

Guiden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 July 2010 in Guiden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr P M Paterson.

Present: Cllrs A Davis, I Brown, D M Fisher, D Hughes, J Hughes, M Kerfoot, W Moulton, P M Paterson.

In attendance: Cllr B J Bailey, Cllr S Parker, PC R Boulton, PCSO L Beddows, B Lewin Esq.

1 Procedural matters.

(i) Apologies. There were no apologies from Members.

An apology was received from Cllr H Deynem.

(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 D Hughes declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

Cllr P M Paterson declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

Cllr D M Fisher declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

Cllr D Hughes declared a personal interest in planning application 10/11567/FUL installation of two air conditioning units on rear elevation at 1-2 Summerfield Road, CH3 7SW as Chair of Guiden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 7 June 2010. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 7 June 2010 were proposed by Cllr M Kerfoot, seconded by Cllr J Hughes and agreed as a correct record.

(iv) Dates of future meetings:

Mondays 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December 2010.

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

(vi) Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill. The Clerk reported he had been informed by the lobbyists that the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill had received the Royal Assent prior to the dissolution of Parliament. This ensured the Act was now much more robust and now formally included all Parish and Town Councils which wished to be involved.

(vii) UK Youth Parliament. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(viii) General election. Further to the Clerk reporting he had congratulated Mr Stephen Mosley on his election as MP for the City of Chester, the Clerk advised of the receipt of a response from Mr Mosley, by correspondence dated 14 June 2010, looking forward to working with the Council and giving details of his constituency office.

2 Public Speaking Time.

Mr B Lewin. Mr Lewin addressed the Council on its approach to the use of public speaking time.

PC R Boulton/PCSO L Beddows. PC Boulton introduced himself to the Council on his return to the parish together with PCSO Lyam Beddows. PC Boulton intended to ensure a consistent presence in the community and informed the Homewatch agenda was to be rejuvenated. Parking issues at the school were visited. It was noted the contact telephone number for non urgent calls to officers at the Mickle Trafford Police Office is 0845 458 6394.

Cllr D Hughes thanked PC Boulton for his attendance at the Fete for which he had been very grateful.

Cllr B J Bailey. Further to Cllr Bailey advising at the previous meeting that discussions were in progress as to possible measures at the junction of the A41 and Guilden Sutton Lane to deter vehicles from double parking in the gap in the central reservation, Cllr Bailey indicated he was to meet the highway authority on Wednesday 14 July 2010.

Cllr S Parker indicated a decision by the Boundary Committee on the proposed Chester Villages ward was expected shortly.

3 Planning:

(i) New applications.

10/11199/FUL pitched roof to side extension at 15 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr Ian Rose. No objection had been raised.

10/11254/FUL erection of horse stables and a small sheep unit at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane, CH3 7EJ for Mr and Mrs Mark and Audrey Jones. The Council had objected in the following terms:

"The Council has no objection to the proposed stables but wishes to object to the sheep shed aspect and to make the following observations:

(i) Trees.

Should the LPA be minded to grant permission for the stable block, it should be on condition that this will not require the removal of or cause long term damage to the remaining three trees (including the horse chestnut).

The applicant should be requested to explain the disappearance of trees in the proposed drawings from the existing. The application form, para 16, requires a full tree survey which has not been included. This should be required.

(ii) Highways.

The reference in the design and access statement to equestrian activities helping to diversify the rural economy and the proposed fencing around the pond could suggest future commercial equestrian activity. This would cause increased intensification of the use of the access to the property, which is a designated public footpath, involving a sub standard junction with Belle Vue Lane which at that point is narrow and close to a bend. The Council therefore requests a condition that the stabling should be for the private personal use of the occupiers only with no commercial activity.

(iii) Green Belt.

The Council OBJECTS to the proposal for a sheep shed on the basis the development would cause unacceptable harm to the openness of that part of the Green Belt.

10/11 047

Should the LPA be minded to approve the proposed shed, the applicants should be required to divide the agricultural land in such a way as to permit its location closer to the footpath to minimise encroachment into the open countryside and to protect the Green Belt.

In view of the cumulative effect of proposals on the site, the LPA is asked to consider that no further development should be permitted on Green Belt grounds”.

10/11506/ADV fascia and door/window signage 1-2 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW. Cllr Fisher reported. There were no objections to the proposal but it was noted the plans indicated significant alterations to the footway immediately adjoining the shop units including a modified vertical alignment to meet DDA requirements. The Clerk referred to the possible need for an application but informed the applicant had indicated he was in possession of building regulation notice approval. Concerns were expressed at the irregular rise of the modified steps from the car park.

10/11567/FUL installation two air conditioning units on rear elevation at 1-2 Summerfield Road, CH3 7SW. Cllr Fisher reported. There was no objection as the units would be beneath the height of the boundary wall. The Council would not wish to see external pipework except in the immediate vicinity of the units. The Clerk informed the design statement referred to the premises having two car parking spaces at the front and being adjacent to a public car park. He had advised the case officer the former was a public car park in which there were no designated spaces and the latter was private land which was closed on one day annually.

10/11729 two storey side and single storey rear extensions at Thorngate, Church Lane CH3 7EW. Cllr Paterson reported. It was agreed no objection should be raised subject to the highway engineer being satisfied as to the remaining parking provision.

(ii) Decision notices.

10/11199/FUL pitched roof to side extension at 15 Oaklands CH3 7HE. Planning permission. Party Wall Act advisory.

10/11254/FUL erection of horse stables and a small sheep unit at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane, CH3 7EJ. Planning permission. Stables for private family use only, landscaping to be approved to include native species, no lighting without prior approval, method statement re protected species, statement of avoidance measures re Great Crested Newts. In response to a Member's question as to the planning history of the site, Cllr Bailey advised he believed there was little which could be done.

10/11506/ADV fascia and door/window signage 1-2 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW. Consent.

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

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

(v) Strategic Planning.

(i) Cheshire West and Chester Council, open space audit and assessment of need. See 6 (x) beneath.

(ii) Gypsy Traveller Overview Training Sessions. It was noted that a further session would take place on 13 July 2010 at the Town Hall, Chester.

4 Quality Council issues.

(i) 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.** The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk had attended an Advanced Chairmanship course on 6 July 2010. (ii) Moving Towards Quality Parish Council Status. (a) Conduct of Council business. The NALC model standing orders would be considered by the Quality Council group which now consisted of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Brown and the Clerk.

(b) Work programme. A meeting would be arranged for 21 July at 8.15pm 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.

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. Cllr D Hughes informed a site visit was to take place shortly. Members would advise Cllr Hughes of any issues.

(ii) Improvement scheme. (a) Boundary treatment. The Clerk informed he would approach a contractor employed by Christleton Parish Council for an estimate.

(iii) Rear boundary wall. The Clerk informed he would approach a contractor employed by Christleton Parish Council for an estimate.

(iv) Replacement signboard. The Clerk reported Cllr Parker had been thanked for his kind assistance in progressing the application to the ward councillors for a grant from their Members' Personal Budgets for the replacement of this signboard. The grant had been received and the Clerk would speak to the signwriter. **Action: The Clerk.**

(v) Bulb planting. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

6 Leisure Services

(i) Children's Playing Field:

(a) Grounds maintenance issues. Any issues would be raised at the proposed site meeting referred to above. Cllr Davis informed of the deposit on the field of bags used for the reception of canine faeces.

(b) Mole infestation. Cllr Davis informed there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(c) State of nets. Cllr D Hughes would purchase ties to refix the nets in due course.

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

(ii) Children's Play Area.

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

(b) Inspections. Further to the Clerk reporting a small part of the front boundary fencing had been damaged, he confirmed an estimate had been sought from Messrs Deva Forge.

(c) Litter bin emptying. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(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.

(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.

10/11 049

(b) Footpath 2. (i) Clearance and sweeping. The Clerk informed he had met the Streetscene Area Manager to inspect progress with improving the condition of this path together with the dingle steps. It was noted the current condition of the steps should be further reported together with the growth of brambles on the nearest access from Oaklands.

(c) Footpath 1. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Rights of Way Group. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(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 had been referred to the project officer. A response was awaited. The Clerk was also awaiting a response to his request for leaflets with a map of the route to be provided locally. (ii) Pedestrians. Concern at the increased number of cyclists and pedestrians emerging from the Park Farm access onto Guilden Sutton Lane, which it was thought would benefit from signage to warn both approaching road users and those emerging from the Greenway, had also been referred to the project officer. (iii) Surface, Garners Lane. Further to Cllr Fisher informing of a view the surface of this access to the Greenway should be improved to assist those with push chairs or wheel chairs, this had been brought to the attention of the Project Officer. A response was awaited. See also minute 8 (ii) (r) beneath.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. (a) Vale. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Parish Council contract 2010/11. A site meeting would be sought as minuted above. 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.

Action: The Clerk.

(v) Public Seats. Further to damage to the seat in Wicker Lane being reported, the Clerk had inspected the seat in Guilden Sutton Lane and had requested an estimate for the repainting thereof in addition to an estimate for repairs and repainting of the seat on Wicker Lane. **Action: The Clerk.**

(vi) Fox Cover. (i) Landscaping. Cllr Brown referred to growth in the planting adjoining the Fox Cover steps. Mr R M Armitage would be approached in the first instance. It was noted an adjoining occupier had a preference for the arisings to be removed in order to discourage rats. An approach would also be made to Cheshire West and Chester Council as to the verge being included in a schedule. **Action: The Clerk.** (ii) Replacement 'no ball games' sign. The Clerk reported Cllr Parker had been thanked for his kind assistance in progressing the application to the ward councillors for a grant from their Members' Personal Budgets for the replacement of this sign. The grant had been received and he Clerk would speak to the signwriter. **Action: The Clerk.**

(vii) Provision for youth. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(viii) Multi use games area. Cllr Kerfoot informed a questionnaire was in the course of preparation. The estimated cost of the facility was £25,000.

(ix) MBNA Chester Marathon 31 May 2010. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(x) Cheshire West and Chester Council open space assessment and audit. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(xi) Community Garden. The Clerk informed of a proposal by Mr Daniel Palmer, Youth Member of Parliament, to establish a community garden on the Fox Cover amenity area for which he had held preliminary discussions with the landowner, Cheshire West and Chester Council. He also intended to apply for funding at the participatory budgeting session minuted beneath. As the applications were restricted to groups holding a cheque signing protocol, the Chairman and Vice Chairman had agreed, without prejudice, that the Council would hold any grant which might be awarded on a ring fenced basis as had been agreed for the Parish Plan. The Clerk had advised Mr Palmer that any proposal must be the subject of consultation with neighbours and the wider community in addition to the Council.

The Clerk and Cllr Parker further informed of the view of residents of Fox Cover that the amenity area should be retained as such and should not be developed as a community garden.

10/11 050

7 Public transport.

(i) Revised services. Cllr Moulton, Local Bus User Contact, informed the service was to terminate in Church Lane for a trial period from 1 August 2010. The Council welcomed this long awaited aspiration. Cllr Moulton also understood capacity existed for the introduction of an 0905 service. The Clerk indicated he had been informed of the possible use of Church Lane by Mrs Kirk who had indicated the Council's view should be ascertained. Trial visits had been made by the bus. Mrs Kirk believed such an arrangement would enable more people in the village to use the bus.

A suggestion was made by Cllr Moulton that Members might avail themselves of the 27 service in order to familiarise themselves.

(ii) Moorcroft Crescent inbound bus stand. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

(v) Former service 80. The Clerk informed he had been advised by Mrs Kirk the service was now renamed DB8 and had been operated by Dee Bee (GHA Coaches) for some time. It was extremely reliable and the correct stands were used. This was welcomed.

8 Highways.

(i) Issues with the highway authority.

The following issues covered in the response received from the Area Highways Manager remained outstanding:

Belle Vue Lane

Haunching/pot holes. *Area Highways Manager will arrange for inspection of Belle Vue Lane which will attend to all Category 1 defects.*

Church Lane.

Condition of cycle route Church Lane - Cinder Lane. Raised with Streetscene Area Manager. Request for barrier to prevent reported use by motorcycles. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

Flooding. In carriageway at foot of Fox Cover steps, possible BT manhole problem near junction with Wicker Lane. *Area Highways Manager to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

Cinder Lane

Overgrown hedges, Cinder Lane/condition of footway. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

Guilden Sutton Lane

Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. Untidy condition reported. *Area Highways Manager to arrange for inspection*

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. *Not sure what can be done in the short term. Area Highways Manager to comment further.*

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

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. *Not sure what can be done in the short term. Area Highways Manager to comment further. 09/10 051*

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. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

Obstruction of footway by nettles etc at one location, brambles at the approach to the diversion from the village. Ongoing. *Some works carried out – Parish Council to confirm.*

Guilden Sutton Lane, trip hazard at the site of a fall adjoining fence (Gresty's field). No defect revealed, local Member not satisfied. *Joint site meeting required, Parish Council to arrange with K.Collins.*

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

Bus stand opposite houses between Moorcroft Crescent and Wilding Business Estate. Growth obscuring view of approaching traffic for alighting passengers. *Area Highways Manager will arrange inspection.*

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. *Monitor.*

Oaklands

Shops area –

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. *Area Highways Manager will arrange inspection.*

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

Elsewhere –

Footpath 2, condition. Raised with Streetscene Area Manager. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

School access to rear of Orchard Croft. Raised with Streetscene Area Manager. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

Need to edge out footway at Cathcart Green. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Carriageway defects on Oaklands approaching junction with School Lane at Wood Farm. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Carriageway defect in vicinity of the dell (site of previous collapse). *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

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. *Area Highways Manger to inspect and comment upon completion of inspection.*

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.

10/11 052

Flooded gulleys/depressed covers in vicinity of Arrowcroft Road. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Condition of School Lane nameplate at the war memorial. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Station Lane.

Renewal of SLOW sign when leaving the village. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Speed review.

Wicker Lane

Gully kerb, Concerns re the position of this kerb in the carriageway. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Visibility issue Wicker Lane/Church Lane. Overgrowth on corner, previously cut back by highway authority. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Surface water running from S bend towards Wicker House. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

General

Planters. NEW. Possibility of planters being provided on highway land at a central location in the village. Policy? *Detailed location to be provide by Parish Council.*

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. *Will provide further comment in due course.*

(iii) Current issues

(a) Speed issues. (i) Speed indicator device, further lease. The Clerk was pursuing a further session in September when it was understood two units would be available. The Police would be invited to join the rota. The possibility of the speed gun being deployed by the Council would be investigated by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

(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 whose response was minuted above.

(c) Speed review, Guilden Sutton Lane. Cllr Bailey informed inquiries were being made as to the intended 30mph speed limit on Guilden Sutton Lane.

(d) Speed review, Wicker Lane/Hare Lane. The issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(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. It was noted that PC Boulton was aware of this 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 at the village shops.

10/11 053

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 whose response was minuted above.

(i) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. The historic issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above. Cllr Bailey was understood to be pursuing the possibility of red and white hatching being provided to emphasise the areas on which vehicles should not wait in the centre of the road. Further to the Council noting that pedestrians using the existing crossing points on the dual carriageway were at risk as the drivers of vehicles wishing to turn left naturally concentrated on traffic approaching from the right and the possibility of the crossing points being relocated, the following response had been received from the highway authority:

"I have looked at the crossing provision and do appreciate the comments. However, having looked at the Hoole roundabout side of the junction I do not consider there is a suitable location to provide a better crossing point. Vehicles parked in the lay-by on the Guilden Sutton side would mask pedestrians waiting to cross and obscure their visibility and on the Hoole side, the junction with Pipers Lane and the acceleration lane on to the A41 would create a lot of conflict for pedestrians to negotiate.

"With regard to the provision of traffic signals. As you will be aware signalling a junction involves a considerable cost which must be justified. The most common justification, if no new development is taking place, is due to a high level of collisions occurring which it is expected that signals would reduce.

"Having checked my most recent 3 year collision data for the junction, I have found there to have been 2 slight injury collisions, 1 of which did not involve turning vehicles. Given that our road safety engineering team are currently using an intervention level of 7 collisions in 3 years before they investigate a location, as unfortunately we have many locations with at least this many, I am sure you will appreciate that we will not currently be looking to take any action at the A41/Guilden Sutton Lane junction.

"It is also worth noting that traffic signals do create on average between 1 and 1.5 collisions per year and that before any safety schemes is progressed, a full investigation is undertaken to establish the type of collisions which are occurring. Therefore given the current collision data it is very unlikely that traffic signals would be appropriate for this location.

"I trust I have answered the Parish Council's queries fully, but should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me."

Cllr Davis believed the provision of signals at Hoole Roundabout would assist.

(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 had progressed the concern expressed by Cllr D Hughes as to the condition of a School Lane nameplate at the war memorial.

(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 whose response was minuted above.

(m) Path, Cinder Lane to Church Lane. (i) Condition. The condition of this path had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above. (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 whose response was minuted above.

(n) Footway, Guilden Sutton lane, obstruction by nettles, brambles and an overgrown hedge respectively. The issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(o) Parish boundary signs (i) Guilden Sutton Lane. The state of this sign had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above. (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 whose response was minuted above.

(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 whose response was minuted above.

(r) Speed limit, Station Lane. Further to the decision to make a further approach to the highway authority following Cllr Parker speaking at public speaking time at the June meeting, the Clerk informed the following letter had been sent:

“You will be aware of concerns as to traffic conditions on this road following the extension of the Greenway. I understand the issue has been raised and the advice is the present derestricted length subject to the national limit does not qualify for a 30mph or 40mph measure.

“I am asked to say my Council fully supports the view the limit should be reduced for the arguments which have been put forward. As you know, the road is unlit, has no footways and is a rat run. These issues were raised by my Council at the public inquiry into the designation of Guilden Sutton Footpath no 7 as a BOAT, later a Restricted Byway, for the same reasons which now apply to the Greenway.

“Members are anxious the matter should be reconsidered or if not kept under very close review. There is increased pedestrian and cycle footfall on Station Lane by those seeking to access the Greenway. It is clearly a nonsense to expend a great deal of public money on creating a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists while obliging users to follow a hazardous route to reach it. I would encourage some creative thinking outside the box which I know is the hallmark of the new authority.

“A similar issue arises on Guilden Sutton Lane at the junction with Garners Lane which requires attention. I have advised the Project Officer that signage is required to warn users they are exiting onto a heavily trafficked road and similarly on Guilden Sutton Lane to warn drivers of the likelihood they will encounter pedestrians and cyclists emerging into the carriageway or turning across it.

“I have seen traffic in both directions having to stop as an extended family has attempted to manoeuvre their cycles, including a trailer containing an infant, off the road and into Garners Lane. A nearby occupier who is better placed to gather such information has already voiced concerns.

“My Council would be most grateful to have a response as to Station Lane and your views on the developing situation at Garners Lane and the steps which should be taken.”

The Clerk informed that Cllr S Parker had helpfully raised the issue with the Portfolio Holder and with the Community and Environment Director.

(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 whose response was minuted above.

(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 whose response was minuted above.

(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 had been pursued by the Clerk with the highway authority whose response was minuted above. 10/11 055

Suitable locations were thought to be at the Guilden Sutton boundary signs. The Clerk would advise the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.** Cllr Brown would advise the Clerk of the address of the web site for the supply of planters. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

(v) Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. The condition of these steps had been reported to the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

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

(x) Subsidence, reinstatement Guilden Sutton Lane. The condition of the reinstatement on this heavily trafficked section of the road was being monitored.

(y) Church Lane, Wicker Lane. The Clerk had been informed by Mrs Kirk that the verge at the junction had been trimmed in an unsatisfactory manner and was untidy. The Church Lane sign was obliterated by growth. This had been reported to the Area Highways Manager.

(z) School Lane. The Clerk had been informed by Mrs Kirk of the presence of a large Pyrocantha overhanging the footway on the South side of School Lane ascending Porters Hill. Mrs Kirk had expressed concern as to the thorns and had asked that the owner should be requested to trim it back. Mrs Kirk had noted that much of the vegetation overhanging the footpaths on Porters Hill prevented pedestrians walking safely. It was agreed that appropriate action should be taken. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iii) Lighting. There were no faults to report at this stage.

9 Finance:

(i) Income:

Bank interest 4 June 2010	£ 2.10
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CWAC Members Personal Budgets Re signage	£ 350.00
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(ii) Payments:

Mrs P Blythe Playing field rent July – September 2010	£ 160.00
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Audit Commission External audit	£ 158.63 (inc VAT £23.63)
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Clerk

Salary April – June 2010	£ 1,208.43
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Photocopies 257@5p	£ 12.85
Mileage 8@40p	£ 3.20
	£ 16.05

Proposed by Cllr D Hughes,
Seconded by Cllr Brown
and agreed.

10/11 056

(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank 25 June 2010	£15,141.42
Scottish Widows no 1 1 June 2010	£20,752.93
Scottish Widows no 2 1 June 2010	£ 2,613.74

(iv) Report on contingency payments.

Budget:	£ 455.00
Payments:	£ 0.00

(v) Insurance. The Clerk reported the receipt of the policy documents from Came & Company.

(vi) Participatory budgeting. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the participatory budgeting event held by West Cheshire Together at the Rural West Area Partnership Board Conference which had taken place on Wednesday 7 July 2010 at Tarvin Community Centre. The Clerk understood that applications were to be made by the Holiday Club in addition to that by Mr D Palmer for the proposed community garden.

(vii) Audit 2009/10. The Clerk reported the external auditor had completed work on the 2009/10 audit and had provided a clean return. The notice of completion of audit would be displayed. **Action: The Clerk.**

(viii) Transfer to Clerk's gratuity account.

The Clerk confirmed the following transfer had been actioned:

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

(ix) Business rate relief, parish car park. Further to the Clerk reporting 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 were being made by the Clerk to establish the position in respect of the car park.

(x) Banking terms and conditions: (a) Co-operative Bank (ii) Scottish Widows. The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence.

10 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. (a) Chester waste collection and recycling contract. Members were reminded that Cllr B J Bailey had asked to be informed of any concerns arising under the new contract. Further to a Member informing of bins being abandoned by the collection crews in positions where they blocked the footway, the issue had been referred to Cllr Bailey.

(ii) Amenity cleansing. (i) Grot spots. Members would advise the Clerk of locations at which they believed action was necessary. **Action: All Members.** (ii) Litter pickers. The Clerk was securing prices for litter pickers. **Action: The Clerk.** (iii) Contract re parish orderly scheme. The Clerk reported he had pursued the issue of a contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council with respect to the payment of the grant for 104 hours per annum towards the costs incurred by the Council in providing a lengthsmen service. This had now been received.

It was proposed by Cllr Kerfoot, seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed that the terms of the contract should be accepted. It was noted these laid obligations on the Parish Council and the contractor, Messrs Gresty, in terms of requirements which should be met.

(iii) Dog fouling. Further to a Member referring to incidents of dog fouling where due to their age or infirmity, dog walkers were unable to poop scoop, which it was accepted could be a difficulty, a note would be included in a future issue of the Newsletter.

Action: The Clerk.

(iv) Sewers. Further to Cllr Davis informing of a sewage issue which had arisen in Arrowcroft Road, this was being drawn to the attention of Cllr Bailey in view of relatively recent action which had been taken to remedy a similar longstanding issue in the road. **Action The Clerk.**

11 Trees and Hedges.

(i) Hedges, Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the increasing obstruction of the footway on Guilden Sutton Lane and at other locations in the village by overgrown hedges. It was noted that Cllr Bailey had kindly offered to help with any serious problems. A note would also be included in the Newsletter.

(ii) Canopy, Porters Hill. A response, minuted above, had now been received from the Area Highways Engineer as to the issue raised by Mr Jackson.

(iii) Hedges, Porters Hill. The need for overgrown hedges on Porters Hill, referred to above, to be pruned would be raised with the Area Highways Manager. **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) 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 to which a response had now been received as minuted above. The issue had subsequently been revisited by Mrs Kirk and a further approach had been made.

(vi) 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.**

(vii) 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.

(viii) Sycamore, Memorial Garden. Further to the Tree Warden and the Clerk informing they had been alerted to a substantial branch falling from the tree, a site inspection by Tree Officers had been requested to inform as to the future of the tree. Indicative quotations had been sought should its removal become necessary. **Action: The Clerk.**

12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Chester Area Meeting. (i) Date of future meeting. The annual meeting had taken place on Wednesday 30 June 2010 at HQ. The Clerk was pleased to report he had been re-elected as Honorary Secretary. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 29 September, 2010. (iii) Annual meeting, 21 October 2010, Middlewich Civic Hall. It was noted that motions for the annual meeting should be submitted by 3 September 2010 and proposed attendances by 10 September 2010.

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.

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(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. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(v) Gowy Community Forum. Further to Cllr D Hughes informing that information on the procedure followed in determining planning applications was still awaited, the Clerk confirmed the issue had been raised with the Development Planning Manager.

(vi) Town and Parish Councils Seminar 14 July 2010. It was noted this follow up to the previous seminar in Winsford would take place at the Town Hall, Chester and would include a drop in on Gypsy and Traveller issues prior to the formal business. The Clerk informed that following notification of the appointment of the new parish liaison officer, Emma Stevens, he had met the officer for a fruitful initial discussion.

14 Cheshire Community Action. (i) Cheshire Community Pride Competition Further to the comments by Mr R Hibbert, the Clerk had obtained a copy of the entry forms for the Cheshire Community Pride Competition 2010 which he would pass to Mr Hibbert 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, now remained Question Time, would take place as follows: 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 Rob Boulton. Members welcomed the attendance of PC Boulton and PCSO Beddows at the meeting and looked forward to a positive relationship.

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

(iv) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. Further to Cllr D Hughes advising 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 and to the Council indicating it would support such a move and would welcome an application for a grant toward the cost, there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the understanding that Cllr Bailey might consider a contribution from his Members' Personal Budget. Cllr D Hughes would progress the issue with Cllr Bailey. **Action: Cllr D Hughes.**

18 Newsletter. The Clerk had prepared a further issue which had included a summary of the annual report. At the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed an approach should be made to the publishers of the new Gowy Gazette as to the newsletter being circulated with that publication.

19 Memorial Garden. There was nothing further to report at this stage other than that minuted above re the Sycamore.

20 Bulb planting. (i) General: There was nothing further to report to that minuted above. (ii) Planters. See minute 8 (ii) above.

21 Parish IT. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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22 Primary School. Cllr D Hughes reported. The school had been commended for best practice. Extra curricular activities now included Mandarin.

23 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.

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

25 Community events:

(i) Village Fête 2010. (a) Book stall. The Council had manned the bookstall at this event which had taken place on 10 July 2010. It was agreed that the proceeds from the bookstall should be applied to the 2011 fete. (b) Traffic. Cllr Davis advised of concerns as to parking in Arrowcroft Road during the day and at the speed of traffic. Cllr D Hughes responded as to the arrangements.

(b) Application for grant. The Clerk reported the receipt of an application for a grant of £500 from the Fete Committee. This detailed the financing of the 2010 event, including support derived from the 2009 fete and proposals for the financing of the fete in 2011. The total cost of the event was rehearsed together with individual items of major expenditure. Cllr Fisher regretted the lateness of the final version of the application which had been received after the event. Members expressed a wish for clarity in the funding provided by the Community Association within which the fete committee operated with ring fenced finances. Members also wished to see recognition of the Parish Council's support. It was duly proposed and agreed that the application should be approved subject to the standard terms regarding payment. Cllrs Paterson and D Hughes, on returning to the room, provided an explanation as to the extent of support, financial and non financial, provided by the Community Association.

(ii) Holiday Club 2010. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

26 Land Registry. Further to the Clerk reporting the receipt 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.**

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

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

29 Guilden Sutton Methodist Church. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

30 Public speaking time. Further to the comments by Mr B Lewin as to public speaking, the Chairman indicated her wish for public speaking to remain flexible although within the generally accepted convention it was not an opportunity for dialogue. It was noted there were other means by which residents could so engage with the Council. It was agreed the Clerk would respond to Mr Lewin. **Action: The Clerk.**

31 Member's information items.

There were no Members Information Items.

32 Information correspondence.

ChALC/NALC: Allotment Officers Forum, Newsletter July 2010, Accompanied Transport to Health Appointments, Training Opportunities, E Bulletin, NALC Events Bulletin, LCR Summer 2010.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Concessionary Travel, Benefits Service, The Big Lunch 18 July 2010, Participatory Budget Event 7 July 2010, Gypsy & Traveller event 13 July 2010, Town and Parish Council Review seminar 14 July 2010, Highway grit and spreading, Scrutiny newsletter no 2, Draft Affordable Warmth Strategy consultation.

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Cheshire Community Action: Future of cheques consultation event, Newsletter June 2010.

Rural Inspector's updates, Homewatch: information from partner agencies.

Run In England – volunteer run leaders.

West Cheshire Pedestrian Survey

Greenway: Friends Volunteer Day.

Clerks and Councils Direct July 2010.

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.