member as to the condition of the route and had been referred to the Rights of Way Warden. The Clerk had been advised by the Rights of Way Unit that an officer had visited and had intimated that any further obstruction would lead to prosecution. It was noted a complaint had also been made by a member of the public. A Member reported the path was currently walkable but narrow. Advice would be sought as to the expected width of a public footpath.

(d) Rights of Way Group. Cllr D Hughes referred to the volume of litter on the Millennium Greenway and referred to successful litter picking visits which had been made by the group. Cllr Brown raised the possibility of Community Service persons undertaking this task. Cllr Fisher expressed concern at the speed of cyclists due to the high standard of the surface. Cllr B J Bailey responded.

(e) Mid Cheshire Footpath Society. There was no action correspondence to report to this meeting.

(f) Greenway. (i) The wish of Members for signs to the Greenway from Guilden Sutton Lane and at the junction with footpath 7 was being referred to the project officer. The Clerk was awaiting a response to his request for leaflets with a map of the route being provided locally.

(ii) Gate closure, Garners Lane. The Clerk informed that following a complaint by Mr Andrew Arditti that a gate on the Garners Lane access to the Greenway had been locked, he understood the situation appeared to have been resolved as the gate was now open. It was thought the gate had been closed on the advice of the police in connection with anti social behaviour.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. (a) Vale. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Parish Council contract 2010/11. The Clerk was confirming the Council's acceptance of the kind offer by Messrs Gresty to continue the contract for a further year at the rates agreed for 2009/10. The Clerk was pursuing the correspondence, by letter dated 18 February 2010, from Messrs Rich Brothers of Rowton seeking to quote for grounds maintenance work. The company had been informed the Council was in the process of letting their contract for 2010/11 but would invite them to provide estimates for consideration in the future.

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

(vi) Fox Cover. (i) Landscaping. Cllr D Hughes reported the results of labour over many years were now apparent. Planting of snowdrops reported above had also been undertaken at this location. (ii) Replacement 'no ball games' sign. The Clerk informed there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the application to the ward councillors for a grant from their Members' Personal Budgets for the replacement of this vandalised sign.

(vii) Provision for youth. Cllr D Hughes informed he had enjoyed a successful visit to the School Council which he congratulated on meeting in their own time.

(viii) Multi use games area. Cllr Kerfoot informed there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ix) MBNA Chester Marathon 31 May 2010. Further to her discussion with the organisers during their presentation to Members, Cllr Kerfoot informed a station was to be manned at the beginning of the Greenway.

(x) Cheshire West and Chester Council open space assessment and audit. The Clerk informed the Council had appointed specialist sport and leisure consultants to undertake an open space audit and assessment across the borough. This would update the studies undertaken by the previous authorities. The assessment would aim to identify the needs of the public across the local authority and to map out the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing provision in order to prioritise areas for improvement and development. It would help to understand local issues so that they could be addressed more effectively. He proposed to attend a drop in session to be held in Winsford on Wednesday 14 April, 2010 to discuss issues in Guilden Sutton. This was agreed.

## 7 Public transport.

(i) Revised services. Cllr Moulton, Local Bus User Contact, informed there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) C80 town centre departure - Mrs Y Kirk. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Moorcroft Crescent inbound bus stand. Further to Cllr Moulton informing that visibility of oncoming traffic from this stand was obscured by overgrowth, Cllr Moulton confirmed that no action had been taken.

(iv) Timetable information. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

## 8 Highways.

(i) Strategic matters.

(a) A55 low noise surfacing. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Issues with the highway authority.

A response was awaited from the Area Highways Manager to the following issues. It was noted that further white lining was taking place within the parish for which the Area Highways Manager would be thanked:

**Guilden Sutton issues list**

**Major schemes.**

*A55 resurfacing River Dee to A51. Need for similar low noise surfacing in Guilden Sutton (and Hoole Village) raised with Highways Agency. Response received as to policy, no date but believed to be 2012.*

**Belle Vue Lane**

*Haunching/pot holes.*

**Church Lane.**

*Condition of cycle route Church Lane - Cinder Lane. Raised with Ian Lifford. Request for barrier to prevent reported use by motorcycles.*

*Flooding. In carriageway at foot of Fox Cover steps, possible BT manhole problem near junction with Wicker Lane.*

**Cinder Lane**

*Overgrown hedges, Cinder Lane/condition of footway. Raised with Ian Lifford.*

**Guilden Sutton Lane**

*Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. Untidy condition reported.*

*A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane, road rage, double parking in the gap, reinstatement of crossroads, installation of traffic signals, provision of crossing for cyclists and pedestrians as part of a safe route to school, traffic conditions on car boot Sundays. Ongoing apart from response to signals issue.*

*Boundary sign, Guilden Sutton Lane by reservoir. Reported. Requires refixing.*

*Damage to verges, truncated length of Guilden Sutton Lane. Request for road widening to accommodate HGVs. Concerns at effect of possible work by Scottish Power to their plant in the verge which would affect this.*

*Drainage issue in footway at field entrance opposite access to restricted byway. Gulley claimed to have been installed not at the lowest point. Recent flooding.*

*Lighting obscured by trees at reservoir. (Old). Reported. Not known if action taken.*

*Obstruction of footway by nettles etc at one location, brambles at the approach to the diversion from the village. Ongoing.*

*Overgrown hedges at two properties. (Old) Believed resolved by highway authority.*

*Guilden Sutton Lane, trip hazard at the site of a fall adjoining fence (Gresty's field). No defect revealed, local Member not satisfied.*

*Heath Bank, shrubbery, need for pruning. Dealt with.*

*Signing and lining: Guilden Sutton Lane at playing field, extend red patch "SLOW" marking to both carriageways and restore disturbed surface.*

*Wilding Business Estate, emerging traffic. Ongoing. Lining provided by Messrs Wilding.*

*Bus stand opposite houses between Moorcroft Crescent and Wilding Business Estate. Growth obscuring view of approaching traffic for alighting passengers.*

*Condition of carriageway under A55 bridge. NEW*

### **Hare Lane.**

*Speed of traffic, double parking in vicinity of Rugby Club. With highway authority/Police. Club understood to have issued advice re parking.*

### **Oaklands**

*Shops area -*

*Disabled access to shops. To be resolved by current planning application.*

*Concern that installation of a further dropped kerb from the shops car park to the pathway of the village hall car park is leading to vehicles over riding the footway to reach the Village Hall car park.*

*Perceived defect with the more recently improved ramp closer to the Village Hall.*

*Flags adjoining , Summerfield Road. Ongoing concerns re condition. Not adopted.*

*Footway rear Cathcart Green. Faulty step. Not adopted. Discussed at site meeting.*

*Elsewhere -*

*Footpath 2, condition. Raised with Ian Lifford.*

*School access to rear of Orchard Croft. Raised with Ian Lifford.*

*Need to edge out footway at Cathcart Green.*

*Carriageway defects on Oaklands approaching junction with School Lane at Wood Farm.*

*Carriageway defect in vicinity of the dell (site of previous collapse).*

*Parking, Arrowcroft Road. Ongoing school issue.*

### **School Lane**

*Porters Hill, remove centre line, add in edgeline, increase width of footway, provide rumble strips, install signals, reduce tree canopy. Issues raised by Members and the public.*

*Encroachment onto the highway. Posts and chains in verge. Council assured highway land could not be lost by default. Notices erected by occupiers requesting pedestrians not to use the verge at a second location where there is no footway*

*Flooded gulleys/depressed covers in vicinity of Arrowcroft Road. NEW*

*Condition of School Lane nameplate at the war memorial.*

### **Station Lane.**

*Renewal of SLOW sign when leaving the village.*

*Speed review.*

### **Wicker Lane**

*Gulley kerb, Concerns re the position of this kerb in the carriageway.*

*Visibility issue Wicker Lane/Church Lane. Overgrowth on corner, previously cut back by highway authority.*

*Surface water running from S bend towards Wicker House. NEW.*

### **General**

*Planters. NEW. Possibility of planters being provided on highway land at a central location in the village. Policy?*

*Migration of gravel from drives onto the footway. No current issues.*

*Overgrown hedges at various locations. PC approach is to advise complainants to report to highway authority.*

*SatNavs, request for weight restrictions on unsuitable roads. Response received.*

*Speed reviews, A41, Guilden Sutton Lane, Wicker Lane, Hare Lane, Station Lane. Ongoing. Update needed on proposed 30mph on Guilden Sutton Lane and reduction in the limit on Station Lane.*

#### (iii) Current issues

(a) Speed issues. (i) Speed indicator device, further lease. Further to the lease to be taken from 15 April 2010, Cllr Moulton was thanked for kindly compiling the rota and for agreeing to collect and return the equipment. It was agreed that further sessions should be sought in June and September.

(b) Signing and lining schemes. (i) Gateway treatment, Guilden Sutton Lane - red patch SLOW marking. (ii) Suggestion by Cllr Kerfoot that a lining scheme or rumble strips on Porters Hill would improve safety. Both these issues had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited.

(c) Speed review, Guilden Sutton Lane. This outstanding issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager. A response was awaited.

(d) Speed review, Wicker Lane/Hare Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage. The issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited.

(e) Footway rear Cathcart Green/Summerfield Road. No repairs appeared to have been carried out to this unadopted path at this stage.

(f) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the ongoing issue.

(g) Flags, Summerfield Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(h) Disabled access to shops. The issues identified at the meeting between the Clerk and the Access Officer on 19 December 2007 would be revisited following the completion of the alterations proposed at the village shops.

10/11 008



With respect to the concerns raised by Cllr D Hughes that the installation of a further dropped kerb from the shops car park to the pathway of the village hall car park could lead to vehicles over riding the footway to reach the Village Hall car park and the perceived defect with the more recently improved ramp closer to the Village Hall, both issues had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited.

(i) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage. The historic issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited.

(j) Road signs. Members would advise the Clerk if they became aware of any road signs in and around the village which were obscured by vegetation. The Clerk was progressing the concern expressed by Cllr D Hughes as to the condition of a School Lane nameplate at the war memorial. **Action: The Clerk.**

(k) Migration of gravel. There was nothing further to report at present.

(l) Porters Hill. The issue raised by Cllr D Hughes concerning poor visibility encountered by motorists driving up the hill and a suggestion that traffic signals might improve safety together with the effect of trees overhanging the road had been raised with the Area Highways Manager. A response was awaited.

(m) Path, Cinder Lane to Church Lane. (i) Condition. The condition of this path had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited. (ii) Use by motor cycles. The complaint to the Rights of Way Warden as to the use of this path by motorcyclists had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited.

(n) Footway, Guilden Sutton lane. It was not known what action had been taken by the highway authority as to the obstruction of separate lengths of the footway on Guilden Sutton Lane by nettles, brambles and an overgrown hedge respectively. The issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited. A Member advised the position was now becoming dangerous.

(o) Parish boundary signs (i) Guilden Sutton Lane. The state of this sign had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a response was awaited. (ii) Station Lane: The highway authority had been informed the sign had slipped down the pole.

(p) Flooding, Church Lane. Further to Cllr D Hughes informing of flooding taking place at the foot of the Fox Cover steps, and the flooding reported by Mrs Kirk emanating from a BT manhole, both issues had been raised with the Area Highways Manager. A response was awaited.

(q) Verges, Guilden Sutton Lane. Further to Cllr Fisher revisiting the concerns that verges on the truncated length of Guilden Sutton Lane were being damaged by HGVs and the suggestion the highway at that point should be widened to enable passing, the issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and a formal response was awaited. The Clerk understood there was a willingness to allow the rear entrance of the depot to be used to facilitate turning should this be necessary.

(r) Speed limit, Station Lane. There was no further information at this stage.

(s) Further to Cllr Brown informing of the need to edge out the footway at Cathcart Green, the matter had been raised with the Area Highways Manager. A response was awaited

(t) Gulley kerb, Wicker Lane. The position of this kerb in the carriageway, raised by Cllr Fisher, had been raised with the Area Highway Manager and a response was awaited.

(u) Planters. Further to the inquiry by Cllr Kerfoot as to the possibility of planters being provided at a central location in the village and further inquiries being made by Cllr Brown of Helsby Parish Council, the issue was being pursued by the Clerk with the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.**

(v) Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. The condition of these steps had been reported.

(w) Flooding, Wicker Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

- (x) Subsidence, reinstatement Guilden Sutton Lane. It was noted action had been taken to repair this defect.
- (y) Obstruction, footway. Cllr Moulton reported visually impaired persons had encountered difficulty when using the private footway to the Village Hall car park due to the placing of a wheelie bin on the footway for collection. This was thought to be from an adjoining occupier. It was accepted this was a hazard and a request would be made for the bin to be collected from its original position should it be possible to identify the owner.
- (iii) Lighting. Faults to lights at the rear of the village hall and at the entrance to Fox Cover had been reported. There were no further faults to report.

9 Finance:

(i) Income:

Co-operative Bank

Interest

5 February 2010 £ 0.68

(ii) Payments:

Anglia Bulbs

Snowdrops £ 48.00\*

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Car park rates

First half-year £ 323.88\*

Mid Cheshire Footpath Society

Subscription 2010/11 £ 8.00

Cheshire Community Action

Subscription 2010/11 £ 50.00

Branching Out Tree Services

Sycamore, memorial garden £ 160.00\*

Play area hedge £ 260.00\*

£ 420.00

Devaprint

Newsletter 136 £ 150.00

Planning postcards £ 52.29 (VAT £7.79)

£ 202.29

Direct to Door

Newsletter distribution £ 26.13 (VAT £3.89)

Cheshire Association of Local Councils

Subscription 2010/11 £ 341.39

Local Council Review £ 27.00

£ 368.39

Mrs P Blythe

Playing field rent

April - June £ 160.00

Clerk:

Salary  
January - March 2010 £ 1,208.43

CiLCA certificate  
48.75hrs at £10.734 £ 523.28  
£ 1,731.71

Agreed expenses  
2010/11 £ 104.00  
Postage £ 3.45  
Telephone £ 13.95  
Photocopies  
502@5p £ 25.10  
Mileage  
32@40p £ 12.80  
£ 159.30

\* confirmation of urgent payments

Proposed by Cllr Kerfoot  
Seconded by Cllr J Hughes  
and agreed

(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank  
17 February 2010 £ 5,356.00

Scottish Widows no 1  
1 January 2010 £20,752.93

Scottish Widows no 2  
1 January 2010 £ 2,612.13

(iv) Report on contingency payments.

Budget: £ 455.00  
Payments: £ 0.00

(v) Insurance.

(a) Fidelity. The application was on hold pending the outcome of the Council's market testing of the present insurers.

(b) General cover. Further to consideration being given by Cllr D Hughes and the Clerk to a number of individual elements within the insurance, which had revealed, no great discrepancies, approaches were being made to possible alternative providers, including the Council's bankers which had made an approach and brokers acting for Norwich Union. **Action: The Clerk.**

(c) Volunteers. Further to Mr J Dale expressing a wish to become involved in the operation of the speed indicator advice, the present insurers had indicated this would be covered provided Mr Dale received appropriate training. The same applied to members of the Parish Paths Group. **Action: The Clerk.** It was noted the standard conditions are:

“We are able to confirm that providing all employees and volunteers will be working at the sole request of and under the sole control of the Parish Council, and using tools, materials and equipment provided by the Parish Council, then the Public and Employers Liability sections of the Policy will extend to cover such persons. All cover is subject to the terms, conditions and exclusions of the Policy and the Limits of Indemnity.

*We will allow employees and volunteers to sue their own tools providing these are hand held, non-powered and have been checked by the Council to ensure the tools and equipment are safe and secure for their intended use. If strimmers are used then stout footwear and safety glasses should be worn. There should be no use of chemicals other than those that can be purchased in shops and garden centres.*

*We would only expect such persons to be involved with the less hazardous work such as path maintenance, grass cutting, litter collection. They may operate also the Speed Indicator device.*

*All persons should be between the ages of 15-75 years and must be physically fit and able to carry out the work expected of them.”*

(vi) Grant application form. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(vii) Participatory budgeting. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(viii) Budget 2010/11. Cllr D Hughes kindly informed that an analysis of parish precepts placed Guilden Sutton 70<sup>th</sup> of 97, 97 being the highest.

(ix) Transfer to Clerk's gratuity account.

The following transfers, representing 3.75% of annual salary, were to be actioned by the Clerk.

2007/08 arrears	£ 4.05
2008/9	£ 175.52
2009/10	£ 181.26
2010/11	<u>£ 181.26</u>
	£ 542.09

(x) Business Rate Relief. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice, by correspondence dated April 2010, from Cheshire West and Chester Council referring to an increase in the level of small business rate relief during the period 1 October, 2010 to 30 September, 2011. Further inquiries would be made by the Clerk to establish the position in respect of the car park.

10 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. (a) Chester waste collection and recycling contract. There was nothing further to report at this stage. Members were reminded that Cllr B J Bailey had asked to be informed of any concerns arising under the new contract.

(ii) Amenity cleansing. Members would advise the Clerk of locations at which they believed action was necessary. **Action: All Members.** The Clerk was securing prices for litter pickers. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iii) Dog fouling. The Clerk informed that arrangements were being introduced by Cheshire West and Chester Council from May under which community safety wardens, street scene staff and civil enforcement officers would be able to issue fixed penalty notices for litter and dog fouling. He understood the specialised outside contractor which provided a dog warden service would respond to issues raised by public realm officers. Cllr S Parker had kindly agreed to investigate the action to be taken in communities such as Guilden Sutton where these officers did not patrol on a regular basis.

(iv) Sewers. Further to Cllr Paterson referring to circumstances in which sewers within the village could become blocked, a note had been included in the newsletter.



## 11 Trees and Hedges.

(i) Hedges, Guilden Sutton Lane. A Member informed of increasing obstruction of the footway by overgrown hedges. It was thought there were a number of such instances throughout the village and accepted there was no easy answer. Cllr Brown pointed out the highway authority had the ability to carry out any necessary work and charge the occupier.

The Clerk informed of a previous decision by the Council that such issues would be dealt with by a visit by Members. Cllr Bailey kindly informed he would be happy to help with serious problems. Cllr Kerfoot suggested a note should be included in Newsletter and this was agreed.

(ii) Canopy, Porters Hill. There was nothing further to report at present as to the issue raised by Mr Jackson which had been referred to the Area Highways Manager. A response was awaited.

(iii) Hedges, Porters Hill. The need for overgrown hedges on Porters Hill which were at head height to be pruned would be raised with the Area Highways Manager following an inspection by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iv) Land, Church Lane. Further to the Council being informed of overhanging branches to trees on private land which it was thought could be a potential hazard, these would be inspected by the Tree Warden. The ownership of the land would also be clarified. **ACTION: Cllr Brown/The Clerk.**

(v) Sycamore, Memorial Garden/hedge play area. It was noted the work had been carried out to a satisfactory standard by Messrs Branching Out Tree Services .

(vi) Trees Wicker Lane/Church Lane. Further to Cllr S Parker informing of complaints relating to trees at the junction of Wicker Lane and Church Lane, this had been referred to the Area Highways Manager. It was understood the land formed part of the highway. A response was awaited.

(vii) Hedge, Village Hall. Further inquiries would be made by the Clerk as to the overgrown hedge in the vicinity of the village hall referred to by Cllr Brown. **Action: The Clerk.**

(viii) Hedge, off Belle Vue Lane. Further to Cllr Fisher informing of the proposal by an adjoining occupier to remove a length of hedge adjoining footpath 2 and to plant a replacement of native species, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

## 12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. The Clerk informed the next Chester Area Meeting would take place on Wednesday 14 April 2010 and would include a presentation on Gypsy and Traveller issues.

## 13 Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(i) Funding for local councils. There was nothing further to add at this stage. The Clerk had requested the Council should be consulted and this had been confirmed.

(ii) Electoral Review, Cheshire West and Chester. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the proposal by the Boundary Committee for England that Guilden Sutton should be included in a Chester Villages ward to which the Clerk had responded welcoming the proposals.

(iii) Clerk's Group. Further to the Clerk informing he had been invited to join a Clerks' Group which would meet with Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to discuss issues relevant to clerks and parish and town councils, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Maintenance of Churchyards and Burial Grounds. The Clerk would report further in due course as to the payment of the grant of £200 received from the borough council to the parochial church council.

(v) Play area annual inspection 2009/10. See minute 6 (ii) (b) above.

10/11 013

(vi) Gowy and Eddisbury Community Forum. Cllr D Hughes reported on the meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2010 in Tarporley. This had a presentation from Mr Mark Lynch, Development Control Manager. It was noted that information on the procedure followed in determining planning applications was to be circulated.

(vii) West Cheshire Together Local Strategic Partnership event 27 April, 2010. Cllr Paterson informed she intended to attend this event which would include a reference to the Council's community strategy which would inform decisions taken under the power of well being.

14 Cheshire Community Action. Further to the comments by Mr R Hibbert at Public Speaking Time the Clerk was obtaining a copy of the entry forms for the Cheshire Community Pride Competition for information.

15 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

16 Health. There were no action items to report.

17 Policing.

(i) Western Police Area Have Your Say. It was noted the next Western Division Have Your Say meetings would take place as follows: Monday 28 June 2010, Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, Thursday 15 July 2010, Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, Tuesday 11 January 2011, Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich, Thursday 20 January 2011, St Mary's Centre, Off Castle Street, Chester.

(ii) PC Mal Baker. It was noted that PC Baker was to retire in due course.

(iii) Crime. The Clerk informed that PC Baker has helpfully informed of current crime matters and posters had been displayed in the Post Office.

(iv) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. Cllr D Hughes informed the Police had attended to deal with parking issues in Arrowcroft Road. He further advised the primary school hoped to display a banner, to be designed by the children, which would promote road safety by encouraging parents to use the Village Hall car park. The Council indicated it would support such a move and would welcome an application for a grant toward the cost. This was proposed by Cllr Kerfoot, seconded by Cllr J Hughes and agreed.

18 Newsletter. A further issue had been issued to include the budget decisions.

19 Memorial Garden. See minute 11 (v) above. Cllr D Hughes informed several plants in the garden were in flower.

20 Bulb planting. (i) Parish Car Park. See also 5 (v) above. (ii) Snowdrops. Further to the Chairman proposing that snowdrops should be purchased in the green for planting this Spring, estimates had been sought by the Clerk who had sought the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. See also minute 5 (v) above.

(ii) Planters. See minute 8 (iii) (v) above.

21 Parish IT. Cllr Fisher informed that Cheshire West and Chester Council had failed to action the re-registering of the domain name. This had now been dealt with. He believed this to be unfortunate.

22 Primary School. Cllr D Hughes was pleased to advise the Council of a successful Ofsted report. It was noted the school continued to be in deficit due to the decisions of previous governing bodies.

23 Disability Discrimination Act: barrier, Hill Top Road. Cllr B J Bailey informed he would report further.

**ACTION: Cllr B J Bailey.**

24 Land ownerships. Further consideration would be given to the suggestion by Cllr Paterson that it would be beneficial for the Council to compile a register of land ownerships which adjoined footways and public footpaths.

25 Railway fencing, Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

26 Community events: (i) Village Fête 2010. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (ii) Holiday Club 2010. The Chairman referred correspondence to the Clerk.

27 Land Registry. Further to the Clerk reporting the receipt, by correspondence dated 30 June 2009, of an approach by the Land Registry as to parish councils ensuring their land was registered at a discounted fee from £30 for an estate valued at up to £50,000, the matter was being pursued by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

28 Cheshire Landscape Trust. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

29 Network Rail communications mast. Cllr Moulton informed there was nothing further to report at this stage.

30 Guilden Sutton Methodist Church. Further to Cllr Paterson inquiring about the possibility of the church building being listed, a response was awaited from the Conservation Officer. **Action: The Clerk.**

31 Member's information items.

These had been associated with the appropriate minute.

32 Information correspondence.

Leisure Services: RoSPA play area inspections 2010, Mid Cheshire Footpath Society: annual general meeting 14 April, 2010, annual report 2009/10, Friends of the Millennium Greenway: volunteer days 20 March 2010, 17 April 2010.

ChALC/NALC: Newsletter 131 March 2010, resignation of Development Officer, vacancy for Administrative Assistant, Local Council Review Spring 2010, Direct Information Service.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Gypsy and Traveller overview sessions 18 May and 13 July 2010, Easter waste and recycling collections, Partnerships bulletin no 14, Community Select Panel, West Cheshire Together Local Strategic Partnership event 27 April, 2010, Gowry and Eddisbury Community Forum 11 March 2010, Benefits take up campaign, Council tax and non-domestic rates 2010/11, open space requirements, drop in, 14 April, 2010.

Cheshire Community Action: newsletter March 2010, Community Aggregates Fund 2010/11, Workshops for Voluntary Organisations.

CPRE: Cheshire Viewpoint Spring 2010.

Policing: NPU Newsletters February/March 2010, Rural Inspector's Updates, information from trading standards.

General: Clerks and Councils Direct March 2010, Energy Saving Trust, Green Communities.

#### **Matters considered in the absence of the press and public.**

To exclude the public and press for the remaining part of the meeting pursuant to Section 100 (A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that discussions may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

Nil.



